

# Making a Change

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

## *Making a Change* (from [Proverbs 29:1](#))

There's a saying, "**An ounce of obedience is worth a pound of prayer.**" The point is that obeying God in the first place will save us from a lot of trouble, and make unnecessary a lot of desperate praying for deliverance from those troubles.

Obedience is not only the way to *avoid* trouble. It is often the only way *out* of trouble as well. As I mentioned in the "Three Enemies" section of our study, God is merciful and will often "*deliver us*" from problems that we ourselves have caused. But he will only answer these prayers for deliverance from self-made problems to a point.

If we continue in the rebellious behavior that is causing the problems, we can expect his deliverance to end. The Bible says:

### **Proverbs 29:1 (NASB)**

**<sup>1</sup> "A man who hardens *his* neck after much reproof Will suddenly be broken beyond remedy."**

It is dangerous to assume that God will continue to deliver us from self-made problems. There comes a time when **we have to make a change, or deliverance isn't coming**.

Listen to this testimony from a fellow pastor/professor at the seminary who shared this story with me:

"A few summers ago we had a gnat problem in our house. It started gradually—one here, a few there—but before long it was an invasion. They flew throughout the house: the kitchen, bathrooms, and the study. They landed in our food, swam in our glasses, drowned in the water around our sinks.

I killed scores of them, thinking that eventually I'd get rid of them. After all, how many of them could keep slipping in through the screen door or vents or by way of the dog's fur? But I made no headway; their number kept increasing.

Finally, we began to suspect that all of these gnats couldn't be slipping in from outside. My wife examined a houseplant she had received in the mail, and it was infested. The gnats had apparently come into the house by way of this plant, and then spread to other household plants. It was an inside job! She took the plants outside, and the gnat problem was solved overnight.

**Bible Study: THE DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE**

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We would never have gotten rid of the gnats if we had not gotten rid of their breeding ground—the houseplants. I could have gone around swatting them and complaining about them the rest of my life. We had to deal with their source.”

Likewise, there’s a point where nothing will get rid of our problems **until we deal with the source**. Until we make a change in our behavior. God may have delivered us once or twice from the problems that have arisen from our rebellious or unwise ways, but this time he is waiting on a change.

Is there a problem in your life that is not responding to prayer? What needs to be changed?

**“An ounce of obedience is worth a pound of prayer.”**