



“I Want to Believe BUT...”
“I want a Goosebumps God”
Randy Watson 1/21/18

This week to help you grow - Find a Friend and Talk It Over

I want to believe – But I don’t feel it, I’m numb...

- If you don’t always [feel](#) God’s presence, you’re not [alone](#).

Psalm 88:13-14

Why Don’t we always FEEL God?

1. Maybe you are [over](#)sensationalizing it. John 6:30-31
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2. Maybe your heart is [hardened](#). Matthew 13:14-15

⇒ David’s prayer in Psalm 51 ⇐

Religious duties don’t take the place of genuine devotion.

3. Maybe God wants to [draw you closer](#). Jeremiah 29:13-14

✓ Just because God is silent doesn’t mean God is absent.

A **promise** with a *process* to draw close to God ⇐ **James 4:7-10**

Next: No Heartless God = No suffering, evil I Pet. 1:6-7; Ps. 46:1; 2 Cor. 12:9-10

- What impacted you most in the sermon?
- How do you personally determine whether or not God seems like He’s close to you?
- Share about a time when you felt God was silent. Looking back, do you see Him any differently? How?
- Read Acts 17:24-27. How would you apply verse 27 to your life today?
- What Promises do you see in James 4:7-10? What are a few steps to gain intimacy with God that you are practicing from this section of scripture?
- Find a Bible Plan about experiencing doubt and faith: www.go2.lc/doubt

I Want to Believe But... Goosebumps God

January's Memory Verse – *Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.* 1 Peter 5:7 NLT

Monday 1/22- Read Psalm 88:1-18

Question: *O LORD, why do you reject me?*

Why do you turn your face from me? Vs. 14

Truth: It is common for most everyone at some time to *feel* that God is not there or not listening.

Meditate: Psalm 88:1- *O LORD, God of my salvation, I cry out to you by day. I come to you at night.*

Prayer: *Now hear my prayer; listen to my cry.* . .

Action: We may not always feel God's presence, but we can always share our feeling with Him.

Lord hear my cry:

Tuesday 1/23- Read Acts 17:24-29

God's Plan: *From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries.* Vs. 26

God's Purpose: *"His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us.* Vs. 27

Meditate: *He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need.*

Prayer: Lord, thank you for your love and friendship. May I be a good friend to you.

Action: *For in him we live and move and exist.*

How will I include God in my activities today:

Wednesday 1/24- Read John 14:15-21

Jesus said: *If you love me, obey my commandments.* Vs. 15

Truth: *Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.*" Vs. 21

Meditate: John 14:16- *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you.*

Prayer: Lord thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit living in me to guide me and help me understand the truth.

Action: Demonstrate my love for Jesus by obeying his commands. What Jesus wants me to do:

Thursday 1/25- Read Psalm 16:1-11

Praise: *I will bless the LORD who guides me; even at night my heart instructs me.* Vs. 7

Truth: *I know the LORD is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.* Vs. 8

Meditate: Psalm 16:11- *You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever.*

Prayer: *I said to the LORD, "You are my Master! Every good thing I have comes from you."* Vs. 2

Action: *No wonder my heart is glad, and I rejoice. My body rests in safety.* Vs. 9

What God is telling me:

Friday 1/26- 1 John 4:7-12

Question: If God can not be seen, how can people experience his love?

Truth: *No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.* Vs. 12

Meditate: 1 John 4: 10- *This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.*

Prayer: Father God, thank you for loving me first. Lord fill me with your love, so I can demonstrate your love to others and they can experience your hope and salvation found in Jesus, my Lord

Action: *Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.*

Worship God and love others by:
