

E-Series

GPS—Searching For Signal



1 Why, O Lord, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble? **2** In his arrogance the wicked man hunts down the weak, who are caught in the schemes he devises. **3** He boasts of the cravings of his heart; he blesses the greedy and reviles the Lord. **4** In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God. **5** His ways are always prosperous; he is haughty and your laws are far from him; he sneers at all his enemies. **6** He says to himself, "Nothing will shake me; I'll always be happy and never have trouble." **7** His mouth is full of curses and lies and threats; trouble and evil are under his tongue. **8** He lies in wait near the villages; from ambush he murders the innocent, watching in secret for his

victims. **9** He lies in wait like a lion in cover; he lies in wait to catch the helpless; he catches the helpless and drags them off in his net. **10** His victims are crushed, they collapse; they fall under his strength. **11** He says to himself, "God has forgotten; he covers his face and never sees."

12 Arise, Lord! Lift up your hand, O God. Do not forget the helpless. **13** Why does the wicked man revile God? Why does he say to himself, "He won't call me to account"? **14** But you, O God, do see trouble and grief; you consider it to take it in hand. The victim commits himself to you; you are the helper of the fatherless. **15** Break the arm of the wicked and evil man; call him to account for his wickedness that would not be found out. **16** The Lord is King for ever and ever; the nations will perish from his land. **17** You hear, O Lord, the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, **18** defending the fatherless and the oppressed, in order that man, who is of the earth, may terrify no more.

—Psalm 10

This past Sunday we talked about listening to God, straining to hear him speak to us and provide us with direction. There are times when we all “drop signal,” when we feel like the communication between us and God is tenuous at best.

We even discussed three obstructions or obstacles to our communication with God. First, there is unconfessed sin. I described to you what happens to my GPS when I pull into a parking garage. Unconfessed sin is just as an effective barrier in our relationship with God as the concrete and steel of a parking garage is to the link between GPS and satellites.

A second thing that causes us to “drop signal” is tragedy. Pain and grief are natural reactions to losses and circumstances in our lives, but they can sometimes leave us feeling alone and abandoned. Of course we are not really abandoned, but we nevertheless feel that way on occasion. When our own pain is ringing in our ears, it is difficult to hear from God.

The third obstacle we discussed yesterday was noise. Our lives are crowded by noise. Some of it is beyond our control. Some of it is of our own choosing. Some of it is external to us. Some of it is within our very souls.

No matter what the source and origin, noise keeps us from hearing God.

What does Psalm 10 (above) add to our exploration of this theme? What do you glean from this Psalm? How does God speak to you from its words?

Trying to turn down the noise,
Pastor Michael