

Volume 05, Issue 03: When God Seems Distant

It is easy to walk with God when things are rosy in your life – when he has provided finances, family and friends, good health and happy situations. But circumstances of life are not always pleasant. How do you praise God then? What do you do when God seems a million miles away?

How do you praise God in spite of lack, pain, and hurt? How do you thank God during a trial, love him when he seems distant, unmoved by your misery?

Besides Jesus, David must have had the closest friendship with God than anyone else. God delighted to call him a man after His own heart! Yet we read of how David frequently complained of God's apparent absence during the testings of his life. Will you continue to love, trust, obey and worship God even when you have no sense of his presence, when you feel abandoned by him?

The situations that will stretch your faith most will be those times when life falls apart and God is nowhere to be found. I believe none of us has experienced this to the level that Job did. On a single day he lost everything. As if that wasn't discouraging enough, for 37 chapters, God said nothing!

How do you praise God when you don't understand what's happening in your life and God is silent? How do you keep your eyes on Jesus when they are full of tears?

Pour out your heart to God. Tell Him exactly how you feel, unload your emotions to Him. Cry out when God seems distant.

Focus on God's unchanging character. Follow what Raymond Edman said, *"Never doubt in the dark what God told you in the light."*

When Job's life fell apart, and God was silent, Job still found things he could praise God for.

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Trust God to keep his promises. Patiently rely on the promises of God, not your emotions. In the absence of confirming circumstances, Job held on to God's word. His faith was strong in the midst of pain. He said, "God may kill me, but still I will trust him."

Lillian Chebosi