

“Our 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 are examples?
- What happens in our hearts when God’s love is something we aren’t experiencing?

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**Unshakable confidence
in God’s unending love**

ref.ly/Ps136;niv



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The God over all

- ¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.
His love endures forever.
- ² Give thanks to the God of gods.
His love endures forever.
- ³ Give thanks to the Lord of lords:
His love endures forever.

He is God above every other power
And He is good

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Creation

- ⁴ to him who alone does great wonders,
His love endures forever.
- ⁵ who by his understanding made the heavens,
His love endures forever.
- ⁶ who spread out the earth upon the waters,
His love endures forever.
- ⁷ who made the great lights—
His love endures forever. **When things are
far too big for us**
- ⁸ the sun to govern the day,
His love endures forever.
- ⁹ the moon and stars to govern the night;
His love endures forever.

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Exodus

¹⁰ to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt
His love endures forever.

¹¹ and brought Israel out from among them
His love endures forever.

¹² with a mighty hand and outstretched arm;
His love endures forever.

When being oppressed by unjust rulers
for many generations!

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The Wilderness

¹³ to him who divided the Red Sea asunder
His love endures forever.

¹⁴ and brought Israel through the midst of it,
His love endures forever.

¹⁵ but swept Pharaoh and his army **When trapped
into the Red Sea; with no way out**
His love endures forever.

¹⁶ to him who led his people **When they had needs
through the wilderness; they couldn't meet**
His love endures forever.

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Entering the Promised Land

¹⁷ to him who struck down great kings,
His love endures forever.

¹⁸ and killed mighty kings—
His love endures forever.

¹⁹ Sihon king of the Amorites
His love endures forever.

²⁰ and Og king of Bashan—
His love endures forever.

²¹ and gave their land as an inheritance,
His love endures forever.

²² an inheritance to his servant Israel.
His love endures forever.

When opposed by
powers far too
big for them

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Helping us and creation

²³ He remembered **us** in our low estate
His love endures forever.

²⁴ and freed **us** from our enemies.
His love endures forever.

²⁵ He gives food to **every creature**.
His love endures forever.

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

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Conclusion

²⁶ Give thanks to the God of heaven.
His love endures forever.

The God above all gods loves His people forever!

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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?

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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

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C.S. Lewis on Faith

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

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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...

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

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

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The Big Idea

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

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It's easy to enjoy the sun
on a pleasant day



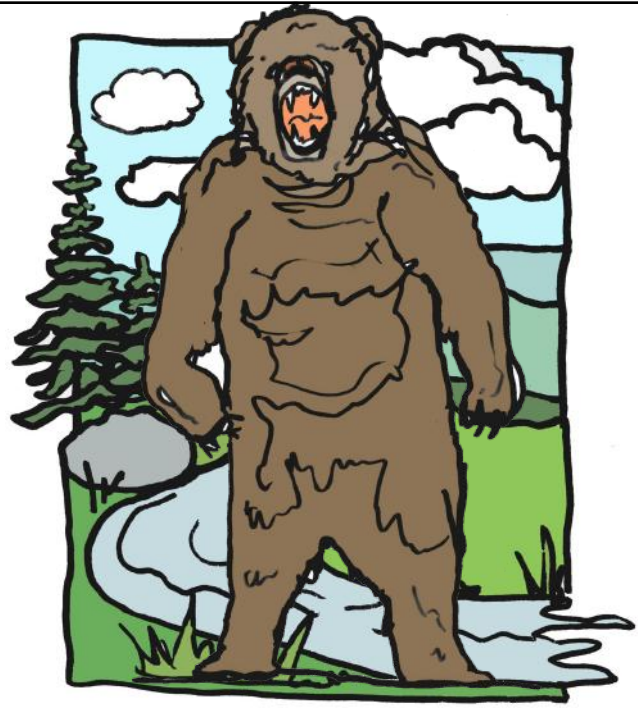
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It's easy to forget the sun
in the storm



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It's easy to forget the sun
when we are threatened



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Confidence in God's love
is easy when the days
are pleasant



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Confidence in God's love
is easy when the days
are pleasant

In the storm, it's easy to
think God's love is gone



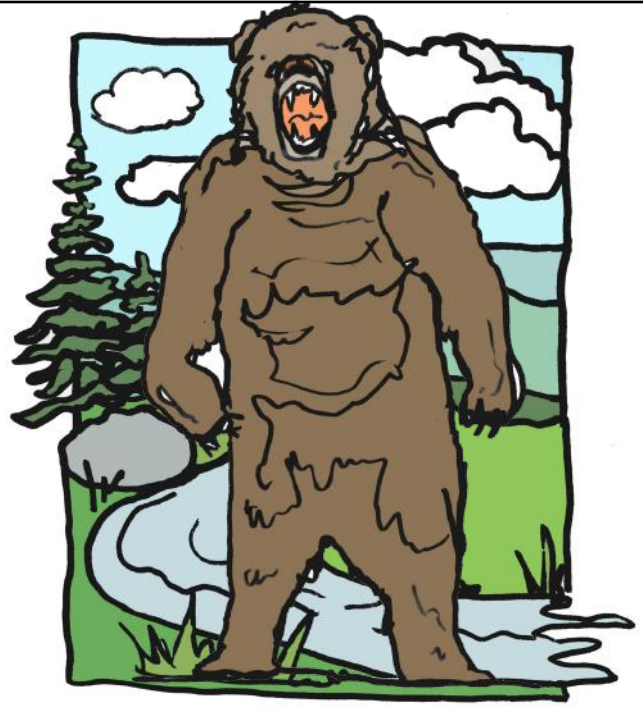
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Confidence in God's love
is easy when the days
are pleasant

In the storm, it's easy to
think God's love is gone

When we are threatened,
it's easy to think God's love
is gone

**We need to teach ourselves
that His love never ends**



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

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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

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Application

Thank God for His love that we experience

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

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Application

Thank God for His love that we experience
Thank God for His love in the lives of His people
Thank God by faith **for His love that we can't yet see**

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The Lord said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for **my power is made perfect in weakness.**" Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.**"

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

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Application

Thank God for His love that we experience

Thank God for His love in the lives of His people

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

- 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**

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Application

Thank God for His love **that we experience**

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

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

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Application

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

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

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Psalm 136:1-3

- ¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.
His love endures forever.
- ² Give thanks to the God of gods.
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- ³ Give thanks to the Lord of lords:
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Psalm 136:23-26

- ²³ He remembered **us** in our low estate
His love endures forever.
- ²⁴ and freed **us** from our enemies.
His love endures forever.
- ²⁵ He gives food **to every creature**.
His love endures forever.
- ²⁶ Give thanks to the God of heaven.
His love endures forever.

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