

DEVELOPING A LIFE OF PRAYER
EDGEMONT BIBLE CHURCH
2021-2022 (March 02, 2022)
“WHEN FRIENDS PRAY FOR FRIENDS”
PSALM 20:1-9

- Ps 20:1 May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble; May the name of the God of Jacob defend you;
- 2 May He send you help from the sanctuary, And strengthen you out of Zion;
- 3 May He remember all your offerings, And accept your burnt sacrifice.
Selah
- 4 May He grant you according to your heart's desire, And fulfill all your purpose.
- 5 We will rejoice in your salvation, And in the name of our God we will set up our banners! May the LORD fulfill all your petitions.
- 6 Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven With the saving strength of His right hand.
- 7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God.
- 8 They have bowed down and fallen; But we have risen and stand upright.
- 9 Save, LORD! May the King answer us when we call.

(NKJV)

I. THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM: THE CONDITIONS OF THE PRAYING ONE Verses 1-9

- A. The psalms are written by, to and about people in a covenant relationship to God not to a general audience. It may cover subjects that relate to all people but it is primarily for those who, through faith, are in a personal relationship with God*
- B. The psalm assumes an active faith of the one being addressed*
- C. The psalm assumes the one being blessed is one who is in some level of need, perhaps even being pursued by his enemies*
- D. The psalm is calling for the one being blessed to not misplace his trust in military might to deliver him; the temptation to do so may be present as he is likely facing a foe with perceived greater power*

E. The psalmist assures that God is not only able to but will answer the prayer of the subject; God cares

II. WHEN FRIENDS BLESS THEIR FRIENDS: THE BLESSER KNOWS HIS GOD AND LOVES HIS FRIEND Verses 1-4

A. Out love for his friend, He seeks God's blessing for him. This blessing is found in:

- 1. Calling on God to answer his friend's prayers when he calls out to God in the day of trouble*
- 2. Calling on God to defend his friend when the enemy comes against him*
- 3. The help for his friend being adequate to the need since it is coming out of the sanctuary of God*
- 4. The help not only being adequate to defeat the enemy but will at the same time refresh his friend from the fatigue of the battle*
- 5. God being mindful of the offerings and sacrifices of his friend*
- 6. God being mindful of his friend's heart's desires and of his God-given purpose for his life*

B. The blesser does not mention any specific challenges, trials, tests, tribulations or battles he faces, for it is not important. He wants this blessing for every challenge his friend will face

C. The blesser knows that his friend is human and engaged daily in a spiritual war if not a physical one with enemies who would destroy him if possible. He for his friend's humility

D. Though he may not know a specific shortcoming of his friend, he prays that God will sustain him regardless of the man's inability.

E. He hopes his friend will be sensible enough and aware enough to cry out to God in prayer rather than count on his own skills, abilities, cunning and talents to engage the enemy on his own

III. HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY BEFORE GOD: WHAT CAN BE KNOWN ABOUT THE MAN BEING BLESSED? Verses 1-4

A. He is a believer in God

B. If he leads a God-centered, God-focused life, will have enemies, conflicts, and struggles both inside himself and from the enemies of God external to him who hate God's children

C. He does pray, especially in times of trouble

- D. *He is someone who is in a conflict with one who is intent on destroying him*
- E. *He is a one who acts on his faith in God by engaging in the appropriate behavior for one who believes in God*
 - 1. *He gives offerings*
 - 2. *He offers burnt sacrifices*
 - 3. *These two actions show humility in that he is aware that he is a sinner before God and he is aware he is not self-sufficient and needs God; faith in that he wants an ongoing good relationship with God*
- F. *He is a person with honorable desires*
- G. *He is someone who knows his purpose and his need for help to accomplish it*

IV. WHEN FAITH GIVES ASSURANCE TO FRIENDS Verses 5-9
 (pronoun change from “you” to “we” and “I”)

- A. *The anticipation of faith to answered prayer - vv. 5-8*
 - 1. *Confidence in God to answer his prayer*
 - 2. *Friends will have that confidence together*
 - 3. *They will rejoice together in God’s salvation in both its anticipation and its realization*
 - 4. *They will fight all battles now under the banners of the name of God. They will remove personal banners and instead put up banners in the name of our God*
 - 5. *Together they will pray in the midst of those banners and anticipate that all their petitions will be answered fully*
 - 6. *With this answered prayer, their confidence in God will be bolstered and their constancy in prayer will be increased*
 - 7. *They will know together the powerful hand of God is mighty*
 - 8. *They will know that no force on earth can overcome God almighty, so they will remember the name of the LORD their God. Their enemies have been bowed down and fallen, but they have been risen up and now stand triumphant*
- B. *On the knowledge that the LORD does hear and answer prayers of His people, they will cry out to God for salvation together and seek the blessing of more answered prayer from Him. v. 9*