

# When God Seems Distant ?

- [ thoughts from Rick Warren's "Purpose Driven Life" ] -

The Lord has hidden his face from His people, but I trust Him and place my hope in Him. |s. 8:17

**"The deepest level of maturity in worship is praising God in spite of pain, thanking God during a trial, trusting Him when tempted, surrendering to Him when suffering, and most of all loving Him and trusting Him when he seems distant."** > Rick Warren <

## >When God Seems Distant ?

1. Realize He is real and present no matter how you feel. > Psalms 22:1 vs. Hebrews 13:5 <
2. Don't play the guessing game- this is a normal part of the testing and maturing in your relationship with Him. > Job 23:8-10 <
3. Understand He wants you to feel His presence, but He is more concerned that you trust Him, more than you feel Him. Faith, not feelings pleases God. > Hebrews 11:6 <
4. Learn to praise Him in spite of your circumstances. > Job 1:20-21 <
5. Pour out your heart, and tell Him how you really feel. > Job 7:11 / Job 42:7 <
6. Focus on His unchanging nature. > Hebrews 13:8 <  
(1). He is good & loving. > Job 10:12 < (2). He is all powerful. > Job 37:5 < (3). He notices every detail of your life. > Job 31:4 < (4). He is in control. > Job 34:13 < (5). He has a plan for your life. > Job 23:14 < (6). He will save you. > Job 19:25 <
7. You must trust Him to keep His promises. > Job 23:12 <
8. Remember what God did for you, and don't allow familiarity to bring complacency.  
> 2 Corinthians 5:21 <

## Conclusion:

The son of God was stripped naked and beaten. He was whipped, scorned, mocked, crowned with thorns, and spit on. He was ridiculed by heartless men and treated like an animal. He carried a cross, and was nailed to it. While His lifeblood drained out, hecklers stood by and mocked, they challenged His claim to be the Son of God. Jesus took all mankind's sin upon Himself as God the father looked away. Then He cried out in total desperation, "My God, My God Why have you forsaken me?" Jesus could have saved Himself, but he chose to save you and me. He gave up everything so that we could have everything. He died so we could live forever. That alone is worthy of our continual thanks and praise. Never again should we wonder what we have to be thankful for. Don't be troubled by trouble. Circumstances cannot change God's character. God's grace is still in full force, and He is for me. His love is true and He is real, no matter how I feel.