

Being Delivered through Prayer

Read [Matthew 6:9-13](#)

Forrest McCannon was the chairman of deacons at the church of where a good friend of mine is the fulltime pastor. He told me about the incident that brought him to the Lord.

He was crossing a river with other soldiers during World War II, somewhere in Europe, when the boat was hit by enemy fire and blew up. Forrest found himself in the water, yelling for help like the other men. Suddenly Jesus appeared to him, walking on the water. He said to Forrest, "Have no fear, I'm here." Forrest promised the Lord that he would live for him for rescuing him.

Forrest was rescued, and made it back to the states. But he did not live for the Lord right away. It was some time before he gave his life to Jesus.

Forrest's story tells me a couple of things. The first thing it tells me is that God delights in rescuing people from trouble. That should not surprise us since one of his basic titles is Savior. The second thing Forrest's story tells me is that God delights in rescuing people not because the people deserve it, but because God is good. Forrest did not immediately keep his promise to God that he would live for him. God knew he wouldn't, but delivered him anyway.

Psalm 103:2-4 (NASB) (emphasis added)

² Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits;

³ Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases;

⁴ *Who redeems your life from the pit*, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion;

God delights in delivering people—in *forgiving* them, *healing* them, lifting them out of *pits*.

In [verse 13](#) of the **Model Prayer**, Jesus told us to pray for deliverance:

Matthew 6:13 (NASB)

¹³ 'And do not lead us into temptation, *but deliver us from evil*. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]

Because we know that he would not have told us to pray a prayer that didn't work, we can have faith that God will deliver us when we ask him to. After all, he is the Savior; *saving* is what he does.

Let's consider three questions: *What will God deliver us from? Why will he do it? How will he do it?*

WHAT WILL GOD DELIVER US FROM?

He will deliver us from daily troubles

That is, God will deliver us from the “**small things.**” We have too much on our plate, and don’t know how we’re going to handle it all. An issue pops up at work and we don’t know the solution. There’s an issue with the children, and we’re not sure what to do. I’ve learned, in such situations, to just ask the Lord for help. Even when I don’t know what to pray for, I just say, “Lord, please help me with this. I need you.” And time after time he helps me—somehow things get better. I have found that the Lord loves doing this and that kind of prayer has become a regular part of my life.

Are you stressed out? Don’t know what to do about some situation? Don’t even know what to pray for exactly? How about just asking the Lord for help? He’ll gladly step in. The Lord will deliver us from daily troubles.

He will also deliver us from dangers

When the terrible earthquake hit Pakistan in the fall of 2005, our church helped with the relief effort. Our ministry focuses on reaching Muslims with the Gospel, we already had workers in the area ready to help. One of their converts to Christianity, a man they called “Graham” (his real name was withheld for his safety), arrived on the scene after the earthquake to help.

Graham heard a cry in the rubble. A little boy was trapped in heavy rocks and debris; only his head and one hand stuck out from the rubble. He was crying and begging for help. “Uncle, save me!” he called to Graham.

Graham pushed with all his might against a section of the wall that had collapsed on top of the boy, but it was far too heavy. He tried again and again but couldn’t get it to budge. The boy continued screaming, and Graham saw that he was bleeding, but there was nothing he could do.

Then Graham sat down and told the boy to ask Jesus to help him, that he was the only One strong enough. The boy asked him who Jesus was. Graham told him that Jesus was the Most Powerful Lord God.

The boy began asking Jesus to help him, calling out to him in the Pushtu dialect. Then Graham said, “When I say ‘Jesus, you are our helper!’ repeat this phrase with me. I will push the wall, but Jesus will move it.”

They cried out together, “Jesus, you are our helper!” and with one push this one and a half ton wall moved as if it were nothing! Graham pulled the boy to freedom, and said to him, “Your name is Emmanuel now. Your name means, ‘God is with us.’ ”

The Lord will deliver us from daily troubles, and he will deliver us from serious dangers.

And he will deliver us spiritually

In other words, if we ask him to, he will forgive our sins and save our souls. [Romans 10:13](#) promises: “*Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*” This is the most important kind of deliverance.

Please listen to the following testimony from Pastor John Hutchings (By permission from his newsletter March 2014):

“I met God through a simple heart-felt prayer. It was a prayer for salvation, though I didn’t use those words exactly. I didn’t know what to pray.

It happened when I was in my early twenties. Though I had been an atheist since high school, I had recently come to believe in the concept of God through a philosophy class taught by a Catholic ex-priest. He had convinced me, through an introduction to Aristotle’s and Aquinas’ thought, of the “reasonableness” of the idea of God. So I was open to the idea of God now, but I still did not have faith in him.

I would like to say that from that point on I nobly sought out a relationship with God, but that’s not the way it happened. What happened is I began to experience some difficulties in my life, so I decided I would try to read the Bible for some help—for some peace of mind. My mother had bought me a Bible, and I began to read a chapter of the New Testament each night. Sometimes what I read *did* make me feel better. However, sometimes what I read made me feel *worse*. That’s because it was obvious that, if the words I was reading were true, I didn’t measure up to God’s standards—I was a “sinner.” And sometimes I had trouble believing what I read, the miracles and so forth. But I kept reading.

One night, alone in my condominium, I decided it was time to make a decision. Was I willing to try to live the Christian life, as hard as it seemed? (This makes me smile now, because I have since then found that the Christian life is the most joyful life there is.) Was I willing to take a chance and ask God to take over my life? What if he wasn’t there? Where would I turn next? But I decided I would go for it, and here’s the prayer I prayed: “God, take over my mind.”

I was in for the surprise of my life. A power—sort of like electricity and, somehow, sort of like water—hit me from the top of my head and flowed instantly through my whole body. It was the most powerful force I’d ever felt, but at the same time the gentlest—like an explosion of peace through my mind and body. It felt wonderful and scary all at once. I knew right away it was God. And I knew right away three things, three things that were written across my mind as if on banners: *There is a God. His name is Jesus. The Bible is his Word.*

I hopped out of bed—it was in the middle of the night—and went for a drive around the streets of Phoenix. I was totally happy, because I knew I’d just met God. But totally

nervous, because I thought, *Oh oh. Now I know the truth. There's no excuse now.* I didn't realize I had just been saved, and had been forever accepted by God. I didn't know any theology yet.

From that moment on (it happened in 1983), my life changed. I haven't lived without trials since then, but I've always had a joy and peace in my heart no matter what has been happening. I've never been able to get over the wonder of God's existence, and the wonder that he revealed that existence to me, and the greatest wonder: that he has forgiven me and saved me through faith in Jesus."

All in response to a prayer!

That can happen to you, too, if you've never accepted Jesus. Not in the same way necessarily; you and your circumstances are different, and God treats each one of us uniquely. But the results will be the same: forgiveness, peace, and an eternal relationship with God.

God will deliver us spiritually.