

The Hebrews prayed for release from bondage for many years. When the Egyptians released them from slavery, they could hardly believe their good fortune. Then came the awful moment when they saw the dust of the Egyptian chariots behind them and the sea before them. They cried for help (*Exodus 14:10*). Moses stood before them saying *Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring to you today (Exodus 14:13)*. God's next move exploded the imaginations of generations of Hebrews.

In the wake of victory, they sang a Song of Deliverance (*Exodus 15*). The "Song of the Sea" (also called Song of Moses or Song of Miriam) followed God's victory over the armies of Pharaoh. Moses led them in a song of remembrance, a song of praise. *Verse 13* bridges the past and the future. *In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling (Exodus 15:13)*.

As we explore conversations with God, let's allow this verse to guide today's lesson on prayer.

### 1. Open Your Eyes to What God Has Done

The *Song of the Sea* began with high praise for God. *1 I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted... 2 The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God and I will praise Him...* After recounting the way God defeated Pharaoh and the Egyptians, the writer focused on Almighty God. *11 Who among the gods is like you, O Lord? Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?*

Remember, you are talking to God when you pray. God is all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-present. Yet, this great God of the universe loves us.

*13 In your unfailing love...* We stand in God's loyal love as we pray.

King David once prayed *I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord (Psalm 40:1-3)*.

When we see God's activity, we do well to pray. "Loving God, thank You for answering my prayers and meeting the needs that weighed me down and those I didn't even know I had."

### 2. Open Your Heart to What God Is Doing

*13 You will lead the people you have redeemed.*

*'I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment.'* *Exodus 6:6*

Moses used the word *redeem(ed)* to speak of what can be bought back (His people) or of protecting family rights (like Boaz and Ruth).

History's enslaved peoples often suffer behind real and imagined walls. When redemption occurs, ownership changes. Redemption is a process, as the redeemed have been redeemed, are being redeemed and shall be redeemed. We can learn to pray, "Lord God, help me see Your hand in buying back my life from slavery to sin." As we see God's victories, we can rejoice with those who celebrate rediscoveries of what has been lost.

### 3. Open Your Soul to What God Can Do

*13 In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling.*

*The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.*

*Isaiah 12:2*

*Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.*

*Psalm 118:14*

Our instincts would focus our attention on the problems. God guides us to focus on Him. Perhaps we can pray, "God forgive me for failing to focus on how great You are, and for allowing myself to be suffocated by the

things that trouble me.” Scripture assures us God has the strength to provide for His redeemed ones. *He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His names’ sake. (Psalm 23:3)*

Chris Tomlin wrote praise music titled “WHOM SHALL I FEAR?” He writes “I know who goes before me...I know who stands behind me...He is a friend of mine...Is always by my side.”

We can pray our way through tough times because Almighty God stands with us.

The New International Version is the Bible translation used in this study.

© 2020 by Harry Lucenay. All rights reserved.

