

ONE-MINUTE
PRAYERS[®]

When You
Need a Miracle

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HARVEST HOUSE PUBLISHERS
EUGENE, OREGON

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One-Minute Prayers® When You Need a Miracle

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Published by Harvest House Publishers

Eugene, Oregon 97408

www.harvesthousepublishers.com

ISBN 978-0-7369-7804-0 (pbk.)

ISBN 978-0-7369-7805-7 (eBook)

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data is on file at the Library of Congress, Washington, DC.

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Printed in China

19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 / RDS-GL / 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

INTRODUCTION

Are you in a desperate situation right now? Does there seem to be no way out? No escape...only an unavoidable drastic outcome to your present crisis?

In short, *you need a miracle*. You need nothing less than for God to show up and show up *big*.

It would be useless for me to offer several clichés or even Scripture verses that assure you, “God’s got this. You’ll be okay.” That may be true, but in our darkest hours, we need more than platitudes.

My prayer is that on the following pages, you’ll find hope—*real* hope—for your darkest hour. God *does* hear our prayers. There is never a moment when we and our circumstances are not on His mind. Further, God has a solution—a perfect solution—for our every situation. It’s not always a solution we appreciate or anticipate, because we’re not able to see our situation the way God sees it. Often, though, we can look back and see in hindsight that God had us in His hands all along.

As we walk together through the next few weeks, and as you pray the prayers in this book, I want you to learn to fully trust in God for the outcome of your situation. Trust that He sees. Trust that He knows your pain. Trust that He will come through for you.

Two things we all must keep in mind when we go through hard—even desperate—times. First, we

need to know that God *does* do miracles as He answers prayers. But sometimes those miracles are not how we imagined them. God has the perfect answer for those who trust Him, but the answer or miracle doesn't always unfold the way we think it should. Can you accept that?

Second, we tend to think of miracles as always supernatural answers given right *now*. We want a *fast* miracle. And sometimes God does give us fast miracles. But sometimes God's miracles reveal themselves slowly over time. Are you willing to accept that your miracle might be a slow miracle? After all, if it's a miracle from God, whether it comes slow or fast shouldn't matter.

Here's what I want you to do as you pray the prayers in this book:

- Watch for God's answer to your prayer, realizing His miracle may not be the miracle you imagined.
- Don't let your resolve to trust Him weaken if the situation gets worse before it gets better.
- Don't keep looking at your crisis with fear, anger, or worry. Change your focus to God. Look only to Him. When Peter saw Jesus walk on water, he wanted to do so too. At Jesus's invitation, Peter got out of the boat and was doing fine as long as he kept his eyes on Jesus. But when he looked at the storm around him, he began to sink. Keep your eyes on the Lord and walk on water through your crisis.

- Thank God for the answer *now*, before it comes.
- Praise Him when it does come...and tell others of God's faithfulness to you.
- If your miracle comes before you finish this book, turn to page 171 and read "A Final Word."

Some will ask, "How can simple one-minute prayers bring about the miracle I need?" Well, all we need to do is look at many of the prayers in the Bible and notice how very short some of them are. One of the most powerful prayers in the Bible was just nine words long. The thief on the cross looked over to Jesus and simply said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" (Luke 23:42). That prayer was granted. There are many other short prayers throughout the Bible, including the most famous prayer of all: the Lord's Prayer. Martin Luther is quoted as saying, "The fewer the words, the better the prayer." Brevity is not our enemy when we pray. But long prayers are welcome to God too. My hope is that if you find a minute too short a time to pray, you will use these prayers as a jump start to your own longer prayers. If that happens, good! *Keep praying*. One minute is the minimum, not the maximum. Pray as long as you need to, even if you have to ask God to give you the words to keep praying. One advantage of a crisis is that it teaches us to pray!

Some readers will be tempted to skip ahead and read more than one prayer. I suggest you resist that

temptation and read just one prayer a day, allowing yourself to reflect on it until the next day. Consider its message. Make its truth your truth before you move on. One reason not to skip ahead is that several themes are repeated throughout the book. These are important and need to be said again in a slightly different way. These themes include faith, patience, trust, and God's sovereignty. It's important that you internalize these spiritual truths through repetition.

Finally, please remember that this book is based on a Christian understanding of God and how He works, as revealed in the Bible. Know that the greatest miracle of all happens when we are born again into the kingdom of God by asking Christ to take charge of our life. That is the first miracle you must start with. Trust Him with your life—this life and eternal life. If you have never received Christ as your Lord, I suggest you do so now and begin to live out the greatest miracle of all. Here's a suggested prayer:

God, I need Your help. I need *You* in my life. I ask You to forgive my sins and create in me the new, abundant life You promise those who believe in You. God, I commit my present situation and my entire self to You. Thank You for loving me and hearing my prayer.

If you prayed that prayer and meant it, God heard it and, according to His Word, you are now His child.

If you're already a Christian, my hope is that this book will help you stretch your faith and enlarge your view of God.

Now, let's get to praying for your miracle!

THE FULLNESS OF TIME

When the fullness of the time had come...

