

The Absent God

*"Why, Lord, do you stand far off?
Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?"
Psalm 10:1 NIV*

The view some people have of the Christian life is that believers should never be discouraged, depressed, or feel the absence of God. "After all," they say, "did God not promise never to leave or forsake us?"

What such people do with statements like the one in Psalm 10:1 I do not know. Perhaps they suggest that if the person had a little more faith they would not have the notion that God had deserted them in their time of need.

Really honest Christians will find times when their spiritual life is weak and their thoughts are confused.

Even the apostles got things mixed up at times and were occasionally offended by the Lord's teaching (Matthew 16:21-23; John 13:2-8, et al.).

Anyone who denies ever

having seasons of doubt and struggles with their faith is clearly not seeing life as the most godly and sensitive Christians do.

Spiritual confusion of thought is the experience of every follower of the Lord.

In Isaiah 55:8-9 we read, ""For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,' declares the Lord. 'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.'"

A quick search of Scripture will provide us with various examples of God's people asking the sad question, "Why, O Lord?" Here is integrity and candid honesty on the part of the person seeking information.

Perhaps the person posing the question wishes to know if the trouble they

experience is a result of sin or the questioner might be simply expressing grief at the thought of one more negative issue to haunt them.

There are several explanations for a Christian speaking like the Psalmist in Psalm 10.

Do not be afraid to ask questions of the Lord when you are sincerely looking for information. The Lord has great patience with seekers after truth and your questions will be heard.

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