

# Solving Problems THROUGH PRAYER



**2 CHRONICLES 20:1-31**

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# **SOLVING PROBLEMS THROUGH PRAYER**

**II CHRONICLES 20:1-31**

## **INTRODUCTION**

**BECOMING A CHRISTIAN DOESN'T MEAN YOU WON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS. BUT, IT DOES MEAN YOU CAN TURN TO YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER INSTEAD OF WRESTLING WITH DIFFICULTIES IN YOUR OWN STRENGTH AND ACCORDING TO YOUR OWN WISDOM.**

**THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT JEHOSHAPHAT DID WHEN HE LEARNED THAT THREE ARMIES WERE ABOUT TO ATTACK HIS KINGDOM, JUDAH.**

**THE KING IMMEDIATELY TURNED TO THE LORD BY CALLING HIS PEOPLE TO FASTING AND PRAYER.**

**FROM JEHOSHAPHAT'S EXAMPLE, WE CAN LEARN SEVERAL KEY PRINCIPLES ABOUT SOLVING PROBLEMS THROUGH PRAYER.**

### **I. GOD IS INTERESTED IN YOUR PROBLEM.**

**A. JEHOSHAPHAT IMMEDIATELY TURNED TO PRAYER WHEN HE LEARNED OF THE IMPENDING ATTACK, BECAUSE HE KNEW GOD CARED ABOUT WHAT CONCERNED HIM.**

**1. II CHRONICLES 20:3 "AND JEHOSHAPHAT FEARED, AND SET HIMSELF TO SEEK THE LORD, AND PROCLAIM A FAST THROUGHOUT ALL JUDAH."**

**B. IF YOU ARE HIS CHILD, THE FATHER IS INTERESTED IN HELPING YOU OVERCOME ANYTHING THAT IS DISCOURAGING OR DEFEATING YOU**

**1. PSALM 62:8 "TRUST IN HIM AT ALL TIMES; YE PEOPLE, POUR OUT YOUR HEART BEFORE HIM: GOD IS A REFUGE FOR US. SELAH."**

### **II. GOD IS GREATER THAN YOUR PROBLEM.**

**A. JEHOSHAPHAT KNEW THE IMMENSE DANGER HIS NATION FACED, YET HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE MIGHTY POWER OF THE LORD TO OVERCOME ANYTHING.**

**1. I CHRONICLES 20:6 “AND YET AGAIN THERE WAS WAR AT GATH, WHERE WAS A MAN OF GREAT STATURE, WHOSE FINGERS AND TOES WERE FOUR AND TWENTY, SIX ON EACH HAND, AND SIX ON EACH FOOT: AND HE ALSO WAS THE SON OF THE GIANT.”**

**B. THE FATHER IS PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF LEADING YOU TO VICTORY, NO MATTER WHAT THE SITUATION MAY BE.**

**1. JEREMIAH 32:27 “BEHOLD, I AM THE LORD, THE GOD OF ALL FLESH: IS THERE ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR ME?”**

**III. OUR FIRST RESPONSE SHOULD BE TO SEEK THE LORD.**

**A. JEHOSHAPHAT IMMEDIATELY TURNED TO PRAYER INSTEAD OF CALLING HIS GENERALS TOGETHER TO DISCUSS WAR STRATEGY.**

**1. II CHRONICLES 20:3 “AND JEHOSHAPHAT FEARED, AND SET HIMSELF TO SEEK THE LORD, AND PROCLAIM A FAST THROUGHOUT ALL JUDAH.”**

**B. IN TIMES OF CRISIS, DO YOU INITIALLY GO TO THE LORD?**

**1. I CHALLENGE YOU TO SEEK HIM FIRST. LET GOD PUT YOUR PROBLEMS IN PERSPECTIVE, AND *THEN* TELL A WISE FRIEND WHO CAN SUPPORT YOU WITH PRAYER AND GODLY ADVICE.**

**IV. GOD MAY WANT TO INVOLVE OTHER PEOPLE IN PRAYING FOR YOUR SITUATION.**

**A. SOMETIMES THE THINGS THAT WORRY US AFFECT OTHER PEOPLE, SUCH AS OUR FAMILIES, CHURCHES, OR COMMUNITIES.**

- 1. JEHOSEPHAT INVOLVED THE WHOLE NATION IN PRAYING FOR THE LORD TO DELIVER THEM FROM THEIR ENEMIES.**
- 2. 2 CHRONICLES. 20:3-4. "AND JUDAH GATHERED THEMSELVES TOGETHER, TO ASK HELP OF THE LORD: EVEN OUT OF ALL OF THE CITIES OF JUDAH THEY CAME TO SEEK THE LORD."**

**B. ONE OF THE GREATEST BLESSINGS IN LIFE IS HAVING GODLY, TRUSTWORTHY FRIENDS WHO KNOW HOW TO INTERCEDE ON YOUR BEHALF.**

**V. GOD WILL PROVIDE A SOLUTION TO YOUR PROBLEM.**

**A. WHILE THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH WERE IN PRAYER, THE LORD REVEALED THAT HE WOULD FIGHT THE BATTLE ON THEIR BEHALF.**

