

When You Don't Understand God . . .

Psalm 74:1-17; Acts 9:32-10:43

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

“3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4who comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.”

1. “When you *Don't Understand* or
you *Cannot Comprehend* . . .

God,”

it is common and often.

John 13:7

**Jesus answered and said to him,
“What I do you do not realize now,
but you will understand hereafter.”**

Job 36:26

**“Behold, God is exalted, and we do
not know Him; The number of His
years is unsearchable.”**

**To things we don't understand about God,
there are two possibilities:**

- **Sometimes that understanding we seek
may come in our lifetime.**
- **But some things we will understand
only when we meet our Lord.**

** The Application:
Humility & Patience**

- **Are Doubts,
Questionings and Fears
compatible with Faith?**

**2. How should you
respond when you
don't understand God?**

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I) Be Honest with God

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i. Ask Questions

Psalm 74:1,9

“**10** God, why have You rejected *us* forever? . . . **9** Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your pasture?”

I) Be Honest with God

i. Ask Questions

Habakkuk 1:2-4

“2How long, O Lord, will I call for help, and you will not hear? I cry out to You, “Violence!” Yet You do not save. **3**Why do You make me see iniquity, And cause me to look on wickedness? Yes, destruction and violence are before me; Strife exists and contention arises. **4**Therefore the law is ignored And justice is never upheld. For the wicked surround the righteous; Therefore justice comes out perverted.”

- I) Be Honest with God**
- i. Ask Questions**
 - ii. Ask for Answers**
(Psalm 74:2-3)

ii. Ask for Answers

Psalm 74:2-3

“2Remember Your congregation, which You have purchased of old, which You have redeemed to be the tribe of Your inheritance; *and* this Mount Zion, where You have dwelt. 3Turn Your footsteps toward the perpetual ruins; The enemy has damaged everything within the sanctuary.”

2. How should you respond when you don't understand God?

II) Be Open to God

i) The Mystery of Healing

(Acts 9:34-35)

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i) The Mystery of Healing

Acts 9:34-35

“34Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; get up and make your bed.” Immediately he got up. **35**And all who lived at Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.”

2. How should you respond when you don't understand God?

II) Be Open to God

i) The Mystery of Healing

(Acts 9:34-35)

ii) *The Mystery of Raising
the Dead*

(Acts 9:36-42)

ii) The Mystery of Raising the Dead

Acts 9:36, 42

“36In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping the poor. ... **42**This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.”

2. How should you respond when you don't understand God?

II) Be Open to God

i) The Mystery of Healing

(Acts 9:34-35)

ii) The Mystery of Raising the Dead

(Acts 9:36-42)

iii) *The Mystery of the Gospel*

(Acts 10:9-28)

iii) *The Mystery of the Gospel*

Acts 10:11-14

“11and he saw the sky opened up, and an object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground, **12**and there were in it all kinds of four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the air.

iii) *The Mystery of the Gospel*

Acts 10:11-14

“13A voice came to him, “Get up, Peter, kill and eat!” **14**But Peter said, “By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean.”

2. How should you respond when you don't understand God?

I) Be Honest with God

II) Be Open to God

**III) To God, We Recall His
Mighty Work. To Man, We
Proclaim His Salvation.**

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To Man, We Proclaim His Salvation**

*i) The example on Psalm
74:12-17*

*ii) The example on Habakkuk
3:17-19*

*iii) The example on Acts
10:34-43*

The example of *Psalm 74:12-17*

“12 Yet God is my king from of old,
Who works deeds of deliverance in
the midst of the earth. **13** You divided
the sea by Your strength; You broke
the heads of the sea monsters in the
waters. **14** You crushed the heads of
Leviathan; You gave him as food for
the creatures of the wilderness. . . .

Psalm 74:12-17

“... 15 You broke open springs and torrents; You dried up ever-flowing streams. 16 Yours is the day, Yours also is the night; You have prepared the light and the sun. 17 You have established all the boundaries of the earth; You have made summer and winter.”

The example of *Habakkuk 3:17-19*

“17 Though the fig tree should not blossom
And there be no fruit on the vines, Though
the yield of the olive should fail And the
fields produce no food, Though the flock
should be cut off from the fold And there be
no cattle in the stalls, **18** Yet I will exult in the
LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my
salvation. **19** The Lord GOD is my strength,
And He has made my feet like hinds’ feet,
And make me walk on high places. “

The example of *Acts 10:39-43*

“39We are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross. **40**God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible, **41**not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, . . .

The example of *Acts 10:39-43*

“... *that is*, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. 42” And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead. 43” Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.”

Application

- **You are in good company with many biblical giants in not understanding or comprehending God.**
- **Doubt and faith are two sides of the same coin. Without doubt there is no necessity for faith.**
- **Be honest with God.**

Application

- **Be Open to God**
 - i) in the mystery of Healing**
 - ii) in the mystery of Raising the Dead**
 - iii) in the mystery of the Gospel**

Application

Hold on to our Lord Jesus as

- **To God, We Recall His
Mighty Work**
- **To Man, We Proclaim His
Salvation**

Application

Salvation = Freedom

<p>In Greek, “save” has 3 passive</p>	
<p>‘I know</p>	<p>therefore you</p>
<p>‘I believ</p>	<p>therefore you</p>
<p>‘I hope by the</p>	<p>therefore you anticipat</p>

Salvation
means
I am *in Christ*
&
He is in me,
no matter *what, when and*
where.