

When the Israelites said God was distant from them, it showed that they failed to realise that God was chastising them for their sins. Their thoughts were not guided by God’s Word. In times of trouble, we doubt and do not believe God because we do not think of Him as we ought, and we forget the covenants He has made with us. Our trust in God depends on our understanding of who God is. If our trust is not in the God of the Bible but a figment of our imagination, we will not trust once problems arise. We must know Him as He has revealed Himself to us through His Word. Then, we can trust Him.

1. Reminder of who God is and who we are (Isa 40:26)

We must look up and be confronted with God’s power and glory. Psalm 19:1: “*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.*” In the city, the lights of man’s creation drown out the light that declares God’s glory. We often use the name “God”, but need to be constantly reminded of who this God is to guard ourselves from our tendency to accept something else as a poor substitute of God. God made the stars to point us to Himself. We are small when compared to the universe, we are small when compared to God. Why trust in anything else when we have such a God to trust in?

God rules over all His creation, but He relates to His people in a special and marvellous way. He who named all the hosts of heaven has condescended to call us each by name. God called Himself “*the God of Jacob,*” “*the God of Israel.*” He wants to draw us into a covenant relationship with Himself. What can be more worthwhile than to know God in this way?

Israel forgot God’s covenant and goodness. They thought that God could not and would not preserve them. That denial caused them to faint and turn to the gods of other nations when all the difficulties piled around them. We often trust in ourselves, our connections and worldly methods even though we say we trust in God. We must remember what God has revealed to us about Himself in His Word.

2. Exaltation to trust in God

God is the everlasting God, the covenantal God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He is never tired, never too busy. He understands and cares for each one of us perfectly. If He seems absent, we must never conclude that He is actually absent. He is working in some way, and our assurance comes from trusting truly and sincerely in what He can do.

God gives power to the faint when they depend on Him and call on Him in faith. We need to admit that we have nothing, and He has all. Real confidence comes from trusting in God, not in ourselves, just as the eagle soars by allowing the air currents to carry it up.

In response, we need to wait on God through prayer. God has promised to hear and answer, so let us submit everything to Him. Begin and end the day in prayer, go through the day in prayer. Obey His Word as an expression of our waiting on God. The One who is most important must be in His rightful place. Finally, strengthen our trust through reflection and meditation. Remember what He has said, and reflect on His dealings with us in the past. Sometimes God allows trouble to come so we can learn to depend on Him. Those who trust in God and serve Him will face many difficulties, but God promises to deliver them out of them all.

Our trust must be based on knowledge, not wishful thinking. We trust because we know our unworthiness and weakness. And we know the power and glory of God.