

# Psalm 13

## Psalm 13: the Prayer Psalms of 'Individual Voice' ('Psalms of Lament')

In the book of Psalms, prayers and songs composed as the voice of an individual outnumber hymns of praise and poetry of instruction.

There are 50 such psalms. They share a common set of elements:

1. They name God and speak directly to him
2. They describe trouble that is personal, social and theological (in various combinations)
3. They are organised around petitions (to God) for the person to be heard and helped
4. Trust in God is affirmed
5. A promise of praise, testifying to the (sought) deliverance, is made.

These psalms invite us to identify with them – 'the desperate loneliness of human life is offered to God who is its ultimate source and only final help' (Gunkel)

Their character is exemplified by Psalm 13 (NIV):

- 1 How long, O LORD ? Will you forget me forever?  
How long will you hide your face from me?
- 2 How long must I wrestle with my thoughts  
and every day have sorrow in my heart?  
How long will my enemy triumph over me?
- 3 Look on me and answer, O LORD my God.  
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death;
- 4 my enemy will say, "I have overcome him,"  
and my foes will rejoice when I fall.
- 5 But I trust in your unfailing love;  
my heart rejoices in your salvation.
- 6 I will sing to the LORD,  
for he has been good to me.

Analysis of Psalm 13: there are 3 parts -

1. A description of trouble (13:1-2)
2. A petition for help (13:3-4)
3. Praise of the Lord (13:5-6)

(A) Trouble: the experience of trouble out of which the prayer arises is described in terms of God (13:1), the writer's own suffering

If you are new or visiting; *a special warm welcome to you.*  
We trust you enjoy your time with us.

Today we will be having communion. If it is your practice to participate in this we welcome you to join with us in celebrating the Lord's Supper. If this is not your custom or if you are unsure of what to do please just pass the emblems (bread and wine) to the person next to you.

### THE PLAN

Singing
Worship
Quick Break
Singing
Children to Sunday school
David McDowell

### *This Week*

#### Today

- David McDowell - Psalm 13
- Japanese Christian Fellowship - 5pm

#### Friday

- Women's Prayer Meeting - 98 Glenross St at 11:30am
- Youth Group - Meet at the corner chapel at 6:30pm

### *Next Week*

#### Sunday

- John Woodfield

### *Prayer Requests*

- Pray for next weeks service
- Pray for Japanese Christian Fellowship
- Pray for Murray and Ruth Salisbury

