"Why God?" (part #4)

Why Does God Feel So Distant? www.whoneedsgod.com

Psalm 13:1-2

"How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? ²How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me?

Psalm 22:1-2

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? ²My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest."

John 11:21

"Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

*D Causes Distance.

"If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened."—Psalm 66:18

"God can't talk to you because you're too busy talking to everyone else about everything else"—Mark Helsel

He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."—Psalm 46:10

-Are we giving God our scraps & expecting His treasures?
-Do we obey nothing & expect everything?
-You will find what you look for.

"But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul."

—Deuteronomy 4:29

*D Causes Distance.

This is why it is said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."—Ephesians 5:14

*D Causes Distance.

Remember my affliction and my wanderings, the wormwood and the gall! ²⁰My soul continually remembers it and is bowed down within me. ²¹But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: ²²The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; ²³they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness"

—Lamentations 3:19-23 (ESV)

"Though our feelings come and go, God's love for us does not."

—C.S. Lewis

Don't abandon in the dark what you learned in the light! Psalm 13:3-6

³Look on me and answer, LORD my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death, ⁴and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him," and my foes will rejoice when I fall. ⁵But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. ⁶I will sing the LORD's praise, for he has been good to me."

GOD WRITES MASTERPIECES IN THE DARK! -KEEP GOING -KEEP PRAYING -KEEP SHOUTING -KEEP PRAISING

*<u>D</u> Causes Distance.

Maybe God Is Not Speaking Because:

- -He Already Did But I Didn't Listen.
- -I Didn't Like What He Said Before.
- -I'm Not Ready To Hear What He Has To Say.
- -My Ears Are Clogged With Sin, Bitterness Or Apathy.

Then he said to me, "Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it." So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth.—Ezekiel 3:3

JOIN US TODAY

Sunday, January 28th, 2018

Opening
THIS IS AMAZING GRACE

Welcome GREAT ARE YOU LORD SPLINTERS AND STONES

Prayer

Offering

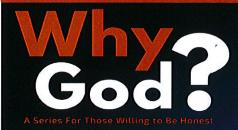
I AM NOT ALONE

Message

WHY IS GOD SO HARD TO FIND?

Pastor Dean Ward

PART 4 OF OUR CURRENT SERMON SERIES





GIVING BACK TO GOD

Giving back to God, cheerfully and sacrificially, is part of our worship. It's our way of putting God first in our finances and supporting the mission of The River throughout the year. The combined totals for both The River New Kensington and The River New Heights are listed.

\$7,150.00 Needed Weekly		Attendance
December 31st	\$16,097.91	242
January 7th	\$7,623.05	279
January 14th	\$4,443.08	219
January 21st	\$9,831.41	302

UPCOMING EVENTS

This Week			Next Week	
Sunday January 28	Services 9:30am & 11:15am Business & Blessings Meeting 10:45	Sunday February 4	Services 9:30am & 11:15am	
Wednesday January 31	Sonward Tutoring & Homework Help 5-6 The River's Edge Youth Group 6–8p Wednesday Night Live 6:30-8pm Sonward Action Bible Study 6:30-8	Wednesday February 7	Sonward Tutoring & Homework Help 5-6pm The River's Edge Youth Group 6–8pm Wednesday Night Live 6:30-8pm Sonward Action Bible Study 6:30-8pm	
KEEP UP WITH OUR EVENTS		Thursday February 8	MOPs 9:30-11:30am	
Like!		Friday February 9	IF: Gathering @ The River New Heights 7-10pm	
us on Facebook	us on page out or	r la	Kids' Closet Public Event 10am-1pm IF: Gathering @ The River New Heights 10am-1pm and 3-6pm	



SMALL GROUPS FOR GROWING IN FAITH

6:30-8pm

BRING THE KIDS! Nursery & Preschool programs are available

OUR CURRENT STUDIES

FOLLOW BY ANDY STANLEY - Led by Dean Ward

FOLLOW BY ANDY STANLEY - Beginning Wed, February 7
- Led by Terri Schrecongost & Traci Heuston



ACTION BIBLE STUDYGEARED FOR PRE-K THRU 6TH GRADE





Open to youth grades 7-12 Youth Pastor Brian Baker 724-5947394

Every 2nd and 4th Sunday, the youth are encouraged to attend the 11:15 service.

After the offering song, the youth will go into the Youth Room for their lesson.