

Day Twenty-Two

I am weary with my sighing; Every night I make my bed swim, I dissolve my couch with my tears. My eye has wasted away with grief; It has become old because of all my adversaries. Depart from me, all you who do iniquity, For the LORD has heard the voice of my weeping. The LORD has heard my supplication, The LORD receives my prayer.

-Psalms 6:6-9

Prayer in Times of Trouble And All Night Prayer

There are many times that David records his cries to the Lord in times of trouble.

I was crying to the LORD with my voice, And He answered me from His holy mountain. Selah. -Psalms 3:4

As for me, I said in my alarm, "I am cut off from before Thine eyes"; Nevertheless Thou didst hear the voice of my supplications When I cried to Thee. -Psalms 31:22

I Waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me, and heard my cry. He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay; And He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm. -Psalms 40:1-2

Come and hear, all who fear God, And I will tell of what He has done for my soul. I cried to Him with my mouth, And He was extolled with my tongue. If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear; But certainly God has heard; He has given heed to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, Who has not turned away my prayer, Nor His lovingkindness from me. -Psalms 66:16-20

From my distress I called upon the LORD; The LORD answered me and set me in a large place. The LORD is for me; I will not fear; What can man do to me? -Psalms 118:5-6

In my trouble I cried to the LORD, And He answered me. -Psalms 120:1

We find that the apostle Paul called out to God for the thorn in his flesh. *Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of*

Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong. -2 Corinthians 12:8-10

Jonah called out to God as well. *Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the stomach of the fish, and he said, "I called out of my distress to the LORD, And He answered me. I cried for help from the depth of Sheol; Thou didst hear my voice". While I was fainting away, I remembered the LORD; And my prayer came to Thee, Into Thy holy temple. -Jonah 2:1-2,7*

Our evidence is ample for those who were in trouble. Their solution? Call on God in prayer. Does He hear us? Let's let the scripture talk. *O Thou who dost hear prayer, To Thee all men come. -Psalms 65:2*

The saints in the Book of Revelation cried out to God and their prayers are presented with the incense going up. The prayers of the saints were given in times of great persecution. *Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand. -Revelation 8:3-4.*

In times of trouble we should not think it is all on our shoulders. We should give all our problems to the One who will gladly bear them. Perhaps our greatest example of prayer in times of trouble is that of our Savior on the night of his arrest in the garden. *And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground. -Luke 22:44.*

David's Messianic Psalm relates to us the cries of those in distress.

For the choir director; upon Aijeleth Hashshahar. A Psalm of David. My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me? Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning. O my God, I cry by day, but Thou dost not answer; And by night, but I have no rest. Yet Thou art holy, O Thou who art enthroned upon the praises of Israel. In Thee our fathers trusted; They trusted, and Thou didst deliver them. To Thee they cried out, and were

delivered; In Thee they trusted, and were not disappointed. -Psalms 22:1-5.

We know this passage as it is the first verse of this that Jesus cries out upon the cross. ***And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?" that is, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?"***
-Matthew 27:46

Is it at these times we offer the briefest of prayers? Do we feel is sufficient to say a few words and then go on with our routines? Hardly! It is in times of deep anguish and trouble we need to spend time in fervent prayer to God. It is a time of pouring our hearts out to the One who can help us in our time of distress.

Who has not come to this crucible of pressure in their lives? If you have not, it is only a matter of time and when you arrive there you will want to know that the God of heaven is listening to your pleas. It is not a time to lash out in anger, but a time of unrestrained prayer to the Lord of heaven.

Paul and Silas give us a glimpse of one such time in their lives where they sought God in prayer and praise in Philippi. ***And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely; and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison, and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them; -Acts 16:23-25.*** What causes a reaction like this in a time of intense peril? We may conclude on our own such things as confidence that God will hear and provide all things.

It may be what troubles us is the decisions we must make. We may find the strength and guidance once we have offered our prayers of intercession to our Father in heaven. It may be that we find what Paul discovered. In our trials we may discover that God's grace is sufficient for us. It may be that our suffering is unto perfection. We are assured of one thing: ***No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it. -1 Corinthians 10:13.*** This is the comfort and confidence we need to carry on. No

matter what the trial or trouble that surrounds us, we are protected by a loving and compassionate God.

Prayerful Thoughts: Our Father, we seek Thee for Thy tender mercies which Thou are generous to bestow upon us.