GALATIANS 4:4 NKJV

When we're in deep trouble, we want a solution *now*. Our need for a miracle won't wait. And yet, God is the Lord of time. He knows when and how to answer our prayer. There's no sense in rushing God's answer. It's enough to know He *is* going to answer...in the fullness of time.

In the meantime, persist in prayer.

Heavenly Father, I'm not good at waiting, especially during this hard time I'm going through. You know the depth of my situation. You know how much I want a miracle *now*. Help me as I learn to wait. Help me accept *Your* time for the miracle I need. Forgive me for my impatience. Remind me of *Your* faithfulness to me in the past so that I trust *You* fully for the future. Lord, I know *You* already see the outcome of my situation. *You're* not worried or stressed. For that reason, I, too, will rest and wait until the fullness of time has come.

TRUST

*When I am afraid,
I put my trust in you.
In God, whose word I praise,
in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.*

PSALM 56:3-4

God allows certain adverse situations in our life as a chance for us to exercise our trust in Him. We ask ourselves, *Will God come through for me again?* Then we look back and see His hand in our previous hard situations and know that, yes, He is worthy to be trusted...even in *this*.

Dear Lord, You have given me so many opportunities to trust You. I've not always been good at it, but time after time, You've come through for me even when my trust was weak. I pray now for a trusting heart in my present situation. I pray that the end of my trial will find me more trusting of You and more aware of the power of trust to help me overcome the problems I face in the future. With the psalmist, I know that my fears will diminish as I trust in You. No, I shall not be afraid.

GOD WILL GET THE GLORY

To him be glory forever. Amen.

ROMANS 11:36

It's so important that, as early as possible in our dilemma, we come to the end of ourselves. We need to commit the cause of our turmoil to God with the full understanding that He alone will receive the glory when a miracle presents itself. If truth be told, many of us forget this important principle. Our issue becomes resolved, and we may give a nod to God for His part while not fully giving Him all the praise, glory, and honor for what He's done. Make sure now, not later, that you ascribe to God the praise due Him for His intervention.

O God, how foolish it would be for me to take any glory from the miracle to come. Or to give praise to others when I know full well *You* have brought about the miracle I've waited for. Even now, before the resolution comes, I give You the advance praise and glory for what You're doing behind the scenes and what You will do in the future to secure the right outcome for my situation. Yes, Lord, to You alone belongs all the praise and thanksgiving. Truly, You are a God of miracles and wonders.

FEELING ALONE

*Father of the fatherless and protector of widows
is God in his holy habitation.*

*God settles the solitary in a home;
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,
but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.*

PSALM 68:5-6

When we're in a desperate situation, we feel alone. Even though we know intellectually that others have gone through tough times before us—and *are* going through tough times now, and *will* go through tough times in the future—it doesn't make our struggle any easier. We still feel like no one can possibly understand. But God does understand. Know this: *We are never alone in our trials.*

Dear Lord, my situation is hard to bear today. I feel like no one understands, even as they express their sympathy and offer their prayers. Please God, father of the fatherless and protector of widows, refresh my spirit by giving me a sense of Your presence. May I carry that sense through the days ahead as I watch You move toward a resolution in my situation. Lord, replace the loneliness with the comfort only You can provide. Lead me out of my desert into a place of peaceful prosperity.

CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S WORK

In the fear of the LORD one has strong confidence.

PROVERBS 14:26

Seeing God work builds our confidence. We move from victory to victory in life as time after time He proves Himself faithful. Have confidence today in God's ability to work out every issue in your life. After all, He's shown you countless times that you can always turn to Him, no matter the obstacle you face.

God, my confidence in You is strong. I'm convinced You can do what needs to be done to get me through this rough patch. It will take a miracle, but I'm confident that You can provide one, Lord. You are the author of miracles, and I believe You have one waiting with my name on it.

And, Father, when this time of trial is over, I will look back and see the miracle as a trophy of Your faithfulness and yet another confirmation of my confidence in You.

You are ever loyal to me, Lord.

EXPECTING A MIRACLE

With God all things are possible.

MATTHEW 19:26

To receive a miracle, we must *expect* a miracle. We must believe that God does the impossible. We must know that He is here with us in our trial and has a desired end in mind. We must never allow doubts to undermine our expectation.

God, You are Lord of the impossible. You know I need You to do what seems to me to be impossible. Father, my expectation for a miracle is from You and You alone. Bear with me as I build my confidence in Your ability to bring this crisis to your desired end. Bring good fruit from what now seems like a lost cause.

Father, with You all things are possible.

BE OPEN TO A SURPRISE ANSWER

He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.

MATTHEW 14:19

In the chaos of our situation, we may have reasoned out the exact miracle God should give us. But God, in giving us our miracle, may surprise us with an answer we hadn't expected. We must be open to His surprising miracle, setting aside our own—usually faulty—designs for an outcome.

God, You are unpredictable! So unpredictable that You can feed more than five thousand people with five loaves and two fish—and have twelve baskets of leftovers. What a miraculous answer to a very real need.

Lord, I love Your unpredictability, even though it often confuses me. Please know that I want *Your* miracle for my chaotic situation. I accept that it may not be the one I have in mind. I accept that Your miracle will result in a better end than “mine.”

Lord, surprise me. Delight me with Your answer.