

The Purple Corner

August 2010

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
How long must I wrestle with my thoughts
And every day have sorrow in my heart?
How long will my enemy triumph over me?

These are the words of David in Psalm 13 and they are the sentiments of those who are shackled and held captive by their abusers. Like David, they feel that the Lord has forgotten them because they are consumed with the thoughts of pain, hurt, deceit and betrayal. Many times abused persons have been isolated from friends and family, from those who could offer some morsel of support. They really do wrestle with the thoughts of “nobody cares”, not even God. They feel defeated by the enemy who seems to triumph over them and every day their hearts are full of sorrow.

What advice do you give to someone who feels this kind of pain, despair and anger? What can such a person gain from the words of David?

Look on me and answer, O Lord my God.
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death;
my enemy will say, “I have overcome him,”
and my foes will rejoice when I fall.

David was honest with God about his feelings of despair and cried out to him as he acknowledged him by calling him O Lord my God. When we think the enemy has an upper hand on us don't we have these same thoughts? Don't we need God to give light to our eyes so we can see pass the problem and the enemy to the faithfulness and power of our God?
Like David we may sometimes find ourselves in a pit of despair but also like David we must come to the same conclusion.

But I trust in your unfailing love;
my heart rejoices in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord;
for he has been good to me.

Be encouraged and know that God has not forgotten you. Your change is coming!