

### **Why, O LORD, do you stand far away? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble? (Psa 10:1 ESV)**

The Word of God is not shy about bringing out the classic lingering questions and doubts about God! Obviously the Holy Spirit does not feel insecure or ashamed of these questions, or He would not call it out as blatantly as He does in this Psalm, introducing this as the opening line of a song. Interestingly, if you read through this psalm, after this stark opening, the question is never directly or satisfactorily answered (at least in my mind.) All we need to know, as far as this Psalm is concerned, is that He does see (v14), He does hear (v17), and that He is King for ever (v16). Well, even if the question is not fully addressed here, at least, it provokes us to do some pondering of our own as to why the Lord seems distant at times, especially tough times. Here are a few of my thoughts:

1. Because He has not been sufficiently sought by us. The Holy Spirit is a gentleman, and far too wise to come running into our affairs without a strong desire or invitation on our part. Aren't we so self-sufficient, even in times when we should not be? Self-sufficiency is so deep within us that we will rely upon layer after layer of our own plans and solutions (including those of other men whom we seek the help of) before we sufficiently seek the Lord. I say sufficiently because, of course, we will throw a little blessing prayer upon our man made solutions as an insurance plan, without taking the time to thoroughly and sufficiently seek the Lord until we hear from heaven. Isn't that true? It's so human of us. God is far too wise to come running into a situation without first being pled for, and required, to His satisfaction.

2. He uses His power with restraint. Being all-powerful comes with some caveats. Unless omnipotence is held by omniscience, you have a dangerous combination. God knows all sorts of reasons that we could not conceive of for the timely, measured dispensation of His power and help. Ultimately, all those reasons are for His benefit and ours. We may not know what they are, but our experience of, and faith in, His goodness is knowledge enough for us. Praise the Lord! He is drawing us out to Himself. That is a greater benefit than having our problems solved immediately.

3. Because we are more focussed on the problem rather than Him. If we gave Him the same amount of attention we give the problem or situation we are in, we'd be half-way there by now! Times of trouble get our attention. Our minds become overcome and preoccupied with analysing the situation. When our minds are like a roaring sea, we are not at rest. God is not found in a place of unrest, therefore He seems distant. Has He withdrawn from us, or have we withdrawn from Him? As we come to rest and praise over our situations, we will find that He is not as far away as we thought.

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for times of trouble that draw us out and break us of our self-sufficiency. Give us your grace to seek you sufficiently, to give you more attention than the problem, and to appreciate that your divine use of your power is better than the immediate fix-it zap that we think best. Amen.



# February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>  Church 10 & 6:00 Board meeting 5pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  Shelia Fasbender	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  Church 7pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  Walk A Mile 8:30am
<b>9</b>  Church 10 Homegroups 5pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  Mariah Robbins	<b>13</b>  Church 7pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>  Church 10 KRM 6:30pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  Tim Robbins	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  Church 7pm Parents Group 7:15	<b>21</b>  Open House 6:30pm  Terry Sullivan	<b>22</b>  Women's Jail Service 9pm
<b>23</b>  Church 10 Northwoods 5:30pm Building Fund	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  Men's Jail Unit 3B 7:15pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  Church 7pm	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>