



December 20, 2011 - Psalm 27:13

Hi Everyone,

I have been looking forward to writing this week's devotion since we started this project 50 weeks ago! So, even though this is such a busy time of year, I pray you will still focus in and not miss this good Word of God. I am sure you are aware that lots of times people point to a specific Bible verse as their "life verse"... personally I have so many that are special to me it is hard to single one out. But, if I had to choose just one verse, Psalm 27:13 would definitely be it. So let me share why.

In the NASB Psalm 27:13 reads:

**"I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see
the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living."**

We have seen David's struggles throughout this whole project. We know his issues. He has been transparent with his burdens. So, David's words here are not alarming. He looks at his battles and just lays his feelings out there saying, **"I would have despaired..."**

As familiar as we have become with David's issues, I am sure we are much more intimately acquainted with our own. Whether it be problems from within or without, we all have them. The intensity of our battles and what we do with them varies, but the question that arises from Psalm 27 is: Have your issues taken you to the point of despair?

Psalm 27:13 is so precious to me because the Lord used it in a very living and active way in my life about 15 years ago. I had really been struggling with depression for quite some time. Many of you also have felt its ugly arms wrap around your soul and squeeze the life right out of you, pushing you into a dark pit. God was on a mission to rescue me out of

depression's grip and He used a strong teaching and Psalm 27:13 to do just that.

I will never forget hearing Kay Arthur teach about despair. She defined despair as the loss of hope and she said that despair is the last step one takes before falling into the pit of depression. That makes sense because when we are dealing with our issues day after day, it is so easy to feel there is no hope. And when we feel there is no hope, there is no place to dwell but depression's ugly pit.

After hearing that teaching, God also pointed me to Psalm 27:13 where David said, "**I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.**" David had issues. He had every reason to despair. He had every reason to feel despair. David had no hope until he LOOKED UP and WAITED UPON THE LORD! Remembering *who* God is and *how good* God is literally kept David from despair.

This was my lesson from God. When I am convinced of His goodness, I can never take that last step of despair. Even though my issues may seem to be reason for despair and may bring on strong feelings of despair, I can't despair, because I am persuaded that God is good! And if I never take that step of despair, I will never again fall into the pit of depression.

Psalm 27:13 has been a literal protection for me against the pit of depression. I give testimony and praise to God that I have not seen the inside of that pit for 15 years. There have been so many times that "**I would have despaired,**" that I had every reason to despair and believe me I have been tempted often... but because I believe that God is good, I can't. Talk about insurance... this is the best kind and its free!

The obvious question is then, how do we become persuaded that God is good? I believe that persuasion develops as we are in God's Word, hearing His voice, seeing His faithfulness and masterful work in the lives of others and in ourselves, too. One Word after another, one deed after another, God Himself convinces us. Whether we believe it or not, it doesn't change the Truth. God is good. His Word says so. His work reveals so. In the land of the living, God is always doing a good work. Do we believe it? Sometimes it is hard to believe it because we can't see it. That is why faith is defined as "*the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things unseen.*" (Hebrews 11:1)

Waiting upon the LORD is looking up to God with expectant hope... we can do this daily, moment by moment when we believe God is good. What hope that brings! No reason to live in a dark pit... we can look up to God with expectant hope for His good work in us "**in the land of the living.**"



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