

Psalm 13 Structure

1. Despair

2x God: ¹How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

Himself: ²How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day?

Enemies: How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

2. Prayer requests

God: ³Consider and answer me, O LORD my God;

Himself: light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,

2x Enemies: ⁴lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

3. Faith and hope - ⁵But I trust in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. ⁶I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

*Each of the three parts of this psalm have the name "Yahweh" (LORD) in them. The first and second parts parallel each other in treating in order: God, the psalmist and his enemies. In the first line of the first section there are two statements referencing God and in the last line of the second section there are two statements about his enemies. At the beginning of v. 5 I have gone with the NIV translation - "I trust" instead of ESV's "I have trusted."