

ALL THE THINGS

Introduction

Are you struggling to deal with “all the things”? Not just the operations of life under the cloud of a global virus, but all the emotions? Anxiety, uncertainty, fear—and perhaps many others—may be more prevalent, and also more volatile, at a time such as this. How do we cope? How can we calm the inner calamity? Take it to the Lord in prayer . . . and watch what Jesus promises to do!

Devotion

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (Philippians 4:6)

[Warner Sallman’s famous “Head of Christ” painting](#) can be found in millions of homes throughout the world. In 1917 the young artist was told by his doctor that he had tuberculosis of the lymph glands and that he would not live more than three months. Mr. Sallman left the office depressed as he thought of his young wife and their expected child. When she heard the devastating news, his wife said, “We will pray and thank God for the three months. We will ask him to use us to the limit, and if he will mercifully grant us more time, we shall be grateful for it.” Together they took it to the Lord in prayer. God heard their prayer and granted Mr. Sallman healing. He lived many years after that in good health and became a world-famous artist.

Does God really answer prayers? How often haven’t people raised this question in times of seemingly hopeless trouble and difficulty? How often haven’t we thought, “I prayed but nothing happened. I’ll just forget about it”? Delay does not mean denial. The God who invites us to pray and grants this privilege only to his people will never turn a deaf ear to a proper prayer. When our Lord invites us to “ask,” “seek,” and “knock,” he does not just leave it at that. Closely connected with this invitation is the Lord’s promise that he will hear us: “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7).

We know God hears, understands and answers in the best possible way. His answers are such that they will serve our spiritual welfare. So, for example, if your trouble or difficulty was serving a good purpose—even though you at the time couldn’t possibly see how—you wouldn’t want God to take it away from you and deprive you of his intended blessing. Rather, he will give you strength to bear it, and then, just as soon as it is good for you, he will answer your prayer by ending your troubles. Conform to his will as Jesus did when he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. He knows best.

God does want you to bring all your problems and concerns to him. Are you plagued by trials and temptations? Take them to the Lord in prayer. Is there trouble anywhere in your home, your personal life? Take it to the Lord in prayer. Are you weak and heavy laden? Do you feel broken-hearted, helpless, despairing of any human help? Take it to the Lord in prayer. Are you cumbered with a load of care? Does your heart feel like lead within? Do you feel as if you’re carrying an oppressive weight? Take it to the Lord in prayer. Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer. Do you seem to be skating along on the thin ice of uncertainty? Take it to the Lord in prayer. Do you seem to be stumbling along the rock-strewn path of doubt? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Take it *all* to the Lord in prayer. Take it all to the Lord in faith, knowing that you have a Friend who can and will help you. When you pray, unfold your heart and lay it bare before your Lord. Speak to him as a good and trusted friend. Come without fear and doubt. He is a friend who can see what no one else can see. “Oh, what peace we often forfeit. Oh, what needless pain we bear. All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.”

—by James Robinson from [Devotional Thoughts on Favorite Hymns](#),
based on the hymn “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Prayer

When I fear the unknown, help me focus on the Known: you, O Lord. When I attempt to assimilate the news of the day, the things people say—much of which tends to intimidate, manipulate, militate, and dominate me—keep my eyes fixed on you, O Lord. When change dismays me, friends betray me, the world deludes me, and peace eludes me, bind me to the faithful steadfast trusted changeless you, O Lord. Amen.

—from [Prayers for People Under Pressure](#)

Follow-up

Do you see the bolded paragraph in the devotion on the previous page? You might be experiencing any of those, all of those—perhaps more than those. Visit [Emotional Triage: Passages of Promise and Peace](#) for a list of specific emotions and God’s specific, related Word for you.

Hymn-Sing

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

[PDF](#), [Organ accompaniment](#), [Piano accompaniment](#)

Looking for simpler hymn and liturgy accompaniments for keyboard? Check out the [Favorite Hymns](#) series.

Children’s Activities

Learn how [Jesus answered the prayers of parents regarding their dying daughter](#).

Go deeper and have some fun with these [related activities](#).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Be reminded of how God meets our needs with these additional resources:

Devotionals: [364 Days of Thanksgiving](#), [Meditations on Favorite Scriptures](#), [Purposeful Grieving](#), [Meditations Daily Devotional](#) (subscription)

Prayer books: [The Lord Bless You](#), [There’s a Prayer for That](#)

Books: [Your Life Has Meaning](#), [A Guide to Mental Illness Volume 1](#), [Prayer](#)

Music albums: [By Grace Alone](#), [Psalms](#), [Hymns for Him](#), [By Faith](#)

Monthly magazine: [Forward in Christ](#) (preview the April 2020 edition for [FREE](#))