

Be Honest With God  
Pastor Eric Brown  
Trinity, Herscher

"How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? I will sing to the LORD because He has dealt bountifully with me." Psalm 13:1, 6

One of the things that is beautiful about the Psalms is that they are brutally honest. That's a hallmark of good poetry - it deals with the breadth and depth of emotions. And as David begins the Psalm, his terror and fear are palpable. He feels lost and abandoned. He feels cut off from God.

And he's honest about that fact.

Just with our piety today and how we approach "religion" and "spiritual living," that sort of honesty seems strange. We often feel compelled to say that we are fine, even when we aren't - and we think that we ought never dare to express our frustrations about and at God. Perhaps privately we might grouse - but these are things we would be fearful of ever saying to another person.

Yet what happens in the Psalm? David voices his complaint...and then he works through it. He remembers the steadfast love of the LORD (verse 5), and he sees things differently - he learns to see how bountifully the LORD has dealt with him, even in this situation he was in. But he gets there only when he is honest about where he sees himself.

The Scriptures are full of all sorts of raw and unpleasant emotions. The Psalms are full of them, and there's even a book of the Bible entitled "Lamentations." And the comfort of this is that when we are beset upon by raw and unpleasant emotions, that doesn't denigrate or minimize our faith. No, plenty of our brothers and sisters in Christ have been there before - and the LORD has brought them through it, and so He shall for you. What we struggle with and hide and are ashamed of - it's not a problem for Jesus. He understands, and He remains faithful and still does good for you and is your Savior.

Be honest when looking at yourself; and then you will be able to see all the more clearly how abundantly God actually has continued to care for you.