



### Why Do You Hide Yourself?

**“Why do You stand afar off, O LORD? Why do You hide Yourself in times of trouble?” (Psalm 10:1).**

Have you ever prayed this prayer? Every Believer does at least once in their lives, and for some it is a recurrent plea. Sometimes it seems like God ignores the trouble that we're in. Job, enduring many days of physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual agony, wished death had hid *“trouble from my eyes. Why did I not die at birth, Come forth from the womb and expire?”* (Job 3:3a, 11) Jeremiah cried, *“Why did I ever come forth from the womb To look on trouble and sorrow, So that my days have been spent in shame?”* (Jeremiah 20:18) Sometimes we wish we had never lived to see the trouble that befalls us. If it had been up to us, we would have chosen death rather than the trials that we go through—a relief from pain, challenge, or oppression. But the choice is not up to us, *“and nights of trouble are appointed me”* (Job 7:3) by God.

Because we know God can put an end to our distress, we often feel like the last thing we want to do is open His Word and praise Him: *“In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord; In the night my hand was stretched out without weariness; My soul refused to be comforted. When I remember God, then I am disturbed...I am so troubled that I cannot speak...Will the Lord reject forever? And will He never be favorable again? Has His loving-kindness ceased forever? Has His promise come to an end forever? Has God forgotten to be gracious, Or has He in anger withdrawn His compassion?”* (Psalm 77:2-4; 7-9). Sometimes, when our thoughts turn to God, all we can think of is our resentment, frustration, and anger over what He “has allowed.” We feel

“rejected,” “denied,” “failing love,” “forgotten promises,” “forgotten grace,” and “withdrawn compassion.” Then we remember with David, *“You who have shown me many troubles and distresses will revive me again, and will bring me up again from the depths of the earth”* (Psalm 71:20). *“The righteous cry, and the Lord hears And delivers them out of all their troubles”* (Psalm 34:17), for *“the salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; He is their strength in time of trouble”* (Psalm 37:39). God WILL deliver us, but our deliverance, doesn't come at our choosing. Sometimes, it doesn't even come in this lifetime, but **“after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you”** (1 Peter 5:10), so **“rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when His glory is revealed”** (1 Peter 4:13). Believers know that our lives are lived, not for our own happiness and joy, but for God's glory. Sometimes it is hard for us to let go of our lives—our desires, hopes, and dreams, but we must offer them as *“right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD”* (Psalm 4:5).

We must adopt the eternal gaze of God, for we have identified with Jesus Christ. As His servants, we also should expect to be men and women *“of sorrows and acquainted with grief”* (Isaiah 53:3a) here on Earth, yet just as He *“has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens”* (Hebrews 8:1), we know God has prepared a place for us in eternity with Him where no troubles can follow, *“so we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison”* (2 Corinthians 4:16-17). Even so. Amen.

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