

## **“Why God?”**

(part #4)

### **Why Does God Feel So Distant?**

**www.whoneedsgod.com**

#### **Psalms 13:1-2**

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

#### **Psalms 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? <sup>2</sup>My 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! <sup>20</sup>My soul continually remembers it and is bowed down within me. <sup>21</sup>But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: <sup>22</sup>The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; <sup>23</sup>they 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!**

#### **Psalms 13:3-6**

<sup>3</sup>Look on me and answer, LORD my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death, <sup>4</sup>and my enemy will say, “I have overcome him,” and my foes will rejoice when I fall. <sup>5</sup>But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. <sup>6</sup>I 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**

### **\*D\_\_\_\_\_ 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

**Why  
God?**

A Series For Those Willing to Be Honest

## **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 10:45am	Sunday February 4	Services 9:30am & 11:15am
Wednesday January 31	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	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! us on Facebook		Friday February 9	IF: Gathering @ The River New Heights 7-10pm
 Check out our website!		Saturday February 10	Kids' Closet Public Event 10am-1pm IF: Gathering @ The River New Heights 10am-1pm and 3-6pm

**WEDNESDAY  
NIGHT**  
Family ♦ Fellowship ♦ Faith

**LIVE!**

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

**Sonward**  
Changing a community

**ACTION BIBLE STUDY**  
GEARED FOR PRE-K THRU 6TH GRADE

**WEDNESDAYS 6:30-8PM**



**TUTORING AND HOMEWORK HELP AVAILABLE FROM 5-6PM**

**RIVER'S  
EDGE**  
YOUTH GROUP  
Wednesdays 6-8pm

Open to youth grades 7-12  
Youth Pastor Brian Baker 724-594-7394

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.