

Faith When You Can't See God

read

Isaiah 40:27-31

think

Have you ever felt like God forgot about you? We can all feel like that when life twists and turns in unexpected ways. If you've experienced this, then you're in good company.

Isaiah 40:27-31 was written to Israel after they've already watched the Southern Kingdom of Judah be conquered and taken as slaves into exile. Now, it seems like the same thing is going to happen to them. Isaiah was a prophet, calling Israel to trust in the Lord in the midst of the uncertainty and fear. Their doubt is obvious in v.27, where they feel "hidden from the LORD" and like their rights are being "disregarded" by God.

In v.28, Isaiah asks rhetorical questions, reminding Israel of God's faithfulness to them over the generations. The God who stretched out the heavens is the same one who rescued them from Egypt. He gives strength to the weak and sustains those who feel like giving up. This doesn't mean God will swoop in and make everything great again, but he is faithful, even when life seems hopeless.

In those moments of life when fear surrounds you and God can't be seen, remember this Everlasting God who sent his Son, Jesus, in order to rescue his creation from wrath and judgment. God did even more than strengthen us – he gave us life when we were spiritually dead. The gospel is our life and hope, both on the mountaintops and in the pit of despair. You can trust him.

apply

- Discuss why it can be so difficult to trust God with our safety when it seems like sickness and danger threaten you.
- What are some truths you know about who God is and what he's like that give you confidence in his faithful love?

pray

Everlasting God, you created all things and yet you care for us so much you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to be our savior. Help us when we feel forgotten and fearful. Remind us who you are and what you've done, and give us the strength we need when we don't have any of our own. In all of the highs and lows of our lives, you are worthy of our trust and worship. Amen.

by Mike McGarry

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