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Tuesday, October 20, 2026 • 7:00 PM

STILL CONNECTED: When God Feels Far Away

Finding God Beyond Feelings and Religious Routine

Foundation Scripture: Romans 8:38–39

Supporting Scripture: Psalm 13:1–6

Central Question: How do we maintain a genuine relationship with God when our feelings, circumstances, and prayers don't seem to match what we believe?

PSALM 13:1–2

¹ O Lord, how long will you forget me? Forever?

How long will you look the other way?

² How long must I struggle with anguish in my soul,
with sorrow in my heart every day?

How long will my enemy have the upper hand?

1 — God's Silence Is Not God's Absence

David was honest about feeling forgotten by God. His questions didn't end his relationship with God; he brought those questions directly to Him.

Questions for discussion

Have you ever prayed and felt like God wasn't listening?

What's the difference between God being silent and God being absent?

Why do we sometimes mistake an unanswered prayer for rejection?

Something to Think About

Could it be that we've been measuring God's presence by how quickly He answers us?

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When prayers seem unanswered, continue communicating with God. Keep praying, studying His Word, and seeking wise counsel rather than withdrawing from Him.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:7

“For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

(KJV)

2 — Your Feelings Are Real, But They Aren't Your Foundation.

God never asks us to pretend we don't have emotions. Even Jesus wept. But our emotions should not have the final authority over what we believe about God's character.

Questions for discussion

- 1. Can you feel discouraged and still have strong faith?**
- 2. What happens when we make permanent decisions based on temporary emotions?**
- 3. How can we acknowledge our feelings without allowing them to control our spiritual lives?**

Something to Think About

Are my feelings informing me about my circumstances, or am I allowing them to define my God?

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Before reacting to disappointment, pause, pray, and compare what you're feeling with what Scripture teaches. Feelings deserve attention, but they don't always tell the whole story.

HEBREWS 13:5

“I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” (KJV)

3 — Feeling Disconnected Doesn't Mean You've Been Disconnected

Our spiritual experiences fluctuate, but God's faithfulness remains. His promise is not dependent on our ability to feel His presence every moment.

Questions for discussion

- 1. Why do we sometimes associate God's presence with a particular feeling during worship?**
- 2. Can God be present even when we don't experience an emotional response?**
- 3. What practices help us remain connected to God during spiritually dry seasons?**

Something to Think About

Have I confused the feeling of worship with the relationship worship is supposed to express?

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**Build a consistent relationship with God beyond
Sunday worship: prayer, Scripture, gratitude,
obedience, and fellowship throughout the week.**

ISAIAH 43:2

“When thou passest through the waters, I will
be with thee.” (KJV)

4 — Going Through Doesn't Mean God Has Gone

God's promise of His presence doesn't mean we will never encounter adversity. Sometimes His faithfulness is revealed not by preventing the difficulty but by sustaining us through it.

Questions for discussion

- 1. Why do we sometimes interpret hardship as evidence that God is displeased with us?**
- 2. What can we learn from the three Hebrew boys in Daniel 3?**
- 3. How might God use difficult seasons to develop compassion, endurance, and spiritual maturity?**

Something to Think About



Am I so focused on asking God to get me out that I'm overlooking how He's sustaining me while I'm going through?

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When someone is experiencing hardship, don't simply tell them to have faith. Be present, pray with them, listen, and offer practical help.

ISAIAH 40:31;

³¹ But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

JOHN 13:4–5

⁴ He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.

⁵ After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

5 — There Are Two Ways to WAIT

“You Can Twiddle Your Thumbs, or You Can Pick Up a Towel!”

There is passive waiting, where we simply allow time to pass, and there is active waiting, where we remain faithful and available to serve.

Jesus demonstrated servant leadership when He took a towel and washed His disciples' feet.



Questions for discussion

- 1. When we say we're waiting on God, what are we actually doing?**
- 2. Can we become so focused on receiving a blessing that we overlook opportunities to be a blessing?**
- 3. What would change if we approached our waiting season with the attitude of a servant?**

Something to Think About

While I'm waiting for God to do something for me, what is God calling me to do for somebody else?

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This week, pick up your towel. Encourage someone, assist a neighbor, visit someone lonely, volunteer, or meet a practical need without expecting recognition.

Key Declaration: Don't just wait for your blessing. Be a blessing while you wait!

ROMANS 8:38–39

³⁸ For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor
things present, nor things to come,

³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature,
shall be able to separate us from the love of God,
which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

6 — Nothing Can Separate Us From God's Love

“STILL CONNECTED!”

Paul identifies hardship, persecution, danger, and suffering, then declares that none of these things can separate believers from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Our confidence is not that life will always be easy. Our confidence is that God's love remains steadfast through every season.



Questions for discussion

- 1. What circumstances most often make people question God's love?**
- 2. How does Romans 8 challenge the idea that hardship means God has abandoned us?**
- 3. If we truly believe nothing can separate us from God's love, how should that affect the way we love others?**

Something to Think About

If God's love remains faithful toward me during my difficult seasons, am I demonstrating that same love toward people during theirs?

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Reach out to someone who has become distant from church, family, or community. Demonstrate Christ's love through genuine concern, reconciliation where appropriate, and consistent care.

Closing Declaration: My feelings may change. My circumstances may change. But God's love remains. I'M STILL CONNECTED!

Closing discussion — Bringing it all together

I would close the Bible study by asking everyone one question:

“Which of these six areas is God challenging you to grow in right now?”

Personal reflection

Trusting God when He seems silent

Walking by faith instead of feelings

Maintaining my relationship beyond emotional experiences

Recognizing God's presence in adversity

Serving while I'm waiting

Demonstrating God's faithful love toward others