

God in the dark places

Questions for groups

In your experience, where is god in your dark places?
How do you struggle to get perspective when it's dark?
Does the pattern of Psalm 22 help you?

My notes from sunday

Why Have You Forsaken Me?

Psalm 22

Jesus's pattern of communication with God

- Recognise your separation
- Express your angst, where are you God?
- Recognise who you are
- Recognise who God is
- Tell the facts of the situation
- Seek prophecy
- Request in faith
- It is finished

So where is god in your dark place?

4 questions If you can't hear God

1. Do you know him?
2. Have you walked away?
 - a. Hebrews 10:19-25
3. Are you listening?
4. Why is it dark?
 - a. Sin
 - i. Isaiah 1:13-15
 - ii. Sin, and religion separate us from god.
 - iii. Isaiah 58:9-11
 - iv. Promise before Jesus, so how much more?
 - b. Sickness
 - i. ML Jones Dr and depression

If you believe that healing is in the atonement, that it is in God's will that any of His children should be ill, and that no Christian should ever die from disease. If you believe that and then find yourself, or someone who is dear to you, dying of some incurable disease, you will be miserable and unhappy. Probably you will be told by certain people, There is something wrong with your faith, You will be depressed in your spiritual life. Such a person's condition is due to error or heresy concerning a primary central doctrine. He or she has insinuated something into the Christian faith that does not actually belong to it.

- ii. God doesn't say he'll heal everyone. "By my stripes you are healed". Spiritually yes. Physically, not necessarily. Sometimes we have to change our thinking and have our minds renewed.
- iii. God on mute

Maybe you're sick and tired of praying for healing or breakthrough. Maybe miracles happen to everyone else, but never to you. Maybe someone you love is rejecting God, no matter how hard you pray. Maybe you need a word from heaven, but God is on mute, and the zappers lost down the back of some cosmic sofa.

- iv. Why blame God for stuff that's just the reality of life on a messed up planet? Let's be absolutely clear: while suffering is part and parcel of Christian life, God hates it as much as we do.
- c. pain of rejection
- d. lack of love
- e. false teaching
- f. love of the world

Be still and know that I am God. Ps 46v10

First stop!

Then know God, and know his power and majesty and might.

Rise up my love my fair one and come away.

Song of Solomon 2v10-20

Religion is a fairy story for people afraid of the dark. -Hawking
Atheism is a fairy story for people afraid of the light. -Lennox

We need a conscious possession of our eternal life. MLJones
We need to be filled with the Spirit.

Romans 6:5-12

This is our promise when we are rejected, low, down.

Hudson Taylor's response to 58 missionaries being murdered in the boxer revolution
I cannot read. I cannot think. I cannot even pray. But I can trust.

As he was preaching in Boston and suffered a breakdown he kept repeating this phrase.
You may trust the lord too little but you can never trust him too much.

Prayer pattern in Ps22 style

- Recognise your separation
- Express your angst, where are you God?
- Recognise who you are
- Recognise who God is
- Tell the facts of the situation
- Seek prophecy
- Request in faith
- It is finished

Modern Psalm, Simon Brading

There's safety in Your name, comfort for my soul
If all around should change, Your character is sure

Fountain in the drought, anchor in the storm
You're with me, You're faithful, You're good

I have seen Your works, the power of Your name
Teaching me Your heart, so I can trust Your ways
Every time I dare to trust in You again
You show me, You're faithful, You're good

You never change, You never faint, You never falter
You stay the same through every drought or rising waters
When I can't see how to make it through
I'm holding on to who You are
My God, the same forever

Where I don't understand, everything I see
Your promises remain, just as true for me
And all You've shown me once, is who You'll always be
You're constant, You're faithful, You're good
So I choose to, believe You for good

Steady my heart, steady my soul
You are the Lord, You are faithful
Steady my heart, steady my soul
You are good