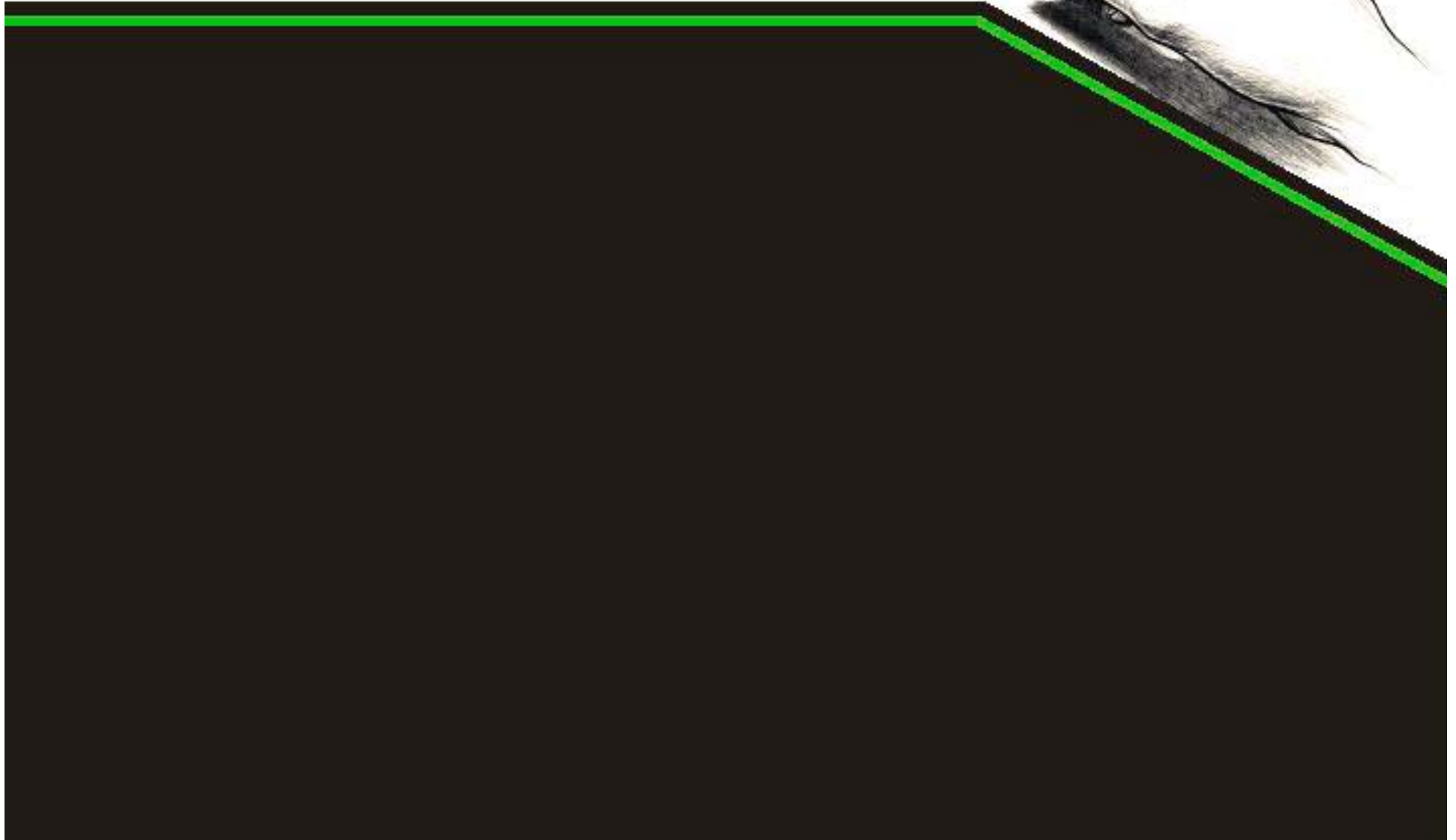


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How Long?



# How Long?

- Corrie Ten Boom, “Sometimes I lost courage. I would say to God, ‘God you guide the stars and know them by name, but how have you forgotten your child?’”
- David asked the same question in Psalm 13.

# How Long?

- Psalm 13:1-2, ““How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? 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?”

# How Long?

- Psalm 13:3-6, “Look on me and answer, Lord my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death, and my enemy will say, ‘I have overcome him,’ and my foes will rejoice when I fall. But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the Lord’s praise, for he has been good to me.”

# How Long?

- We begin with passionate, honest dialogue with God - David begins by expressing his despair.
- Four times he asks, “How long?”
- When suffering continues, we feel like God has forgotten us (“Will you forget me forever?”). (a theology struggle)
- He wrestles with his thoughts (v. 2). (difference between what I know & feel)

# How Long?

- We look to God for help - David looks to God for help. “**Look** on me and **answer**, Lord my God. **Give light** to my eyes, or I will sleep in death, and my enemy will say, ‘I have overcome him,’ and my foes will rejoice when I fall.” (Look – like an infant; answer – deliverance; light – hope) (help the guards)
- Jesus light is deeper still than the deepest darkness.

# How Long?

- We bank on God's unfailing love.  
All hope rests there for us, and David.  
"But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart  
rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the  
Lord's praise, for he has been good to  
me."

# How Long?

- Corrie Ten Boom, “Love knows no limit to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope. It can outlast anything. It is, in fact, the one thing that still stands when all else has fallen. And in my life, all else had fallen.”

# How Long?

- Corrie Ten Boom: “I stood in roll call in the concentration camp Ravensbruck, where 97,000 women were killed or died, also my sister. When I stood there on roll call, one of the guards used her time to demonstrate her cruelties.”

