

# NO WASTE IN PRAISE

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## THE LORD'S FLOCK GROW DIGEST

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A sudden or unforeseen crisis may overwhelm us. We often feel powerless and fearful when such time of turbulence, whether in personal, professional, or family sphere, creeps up on us. Thus, we are tempted to wonder why God does not even care to caution us of the rough waters ahead. We can be inspired by the story of King Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 20, when he found himself standing in the path of a severe test. His first impulse was to seek God through humble, sincere and expectant PRAYER. Thus, when trials come, we are encouraged to pray unceasingly (1 Thessalonian 5:17), earnestly call upon God, and genuinely seek His wisdom and guidance, for He listens and gives His revelations (Jeremiah 33:3).

### The Principles of Prayer for the Trials:

- 1. Do not measure the trial by its size.** No matter how big you perceive the problem is, bear in mind that God is much bigger and greater than any of our circumstances. His wisdom, ways and thoughts are far higher than ours (Isaiah 55:9).
- 2. Focus on God's character.** We can rely completely on God's attributes and promises if we have an established intimate relationship with Him. King Jehoshaphat confidently recognized God's characteristics: mighty, powerful, and a just ruler over all the nations (2 Chronicles 20:6).
- 3. Remind God of His promises.** When confronted with difficulties, let us recall who God is, and what He has done for us in the past, rather than on the gravity of our situation. King Jehoshaphat reminded God of His promises and these became the ground where he and the people stood firm to press on (v 7-9).
- 4. Demonstrate helpless dependence on God.** Trials force us to express an attitude of conscious dependence on God and complete trust in Him. We have to confess that He is our first, last and only option; there is none other but Him (v 12-13).
- 5. Engage in corporate prayer.** When we pray with other believers, we build one another up.

Corporate prayer, fasting and confession allow us to say "*while the storm rages us, our hope is in You, Lord.*"

- 6. Wait for God to communicate.** Let us not grow weary and impatient while waiting on God to answer our prayer. Practice listening to God through prayer and fasting. Keep on trusting Him and believing that every promise becomes a miracle by faith (2 Chronicles 20:14-17).
- 7. Respond with courageous obedience.** When God reveals His answers to our prayer, we should act on it with wilful and determined submission. King Jehoshaphat and his people were commanded to stand still and believe God's deliverance; they responded by singing praises to the Lord (v 16-21).
- 8. Worship God.** Powerful praise and worship birth victory over the enemy because they are the ultimate expression of trust in God. The tremendous power of worship yields breakthrough.
- 9. Expect God's best.** When we praise, worship and thank God, there is an unexpected complete turnaround of the situation. God is up to something much greater than what we are praying for (v 22-23).
- 10. Observe how the "invaders were routed."** God does mighty acts which give way to dramatic results: a complete and miraculous defeat of a foe, followed by abundant rewards and blessings (v 25).

**Conclusion:** When troubles befall us, we can respond to such situation through prayer and fasting, coupled with praise and worship. Such gestures secure for us God's manifest presence, mighty power, and the blessing of victory.

**Reflection:** How can you conduct yourself better when confronted with crisis or trials?

**Prayer:** *Heavenly Father, help us to seek you in prayer and offer You a sacrifice of praise, adoration and worship when we are in desperate times. Remind us that every battle is not ours but the Lord's. In Jesus' Name. AMEN!*

**SCRIBES MINISTRY:** Transcribed by: Helen Angeles-Del Mundo

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