

## PRAYING PSALM 40

“I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined to me, and heard my cry” (Psalm 40:1).

This psalm was written during Absalom’s rebellion, one of the most difficult times in David’s life. 1. PRAISE FOR PAST DELIVERANCE (1-10). I waited for the Lord. He heard my cry. He brought me out of a horrible pit. He set my feet upon a rock. He established my steps. He put a new song in my heart. Many will see it and trust in the Lord. Many are Your wonderful works and Your thoughts toward me. I have proclaimed the good news. 2. PRAYER FOR PRESENT DELIVERANCE (11-17). Do not withhold Your tender mercies from me. Deliver me from those who seek to destroy me. Let those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You. I am poor and need, yet the Lord thinks about me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay.

Trials are the way God moves us from faith to faith. Faith is not stagnant. It is progressive. God delivers us in order that we will know that He can do it and will do it when it is necessary. If your faith is growing, it is growing through trials. It is the way God reveals His righteousness in you (Romans 1:17). Deliverance is for future trials and future deliverances, so God can perfect your faith. After you pass the first trial of faith, you can use the victory to pray your way through the next victory. Remind yourself how God delivered you, stabilized you, ordered your steps and gave you something to sing about. As you pray your way to victory, many will see it. It will give you credibility when you share your faith in Christ. Jesus said, “Men ought always to pray and not lose heart” (Luke 18:1).