# How Long?

- Corrie Ten Boom: I could hardly bear to see or to hear what happened in front of me. Suddenly a skylark came, and he started to sing in the sky; and all the prisoners looked up. And when I looked up, I looked at the sky, and then I thought of Psalm 103 where it's written:

# How Long?

- Corrie Ten Boom: Psalm 103,  
“As high as heaven is over the earth, so far is God’s love and mercy over all that fear him.” And suddenly I saw it: “Oh love of God, how deep and great! Far deeper than man’s deepest hate.”

# How Long?

- Corrie Ten Boom: “God sent that skylark three weeks daily, exactly through roll call time to turn away our eyes from the cruelty of man and to the ocean of God’s love.”
- When all else fails, God’s love still stands.

# How Long?

- We bank on God's unfailing love. All hope rests there for us, and David. "But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me."
- We have to remember the cross, and choose to believe that God is loving, even though we can't understand why or how long.

# Corrie Ten Boom

- Once there came a man to me and said, “Will you save my wife? She is arrested; she has saved Jewish people and now she is in a police station,”



# Corrie Ten Boom

“and there is one policeman who will run the risk to set her free if we pay him 600 guilders. But I have no money.” I said, “Oh, man what does money say.”



# Corrie Ten Boom

“Let’s see: I have 200 guilders. Come back after an hour.” And in that hour I asked all my friends, ‘Hey, have you money? Give it. It needs to save the life of a good woman!’”



# Corrie Ten Boom

“When that man came back I gave him 600 guilders. That man was a quisling, a betrayer. His wife was not at all in prison, but the Gestapo, the police of the enemy, had said,



# Corrie Ten Boom

“Find out if Corrie Ten Boom saves Jewish people.”  
And he thought, “I can do it and make some money,” and he made some money.



# Corrie Ten Boom

He went home with 600 guilders, but five minutes later the Gestapo surrounded our house and we were all arrested.



# Corrie Ten Boom

Later, when I was in the concentration camp, there came a prisoner from my hometown and she said, “Say, do you know who has betrayed you?” I said, “No.”



# Corrie Ten Boom

- And then she told that it was that man, and there came hatred in my heart. The man I had given my last penny! But I know from the Bible that hatred means murder in God's eyes.



# Corrie Ten Boom

But I also know from the Bible what to do with your murder. When we confess our sins, when we repent and ask forgiveness, then he is able to forgive us, and the blood of Jesus that cleanses from all the sins that we tell him and



# Corrie Ten Boom

ask forgiveness for  
and repent. And I  
repented for my  
hatred, and the Lord  
took that sin away,  
and it's a great joy...  
the Bible tells very  
clearly what the  
Lord does when you  
repent.



# Corrie Ten Boom

He takes such a sin,  
and he casts it into  
the depths of the  
sea, forgiven and  
forgotten. That's  
what the Bible says.  
The Bible doesn't  
say it, but I believe  
he put a sign, "No  
fishing allowed."



# Corrie Ten Boom

And do you know,  
when I had repented  
of that sin, the Lord  
cleansed my heart  
with his blood, and a  
heart cleansed by  
the blood of Jesus  
he fills with the Holy  
Spirit, and the fruit



# Corrie Ten Boom

of the Spirit is love;  
love even for  
enemies. And  
instead that I hated  
that man, I loved  
him. And after the  
war the man was  
sentenced to death  
because he had



# Corrie Ten Boom

caused the death of many Dutch people. And when I heard that, I wrote him: “Your betrayal has meant the death of my old father, who was 84 years old when they brought him into prison...”



# Corrie Ten Boom

“after ten days he died.... my sister, who died after ten months, terrible suffering. My brother... he came out alive, but a sick man, and died through that sickness...



# Corrie Ten Boom

“...and his son never came back. I myself have suffered terribly through...in three different prisons. But I have forgiven you, and that is because Jesus is in my heart.



# Corrie Ten Boom

“And when Jesus tells you to love your enemies, he gives you the love that he demands from you.”  
And I sent that man a New Testament and underlined the way of salvation.



# Corrie Ten Boom

And that man wrote me, “That you could forgive me is such a great miracle, that I have said, ‘Jesus, when you give such a love in the heart of your followers, there is hope for me.’”



# Corrie Ten Boom

“And I have read in the Bible that you sent me, that Jesus has died at the cross for the sins of the whole world, and I have brought my terrible sins to Jesus, and I know that they are forgiven.



# Corrie Ten Boom

“Your forgiveness has shown me what it means that there is forgiveness through Jesus Christ.” And that man was brought to death that same week, but he was reconciled with God,



# Corrie Ten Boom

...and God had used me, who had hated him, to bring him to the Lord! You know, I like that little poem of John Bunyan:



# Corrie Ten Boom

John Bunyan:

- Run, John, run, the law commands
- But gives us neither feet nor hands
- Far better news the Gospel brings
- That bids us fly and gives us wings.



# Corrie Ten Boom

Isn't that good? It says, you must love your enemies and he gives you the love that he demands from you.



# Corrie Ten Boom

- When all else fails, God's love still stands.
- Jesus light is deeper still than the deepest darkness.



# Corrie Ten Boom

Halleluiah! Amen,  
we pray: Thank you,  
Lord, that there is  
such an ocean of  
love available...that  
love that you have  
brought into our  
hearts through the  
Holy Spirit.



# Corrie Ten Boom

Thank you, Jesus,  
that you did that,  
and thank you,  
Father, that that love  
in us is sufficient,  
and *more than*  
*sufficient* to  
overcome the  
problems that we  
have to face



# Corrie Ten Boom

...when we come home... when we go to our work... we praise and thank you, Lord, that your love still stands also... when all else has fallen.

