

## How to Pray When Faced with a Major Problem

Psalm 46:1, 10 – God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains quake with their surging...

Be still, cease striving, let go, relax and know that I am God...

2 Kings 20:1-11; Isaiah 38 - He was sick and at the point of death. He turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord...He was healed, and years were added to his life.

Isaiah 38:17 - ...in your love you kept me from the pit of destruction; you have cast all my sins behind your back.

These are both major problems

Matthew 6:6-8 – But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, *who is* unseen. Then your Father, *who sees* what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for *your Father knows* what you need before you ask him.

Hebrews 11:6 – He will respond to and reward the diligent seeker.

James 5:16 – The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available (dynamic in its working)

V. 17-18 – Elijah's example. He was a man with a nature like us, and yet when he prayed earnestly, God heard and answered him.

1 Peter 3:12 - God hears and sees. His eyes are toward the righteous, and His *ears* are attentive to their prayer.

Hebrews 4:13-16 – Nothing is hidden from His sight. He sees and understands and sympathizes with our weaknesses. We are invited to boldly approach the throne of grace with confidence to receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

He is there listening while you pray. He sees, knows and understands the situation and what it will take to get you through to victory and is willing (even longing) to get you the needed help and wisdom.

Exodus 2:23-25 - ...During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and *cried out*, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. So God *looked on* the Israelites and was *concerned* about them.

Exodus 3:7-10 - The Lord said, I have indeed *seen* the misery of my people in Egypt. I have *heard* them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am *concerned* about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey--the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have *seen* the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.

They cried out, God heard and was concerned. He went down to help them – by sending Moses.

Romans 10:12 – ...the Lord is abounding in riches for all who call upon Him, He gives His riches generously to all those who ask Him for them.

1 Corinthians 10:13 – There is always a way of escape - always!

James 1:2-8 – Whatever trial you are facing, God will give you wisdom generously and without reproaching or fault-finding. But you must ask in faith with no wavering or doubting, or you will not receive it. But if you do ask in faith, you will receive whatever you need.

Take as much time as necessary to draw near to God and get as serious as needed.

James 4:6-10 – but he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Submit *yourselves*, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

Joel 2:12-14, 17 – Even now, declares the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning. Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord you God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. Who knows? He may turn and have pity and leave behind a blessing...Let the priests, who minister before the Lord, weep between the temple porch and the altar. Let them say, spare your people, O Lord. Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, where is their God?

Isaiah 64:7 – Stir yourself up to take hold of Him and His promised help and victory.

Luke 11:5-10 – Then he said to them, suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, friend, lend me three loaves of bread, because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him. Then the one inside answers, don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything. I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness (persistence) he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

Don't give up until you are enjoying the victory! God will hear and answer and respond to your heartfelt cry of faith.

So I say to you: ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

Luke 18:1-8 - Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart, saying, in a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man. There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, give me legal protection from my opponent. For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, even though I do not fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out. And the Lord said, hear what the unrighteous judge said; now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"