

PRAYER MEETING

11 September 2017

Text: **Psalm 13**

“HOW LONG” PRAYERS

A painful series of questions raised in prayer to God.

1. Forgotten by God?

*“How long, O LORD?
Will You forget me forever?” Psalm 13:1a*

2. Hiding of God’s face

“How long will You hide Your face from me?” Psalm 13:1b

3. Counsel from our own soul

*“How long shall I take counsel in my own soul,
Having sorrow in my heart daily?” Psalm 13:2a*

4. Enemies

“How long will my enemy be exalted over me?” Psalm 13:2b

DANGER OF SUCH PRAYERS

1. Danger of blaming God
2. Danger of whining
3. Danger of demanding
4. Danger of ending up in despair

A CHANGE OF PRAYER-APPROACH

1. A prayer for enlightenment

*“Consider and hear me, O LORD my God;
Enlighten my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death;*

Lest my enemy say,

*“I have prevailed against him”
Lest those who trouble me rejoice when I am moved.” Psalm 13:3-4*

2. The exercise of trust

“But I have trusted in Your mercy...” Psalm 13:5a

FINDING JOY AGAIN

1. My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation (Psalm 13:5b)

2. I will sing to the LORD (Psalm 13:6a)

THE LORD’S BOUNTIFUL DEALING

“Because He has dealt bountifully with me” Psalm 13:6b

1. He has always dealt bountifully

2. Sometimes we fail to see and appreciate the Lord’s hand of blessing

THE CHALLENGE

1. To check our prayer-approach

2. To check our prayer-life

3. To check our faith