

PRAYING PSALM 20

“May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble...” (Psalm 20:1).

This is the first intercessory prayer in the Book of Psalms. Up until now, the prayers have asked questions, expressed personal concerns and frustrations, or asked for help. This is a prayer for someone else. It is a psalm of David. It was written for worship. It was actually the peoples’ prayer for David. Before an army went to war, they prayed and dedicated themselves to the Lord (Deuteronomy 20:1-4).

The psalm is divided into two parts: 1. THE PEOPLES’ PRAYER FOR DAVID (1-5). They asked the Lord to bless him in the day of trouble by sending help from the sanctuary (Heaven). They asked God to remember David’s generosity in giving offerings to the Lord. They asked the Lord to fulfill David’s heart’s desire within His purpose. They asked the Lord to answer David’s prayers. 2. DAVID’S REPLY (6-9). David expressed: Confidence in prayer. Confidence in God. No confidence in men or might.

There are 19 personal petitions in Psalms before there is a prayer for somebody else. What does that tell us? First, we need to pray for ourselves before we pray for others. Second, no one needs prayer more than we do. A third lesson is the need to pray for our leaders, especially our spiritual leaders.

Prayer is a fellowship between the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, the one praying, and the one prayed for (see John 17). This prayer is tantamount to a congregation praying for the pastor. Prayer is like a chain that links us together. The work of God depends on the intercession of saints for spiritual power. The more people praying, the greater the results. I am thankful for the prayers that are offered frequently for me, my family, and my ministry. For years I have prayed for individuals whom God has laid on my heart, and that number continues to grow. Pray for yourself first. Then pray for others.