- 1. 2 CHRONICLES. 20:15, "AND HE SAID, HARKEN YE ALL JUDAH, AND YE INHABITANTS OF JERUSALEM, AND THOU KING JEHOSEPHAT, THUS SAITH THE LORD UNTO YOU, BE NOT AFRAID NOR DISMAYED BY REASON OF THIS GREAT MULTITUDE: FOR THE BATTLE IS NOT YOURS, BUT GOD'S."**

**B. WE ALSO CAN TRUST THAT GOD, WHO FOR OUR SAKE DID NOT SPARE JESUS THE AGONY OF THE CROSS, WILL WILLINGLY GIVE US WHAT WE NEED.**

- 1. ROMANS. 8:31-32. "HE THAT SPARED NOT HIS OWN SON, BUT DELIVERED HIM UP FOR US ALL, HOW SHALL HE NOT WITH HIM ALSO FREELY GIVE US ALL THINGS?"**

**C. THE FATHER WILL SOMETIMES DELAY ANSWERING PRAYERS BECAUSE HE WANTS TO DEVELOP IN US GREATER SPIRITUAL MATURITY.**

**1. HE IS MORE INTERESTED IN OUR CHARACTER THAN OUR COMFORT.**

**VI. OUR PRAYERS SHOULD BE GOD-CENTERED, NOT PROBLEM-CENTERED.**

**A. JEHOSEPHAT'S PRAYER FOCUSED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON THE LORD'S POWER AND HIS PROMISES TO DELIVER HIS PEOPLE.**

**1. (2 CHRONICLE 20:6-12). (READ)**

**B. WHEN YOU PRAY, DO YOU TEND TO FOCUS ON THE TRIAL BEFORE YOU? CHOOSE TO FOCUS ON THE FATHER'S LOVE, AND YOUR PROBLEM WILL SEEM SMALLER AND LESS FRIGHTENING.**

**VII. GOD'S SOLUTION USUALLY REQUIRES AN ACT OF FAITH.**

**A. IMPORTANT DECISIONS TYPICALLY CHALLENGE OUR CONFIDENCE TO SOME DEGREE.**

**1. IN 2 CHRONICLES 20:17, GOD REVEALED THAT HE DIDN'T WANT JUDAH TO FIGHT AT ALL.**

**2. II CHRONICLES 20:17, "YE SHALL NOT NEED TO FIGHT IN THIS BATTLE: SET YOURSELVES, STAND YE STILL, AND SEE THE SALVATION OF THE LORD WITH YOU, O JUDAH AND JERUSALEM, FEAR NOT, NOR BE DISMAYED, TOMORROW, GO OUT AGAINST THEM, FOR THE LORD WILL BE WITH YOU.**

**3. SURE ENOUGH, IN CONFUSION, THEIR ENEMIES TURNED ON AND KILLED EACH OTHER (VV. 21-25).**

**B. THE LORD'S INSTRUCTIONS WON'T ALWAYS MAKE SENSE FROM A HUMAN POINT OF VIEW. HOWEVER, IF THE ANSWER IS TRULY FROM HIM, HE WILL PROVIDE THE FAITH NEEDED TO FOLLOW HIS COMMANDS.**

**VIII. GOD'S SOLUTION IS ALWAYS BEST:**

**A. THE LORD KNOWS EVERY INTIMATE DETAIL OF ANY SITUATION, INCLUDING THE PERSONALITY AND PAST OF EACH PERSON INVOLVED.**

**1. IF WE ARE WILLING TO TRUST IN OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, WE WILL DISCOVER THE BEST SOLUTION POSSIBLE.**

**CONCLUSION**

- 1. DO YOU THINK GOD IS INTERESTED IN YOUR TRIALS?**
- 2. DO YOU BELIEVE HE'S ABLE TO HELP YOU OVERCOME ANY PROBLEM?**
- 3. I PRAY THAT YOU WOULD SURRENDER TO HIM COMPLETELY, FOCUSING ON HIS AWESOME POWER AND FAITHFULNESS TO PROVIDE IN HIS TIMING.**
- 4. IN GOD'S HANDS, YOUR PROBLEMS AREN'T ROADBLOCKS BUT OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP A MORE INTIMATE AND DYNAMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.**
- 5. AS I CLOSE TODAY, I WANT TO TELL EACH OF YOU, TO SOLVE YOUR PROBLEMS THROUGH PRAYER.**
- 6. WHEN I NEED AN ANSWER RIGHT AWAY FROM HEAVEN, I CAN'T TRUST AT&T TO BRING ME WHAT I NEED.**
- 7. I FOUND THE ANSWER FOR EVERYTHING I NEED AND IT'S IN THE POWER OF PRAYER AND THE NAME OF JESUS.**
- 8. PRAYER IS STILL NUMBER ONE IN WIRELESS COMMUNICATION.**
- 9. IT IS STILL THE FASTEST WAY TO GET TO JESUS.**

- 10. IT IS STILL THE FASTEST WAY TO GET THE ANSWER WE NEED.**
- 11. JESUS IS STILL THE ANSWER, SO, NEVER STOP PRAYING, BECAUSE PRAYER STILL CHANGES THINGS**
- 12. PRAYER WILL FIX IT EVERY TIME.**
- 13. I'VE LEARN TO PRAY IN AND OUT OF SEASON, ANYTIME FOR ANY REASON, WHEN EVER I PRAY, AN ANSWER IS ON THE WAY, PRAYER WILL FIX IT EVERY TIME.**