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# Daily Devotional - Thursday, August 8, 2019 - Praying in a Crisis

AUGUST 08TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

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## Psalm 86:1-13

When life is moving along smoothly, it's easy to say, "God answers prayer." But a crisis can bring doubt, especially if the Lord is not responding as quickly as we might like. That's when we may be tempted to bargain with God as if He could be manipulated into acting on our behalf. However, the goal of prayer is not to get God to do what we want but to bring our concerns to Him, trusting that He will answer in His own way and time.

Waiting on the Lord is fairly easy when we're not facing anything urgent. But difficulties and suffering tend to make us impatient. We may even begin to find fault with God, thinking that if He truly loved us, He would intervene and bring relief.

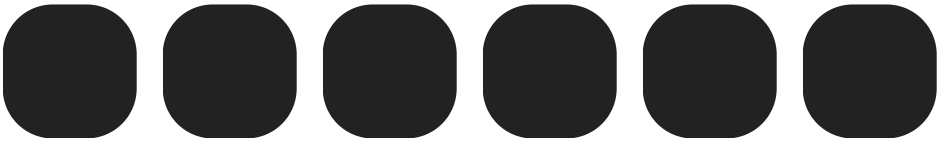
As we seek the Lord for help, David's prayers in the Psalms provide wonderful patterns for us to follow. He faced many dire situations and continued to turn to God. Today's passage from Psalm 86 starts with an urgent cry for help, followed by a reminder to the heavenly Father that David belongs to Him. Then he recounts God's character—gracious, good, ready to forgive, and abundant in lovingkindness to all who call on Him (vv. 3-5). These characteristics are the basis for trust.

Knowing who God is enables us to trust Him through the crises of life. Because He is faithful, we know that He will keep His promises. His holiness causes us to examine our life and repent of any sins that are hindering our prayers. And His mercy, grace, and love give us the comfort we need to endure hardship.

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