

LIFE IS HARD ... BUT GOD IS GOOD

HOW TO PRAY IN A CRISIS

Psalm 143:1-12 Jeff Schreve

“Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’ Thus says the LORD, ‘Behold, I will raise up evil against you from your own household.’” 2 Samuel 12:10-11

“Hear my prayer, O LORD, Give ear to my supplications! Answer me in Your faithfulness, in Your righteousness! And do not enter into judgment with Your servant, For in Your sight no man living is righteous. For the enemy has persecuted my soul; He has crushed my life to the ground; He has made me dwell in dark places, like those who have long been dead. Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me; My heart is appalled within me.” Psalm 143:1-4

Do you know how to pray in a crisis?

1. Call on the LORD as a humble servant.

"For My hand made all these things, Thus all these things came into being," declares the LORD. "But to this one I will look, To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word." Isaiah 66:2

A. Appeal to His character.

He has sent redemption to His people; He has ordained His covenant forever; Holy and awesome is His name. Psalm 119:9

B. Don't be afraid to share the depths of your hurt.

For the enemy has persecuted my soul; He has crushed my life to the ground; He has made me dwell in dark places, like those who have long been dead. Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me; My heart is appalled within me. Psalm 143:3-4

2. Reflect on what the LORD has done in the past.

I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your doings; I muse on the work of Your hands. Psalm 143:5

A. We tend to be consumed with the crisis.

B. We must fill our mind with His proven track record.

For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves in order that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us. 2 Corinthians 1:8-10

3. Ask the LORD for what you need.

I stretch out my hands to You; My soul longs for You, as a parched land. Selah. Answer me quickly, O LORD, my spirit fails; Do not hide Your face from me, Or I will become like those who go down to the pit. Let me hear Your lovingkindness in the morning; For I trust in You; Psalm 143:6-8

A. You need God's presence.

B. You need God's wisdom.

Teach me the way in which I should walk; For to You I lift up my soul. Psalm 143:8

C. You need God's deliverance.

Deliver me, O LORD, from my enemies; I take refuge in You. For the sake of Your name, O LORD, revive me. In Your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble. And in Your lovingkindness, cut off my enemies And destroy all those who afflict my soul, For I am Your servant. Psalm 143:9, 11-12

D. You need God's guidance and will to reign in your life.

Teach me to do Your will, For You are my God; Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground. Psalm 143:10

In your crisis, will you let God work a miracle in you?