

The Pressure of Problems

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Psalm 77:1-10.

B. Life can never be explained by the five senses.

C. The problem that this psalm faces is the seeming unresponsiveness of God to prayer.

D. Psalm 77 moves from despair to peace and it can help us sometimes when New Testament teaching cannot.

II. The psalmist cries out to God.

A. The Word of God never glosses over human problems—it plunges right into the difficult feelings of the psalmist to whom we can relate.

1. This is a godly man, but he is confronted with terrible circumstances that bring him to this point.

2. This is not a beginner in the faith—he goes to God in prayer and meditation in order to handle his situation.

B. The problems the psalmist faces.

1. The circumstance that brought him to God in the first place.

2. The apparent unresponsiveness of God, which has brought about doubt and unbelief in the psalmist.

C. General observations.

1. Apparent unresponsiveness from God is not an unusual experience.

a. This is part of the program God has for disciplining and training His own.

b. No temptation has come upon a person that is not common to man.

2. The power to resist doubt does not lie in certain techniques as in prayer or meditation.

a. This unmask the glib and superficial advice many Christians give to each other.

b. The purpose for prayer is not to solve problems.

c. Each problem is designed to teach us something.

d. God provides a way to escape that we might avoid the pressure.

Application questions:

1. Why might the specific problem of the psalmist go unmentioned?

2. When have you experienced the uncertainty and pressure of the psalmist?

3. Why is it important to be careful with our advice when someone is going through a difficult circumstance? How would you respond?
