

# Unshakable confidence in God's unending love

Psalm 136



## “Out of sight, out of mind”

What does “Out of sight, out of mind” mean?

When I can't see something, I stop paying attention to it  
I may act as though it doesn't exist

What happens in our hearts when God's love is something we aren't experiencing?

## Psalm 136

### 1-3:

He is God above every other power  
And He is good

### 4-7

When things are far too big for us

### 10-12

When being oppressed by unjust rulers for many generations!

### 13-16

When trapped with no way out  
When they had needs they couldn't meet

### 17-22

When opposed by powers far too big for them

### 23-25

When we all are low, weak, and vulnerable  
When we all face enemies  
When we all have needs  
...His love is always there!!

### 26

The God above all gods loves His people forever!



## The Big Idea

### God's steadfast love is always strong and new to all God's people

What is the point of verses 10-22 for non-Jewish people?

The psalmist tells us to thank God for good that He did for others of His people  
Why?

### C.S. Lewis on Faith

Faith is Belief

**Not:** convincing yourself to believe something that has little evidence

**Rather:** continuing to believe what I have become convinced of, even when my emotions and imagination oppose it

“Jesus loves me” is such a simple idea! Yet our emotions often oppose believing it

To grow in faith...

The soul must be fed the truth continually

Especially of God's unending love

“That is why daily prayer and religious (Scripture) reading and church-going (and small groups) are necessary parts of the Christian life.”

It helps build an unshakable confidence in God's unending love



**Giving thanks for God's unending love  
for all God's people  
deepens our faith in His unending love for us**

Creation / Rescuing His people from oppression in Egypt / Sustaining His people through the wilderness / Bringing His people into the Promised Land / And so much more...

We grow in our confidence in God's presence and provision for those...

who are enduring persecution and oppression  
who endured hardship of various kinds  
who sought to be salt & light in the world  
who are seeking first His Kingdom  
who are suffering for His Name

## Application

### Thank God for His love that we experience

**Directly:** "Thank you God"

**Specifically:** "Thank you for..."

**Sincerely:** from your heart

**Regularly:** for our "daily bread"

**Specially:** Thanksgiving and special gifts

**Empathetically:** remembering those who aren't experiencing this goodness now

### Thank God for His love in the lives of His people

"I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus." 1 Corinthians 1:4

For our ancestors and relatives

For His people we aren't related to

...who experienced the goodness we long for

It builds the unity of God's people

It grows our faith in God's love

### Thank God by faith for His love that we can't yet see

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

When we have faith in God in our difficulties, His power is made complete in our weakness

We experience a measure of God's love when we thank God for it by faith

So thank Him in the very places where we need to experience His love

## On Thanksgiving

Use a real portion of your time on Thanksgiving...

To thank God directly, specifically, sincerely, and empathetically

For the good you have experienced and are experiencing now

For the good others have experienced, in the past and in the present

For the good you don't have yet but that God has promised

---

## Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. When and how do you intentionally give thanks, as an expression of faith and obedience?
2. When is it hardest for you to give thanks? What helps you give thanks in those times?
3. What is your practice for genuine giving of thanks to God at Thanksgiving? What will you do this year?

## Conversation starters

What are you genuinely thankful for? To whom do you give thanks?