

Being Delivered through Prayer

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

So we've seen *what* God will deliver us from: from **daily troubles**, from **dangers**, and from **our sin**. The next question to consider:

WHY DOES GOD DELIVER US?

Because of his goodness and love

We've already mentioned one reason he delivers us—because of his goodness and love. The Apostle John, who is generally considered to be the closest disciple to Jesus, wrote twice in the same chapter of the New Testament: **God is love** ([1 John 4:8](#) and [1 John 4:16](#)).

[1 John 4:8 \(NASB\)](#)

⁸ **The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.**

[1 John 4:16 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁶ **We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.**

God doesn't just *have* love. God *is* love. That means that everything he has ever done, is doing now, or ever will do is based on love. It's his nature. He can't act otherwise. (Even his acts of judgment, when properly understood, are based on love.) God delivers us because that's what love does.

Because it stirs our love for him

The other reason God delivers us is because it stirs our love for him. When you know that God has done something for you—something you needed, something you could not do for yourself (if you *could* have done it for yourself, you would not have needed to call on him for deliverance)—you never forget it. It touches your heart. You know you were a recipient of God's love, and this stirs your love for God—as the Apostle John also wrote: **We love because he first loved us** ([1 John 4:19](#)).

The Apostle Paul is an example of this. No apostle accomplished more for Christianity than Paul. Paul was the apostle primarily responsible for taking the Gospel to the Gentiles (the non-Jewish world), carrying it all the way to Rome, establishing churches as he went. In addition, he wrote about half the books of the New Testament. In fact, if you are a Christian today, it can very likely be traced back to the Apostle Paul's ministry. No apostle accomplished more for Christianity than Paul.

But then again no apostle had been forgiven as much as Paul, at least from a human perspective. The other apostles were “**ordinary sinners**,” like the rest of us. Paul was an “**ordinary sinner**” and then some: he was the chief persecutor of the early church! He went around imprisoning people who believed in Jesus ([Acts 8:3](#), [Acts 9:1–2](#)), and he participated in the execution of the first Christian martyr ([Acts 7:58](#)).

[Acts 8:3 \(NASB\)](#)

³ But Saul *began* ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.

[Acts 9:1-2 \(NASB\)](#)

¹ Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest,

² and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

[Acts 7:58 \(NASB\)](#)

⁵⁸ When they had driven him out of the city, they *began* stoning *him*; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

Paul was a sinner and then some—an active opponent of God. From a human perspective, no apostle had been forgiven as much as Paul.

It was the knowledge of this forgiveness—of God’s great spiritual deliverance of him—that inspired Paul to live so fervently for the Lord, as he himself said:

[1 Corinthians 15:9-10 \(NASB\)](#)

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.

It was God’s deliverance of Paul that stirred Paul’s love for him.

God delivers us because he loves us, and because he knows it inspires our love for him.

We have seen *what* God will deliver us from, and *why* he will deliver us. The third question to consider:

HOW DOES GOD DELIVER US?

He delivers us in all kinds of ways, but I have found that there’s usually some **surprise** element to it. The deliverance or solution usually comes in some way I am not expecting. I think God does that to remind me that the deliverance was from him, not something I thought up.

And also to remind me that he is sovereign, and can work things out in any way he wishes. And also, I think, to delight me—I love to see him doing things in ways I didn't expect.

A Christian named Frederick Nolan was fleeing persecution in North Africa, his pursuers chasing him through the countryside. He ran and ran but couldn't shake them. Finally, exhausted, he fell into a cave, waiting for them to find him soon. But as he waited, he noticed a spider weaving a web at the mouth of the cave. Within minutes, the spider had spun an intricate web across the entrance to the cave. The pursuers arrived and approached the cave to look in it. But when they saw the web, they left! They apparently concluded, *The man can't be in the cave. There's an unbroken web over the entrance.* Frederick Nolan later said, "Where God is, a spider's web is like a wall, Where God is not, a wall is like a spider's web." (A Missionary's Confession, 1956)

When you ask God for deliverance, keep your eyes open. It will probably come in a way you didn't expect.

SUMMARY

God delights in rescuing people. Jesus promised in the Model Prayer that God would "*deliver us from the evil one*" if we asked.

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.]

He will deliver us from daily troubles, from danger, and—most importantly—from our own sin. He delivers us because he loves us, and because his deliverance will inspire us to love him. He delivers us in a variety of ways, but there's usually something surprising about the way it comes.