

## Times of Need

*“Let us then draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:16.*

There are some Christians who find it difficult to draw near to God during a time of need. Which is interesting, because, for many people, the time they came to Christ in the first place was during a time of need. When things go wrong, many begin their search for God. During great adversity they finally hear the sound of God knocking. Yet for some who are already in the body of Christ, a reversal takes place: It is during times of need they might back away from God. During times of great temptation, prayer becomes less and less. Their desire to worship their Redeemer wanes. Doubt begins to arise. It's during our doubt and our time of need, however, that we can find the answers to our questions if we draw near to God.

Many psalms express this. In Psalm 73, a psalm of Asaph, he can't understand how God can give such prosperity to those who mock God and take so much from those who praise Him. But he understands after he draws near to God. *“But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end.”* In another psalm of Asaph, 77, he asks, *“Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has he in anger shut up His compassion?”* He then writes, *“I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old.”* This is what Asaph means: God hasn't forgotten His people and doesn't help, His people have forgotten all the help God has already done. Asaph's doubts melted when he remembered God – when he drew near to Him. Being near the body of Christ today helps us to draw near to God. By continually building up and exhorting one another, we help each other draw near to God, to remember God's grace, in times of need.

If while exhorting someone you don't see immediate results, then be patient with that person. We must make a continual effort to exhort and to encourage one another because we never know what life lesson God is in the middle of teaching someone. If someone is in the middle of a difficult life lesson, then, if anything, let's encourage them to draw near to God.

**[-DJR]**