

How Long Lord?

by Richard E. Bieber

The sermon emphasizes that despite feelings of desolation, God is always present and promises to never forsake us.

Scripture: Matthew 7:11, Luke 12:6, Luke 12:32, John 6:37, John 9:4, John 14:18, John 14:21, John 16:33, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Hebrews 13:5

Topics: "Tribulation", "Perseverance"

Description

Richard E. Bieber preaches about the desolation of soul that believers may experience, questioning God's promises and feeling abandoned. He emphasizes that Jesus, who experienced true desolation on the cross, will never leave or forsake His followers. Bieber reminds believers to turn their focus back to Jesus, reflecting His glory and finding rest in Him, even in the midst of tribulations and persecution.

Transcript

"I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you." John 14:18 When we begin to wake up from our spiritual slumber and open our eyes to the real world, we soon discover that God's ways are a mystery to us. God doesn't mesh his plans with ours. The awesome promises of the Lord Jesus are rarely fulfilled as quickly as we would like. We begin to wonder if we're missing out somewhere. "I've prayed and prayed and prayed to God to remove that vile thing from my life - it's still there."

"I've pounded on heaven's door until my hands bled begging God to spare my loved one for His Kingdom - nothing happens." "I've wept and tarried and tried everything I know to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit - others receive and go on to mighty things, while I wait." Jesus says, "if you being evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall the Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him." Was this promise meant for everyone but me?"

"if you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will....." "Who's He talking to? Nothing happens when I ask." "Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies, and not one of them is forgotten before God. Why even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, you are of more value than many sparrows." "Beautiful words but, where's the evidence in my life?" "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom." "I went along with that."

I got rid of the excess baggage in my life. I cut my ties with mammon.... sought that heavenly treasure --- and where am I now? Desolate!" "I'm getting tired of waiting! I'm getting tired of trying to smile and pretend

everything's all right when within my soul it seems like eternal night. Is there some kind of curse on me? Has God turned away His face?" "O God, why hath thou cast us off forever? Why doth thine anger smoke against the sheep of thy pasture? Why has thou forgotten me?"

Why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?" Psalm 74 When a person who has never met Jesus Christ begins to experience desolation of soul we say, "Praise the Lord! He's come to the end or himself. He's given up trying to be his own god. Now he's ready to meet Jesus." "Come on brother - Let's go up to the Cross." "Let's get down on our faces. Jesus wants to come into your life and make you a new creature." And as soon as that opens the door of his heart, the Son of God enters and makes him a child of Heaven.

But what do you say to a believer who has known the love of God - experienced the power of the blood? Who has known what it is to walk and talk with the living Christ - but is now empty, dry, joyless, and desolate. Has God turned away His face? Never! "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Has Jesus cast them aside? Never! "Whoever comes to me I will in no wise cast out." Understand this forgotten fact: There is only one person who ever experienced real desolation -real God-forsakenness, and that's the Son of God.

When Jesus hung on that cross, He was desolate. The Father had drawn back and turned away His face from the sin that was laid on the dying body of His Only Begotten. "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Jesus could truly cry out those words - and He alone. No human being has ever experienced anything close to the desolation that broke the heart of that Man of Sorrows, as He hung there abandoned by Heaven and earth and as the kingdom of Hell did its worst to Him. - It looks to you like your dreams are being smashed, - your loved ones are being taken, - your health is being taken, - your hope is being taken,and God doesn't seem to care.

But have another look at Calvary. If you are experiencing desolation, it's because you have lost sight of His desolation. You've forgotten about the desolation He suffered for you. His loved ones were walking down the hill shaking their heads. His health, yes His very life, was ebbing out of His body drop by drop, breath by breath. His Father was gone. He looked up and saw no light - only a closed door. And why did He go through this? So that you would never have to be desolate!

The enemy will come along and try to tell you that you are the desolate one - but it's a lie. Jesus is the desolate one. You're the one He did it for - because He loves you. Do you hear me? He loves you! And there's no clearer proof that He loves you than to see Him hanging there dying. God never promised that your loved ones wouldn't be taken. And God never promised that your life wouldn't be taken. But there is one thing God did promise to those who abandon their lives to Jesus - Nothing in all creation will be able to separate you from His love.

The Son of God who hung up there in desolation and rose from the grave, promises to be with you to the end of the age. "I will not leave you desolate. I will come to you." "How long do I have to wait, Lord? When will it be?" "What do you mean? Here I am. I am with you right now. Whose hand do you think is resting on your shoulder right now?" If you think you're desolate, it's because you are closing your spirit's eye to the glory that shines from His face upon your soul this very moment.

And we all with unveiled face, reflecting as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being changed into His likeness from one degree of glory to another, by the Spirit of the Lord. How could we reflect His glory? How could we be changed into His likeness if Jesus weren't with us? And this is for you who are reading

these words. All of us! And we all with unveiled face..... If we're not reflecting that glory it's not because Jesus' face is turned away from us - it's because our face is turned away from Him!

If all we can see is our own desolation, it's because we are looking into our own shadow, cast by the light of the Cross blazing on our backs. All we have to do is turn around and look to Him and we see instantly that our desolation was a lie. He is here! Jesus is here! You're not waiting, Friend, He's waiting. - Waiting to fill you with all the fullness of God. - Waiting to anoint your head with the oil of God's Spirit, until it runs down over your face and covers your garments. - Waiting to give you victory in that battle your flesh has been losing all these years.

He's waiting for you to turn away from all else and just behold Him. The one who has my commandments and keeps them is the one who loves me; and the one who loves me will be loved by my Father and I will love them and manifest myself to them. Jesus cannot manifest Himself to you when you're looking back into the past and feeling sorry for yourself. Jesus cannot manifest Himself to you when you're turned in upon yourself - morbidly fascinated by the mess. Jesus cannot manifest Himself to you when you're looking with envy at the world - lusting after the flesh-pots of Egypt.

Jesus can only manifest Himself to you where you are looking up toward Heaven, toward that Cross. Look up and you will see Him, and you will know beyond the shadow of a doubt that Jesus is keeping His promise to you. There is no reason why you can't know that Jesus is with you all the time - day and night - when you're alone, when you're in a crowd, when you're working, talking, eating, sleeping. Know that He is there! It's knowing that Jesus is there - that is our joy. - If we have Jesus, we have everything. - If we have everything else but Jesus, we have nothing. - He is our joy.

Of course, Jesus never promised to save you from desolate circumstances. In fact, He promised that in the world you will have tribulation. You will live in the midst of trouble. Your life will be spent amid all kinds of sorrow, and confusion, and danger, and tragedy. Yes, and even persecution.. If they hated me, they will hate you. The hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he's doing God a favor. And yet he commands you to keep on serving. We must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no man can work.

Other men have labored and you have entered into their labors. Jesus does not join himself to; - idleness, - laziness, - people who want to do their own thing and call it "the Lord's work". But Jesus does promise that in the midst of the most desolate circumstances, the worst persecution and the hardest labor He will be with you - and in Him you will find rest for your soul. I will not leave you desolate. I will come to you. I will manifest myself to you. I will refresh you with the breath of my Spirit.

I will give you rest. And we all with unveiled face reflecting as in a mirror the glory of the Lord are being changed into His likeness..... The Spirit of God comes with special blessing to those believers who have thought that they were being left out. Name your need before Lord Jesus. Tell Him where it hurts, and He will touch you with the finger of God, even as you read these words.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/richard-e-bieber/how-long-lord/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net