

Psalm 57:1

*For the director of music. To the tune of "Do Not Destroy." Of David. A miktam.
When he had fled from Saul into the cave.
Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge.
I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.*

Colossians 4:2-6 Further Instructions

² *Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.*

³ *And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.*

⁴ *Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.*

⁵ *Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.*

⁶ *Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*

The book of Colossians is a letter written by Apostle Paul while he was in prison at Ephesus.

In this particular chapter, Apostle Paul highlights further instructions for holy living particularly during difficult times.

So what must we do during difficult times?

1. Pray

- **Colossians 4:2-3**

² *Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.*

³ *And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.*

- Devote and invest your time and materials to praying. When we are in difficult and challenging times, the first thing we do...is to complain and we become angry. However, today's scripture tells us, we must wake up and pray during these difficult times. Even when your prayers are not answered right away, do not give up!

- **Daniel 9:23**

²³ *As soon as you began to pray, a word went out, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the word and understand the vision:*

Chapter 9 of the Book of Daniel is a prophecy given to Daniel by the angel Gabriel in response to Daniel's prayer for God to act on behalf of his people and city (i.e. Jerusalem). The angel informs him that seventy "weeks" have been decreed for them, and then gives a detailed but cryptic description of those weeks. In this particular verse, the angel is informing Daniel that the moment he started to pray, the Lord already begun His work to answer Daniel's prayer.

- **Story of NYC Broadcasting Journalist and Her Mother's Prayer -**

One late night, a broadcasting journalist was heading home late night. A robber came to her with a gun in the parking lot and he started to drag the journalist by her hair. At that moment, she prayed... "God, let my mother in LA pray for me." She became less scared and all of sudden, the robber screamed in fear, and abandoned her and started to run away. She called her mother and told her what happened. Her mother shouted "Oh thank you God!" The moment the daughter prayed to the Lord, the mother was eating dinner and all of sudden she had the desire to kneel down and pray earnestly for her daughter... "Please protect my daughter from evil forces at this very moment." This is power of prayer and what we must do when we are faced with challenging moment/time.

2. Act Wisely

- **Colossians 4:5**

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.

- **Matthew 5:16**

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

- **Acts 2:47**
praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.
- Diagram of Wearing Face Masks - During this pandemic period, we must act wisely by wearing mask and following social distance rules. In following these rules, we are also glorifying our Lord.

3. Speak Gracefully

- **Colossians 4:6**
Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.
- **Ephesians 4:29**
Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.
- When we are faced with life challenges, it is so easy to speak disgracefully and negatively. However, we need to practice in speaking gracefully. By speaking gracefully, we also provide respect to our listeners.
- **Matthew 7:12**
So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.
- **1 Peter 4:11**
If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.
- **Isaiah 66:13**
As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem."
- **Story of Queen Victoria of Great Britain and Ireland**
Queen Victoria was a close friend of St. Andrew University President Tuloc and his wife. In 1861, Queen Victoria lost her husband. In the same year, President Tuloc also died. Both Queen Victoria and President Tuloc's wife became very lonely. One day, Queen visits Mrs. Tuloc without notice. When Mrs. Tuloc sees the Queen she quickly tried to stand up from the chair. The Queen responds..."Don't get up. I did not come to you today as a queen, but as a woman who lost her husband came to the woman who lost her husband."

Similarly, Our Jesus Christ was sent by Our Father to be with us and show His Grace to us.

- **Story of Terminal Cancer Patient**
A woman found out she was in final stage of cancer. She was living with her husband and 5 year old son and she tried to live each day as if it was her last day. Every day she prayed to live until her son entered elementary school so that he is at a certain age to remember her face. Every time she prayed...she also saw the back of her husband and she could not stop crying. She realized that during these desperate moments, the only thing that matters is her family - not money, title, election, or what is going around the world...

We are all facing difficult challenges right now, we must take this time to tell our families that we love them and we thank them.

When we are in difficulty, we must devote ourselves to...

1. Pray
2. Act wisely
3. Speak gracefully

Lord, when we are faced with difficulties, let us not stop relying onto you. Day to day, we rely onto You and Your Son Jesus Christ. As time goes by, we only rely onto You and Your Son Jesus Christ.