

516 How Can God Help Me Proverbs 3:5-8

Life can throw us a number of problems. We all face problems with our families, finances, work or school, relationships, health, emotions, and temptations to do the wrong thing. God is up in heaven and sometimes seems so far away. How can God help me with the problems I am facing today? Does He really care about all my little problems? Perhaps these are questions you face.

My God is Mighty! He is the First and Last, the Beginning and the End! He is the Keeper of creation and the Creator of all. He is the Architect of the universe and the Manager of all times. He always was, He always is, and He always will be. Unmoved, unchanged, undefeated, and never undone! He was bruised and brought healing! He was pierced and eased pain! He was persecuted and brought freedom. He was dead and brought life! He is risen and brings power. He reigns and brings peace.

The world can't understand Him, The armies can't defeat Him, The schools can't explain Him, And the leaders can't ignore Him. Herod couldn't kill Him, The Pharisees couldn't confuse Him, And the people couldn't hold Him! Nero couldn't crush Him, Hitler couldn't silence Him, The New Age can't replace Him, And scholars can't explain Him away.

He is light, love, longevity, and Lord. He is goodness, kindness, gentleness, and God. He is holy, righteous, mighty, powerful, and pure. His ways are right, His word is eternal, His will is unchanging, And His mind is on me. He is my Redeemer, He is my Savior, He is my guide, and He is my peace! He is my joy, He is my comfort, He is my Lord, and He rules my life!

I serve Him because His bond is love, His burden is light, and His goal for me is abundant life. I follow Him because He is the wisdom of the wise, The power of the powerful, The ancient of days, the ruler of rulers, The leader of leaders, the overseer of the overcomers, and The Sovereign Lord of all that was and is and is to come.

And if that seems impressive to you, I tell you, His goal is a relationship with me! He will never leave me Never forsake me, Never mislead me, Never forget me, Never overlook me, and Never cancel my appointment in His appointment book! When I fall, He lifts me up! When I fail, He forgives! When I am weak, He is strong! When I am lost, He is the way! When I am afraid, He is my courage! When I stumble, He steadies me! When I am hurt, He heals me! When I am broken, He mends me! When I am blind, He leads me! When I am hungry, He feeds me! When I face trials, He is with me!

When I face persecution, He shields me! When I face problems, He comforts me! When I face loss, He provides for me! When I face death, He carries me home! He is everything for everybody, everywhere, Every time, and every way. He is God, He is faithful. I am His, and He is mine! My Father in heaven can whip the father of this world. So, if you're wondering why I feel so secure, understand this: He said it, and that settles it. God is in control, and I am on His side, and that means all is well with my soul. Everyday is a blessing, because God is with me!

Perhaps the most important decision of your life is your attitude toward God. Proverbs 3:5-8 says, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body, And refreshment to your bones." I hear people express all kinds of doubts and fears about God. They wonder if God really cares about them and whether God will help in a time of trouble.. Yes He will!

I have heard people say, "It's Impossible!" They cannot imagine that God can and will do anything to change things in their lives.

God said, "The things impossible with man are possible with God" (Luke 18:37). God can do things you and I cannot do. Paul glorified God in Eph. 3:20-21, saying, "Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him *be* the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen." Let us not be too quick to limit God.

Some say, "I'm overworked. I'm too tired." All of us seem to have too much to do. Jesus knew about the Jews who were overburdened spiritually by the Pharisees who made laws for God. Jesus reached out to the people of his day: "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My load is light." (Matt. 11:28-30) Christianity is a livable faith; you can go to heaven, and the Lord will help you.

Isaiah helped us to understand God in a marvelous way when he wrote in Isa. 40:28-31,

"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. He gives strength to the weary, And to him who lacks might He increases power. Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly, Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary."

Some people say, "I just can't figure things out." Life can have lots of puzzles. Psalm 119:97-99 says, "O how I love Thy law! It is my meditation all the day. Thy commandments make me wiser than my enemies, For they are ever mine. I have more insight than all my teachers, For Thy testimonies are my meditation." Some problems are really tough. James said, "But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5).

Some people say, "I am so worried." Life can be filled with so many unforeseen things. Peter encourages us, "casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7). Paul gave us wonderful advice in Philippians 4:6-7, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Some people say, "I don't have the money." Life is expensive, and every good thing costs more than we planned. The apostle Paul had his ups and downs financially. He said, "I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:12-13). God does not promise to give us all we want, but He will provide our needs. Paul said in Philippians 4:19, "And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." Not some but all your needs. He knows what you need even before you ask. Jesus promised, "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own" (Matt. 6:33-34). If we will put Him first, God will see to all the things we need. As a parent of four kids living through the years on a preacher's salary, I know this is true.

The Hebrew writer encourages us in Hebrews 13:5, "Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what

you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you." Too often our problems arise from coveting what everyone around us has rather than counting our blessings. In this situation, our needs are met but our desires grow larger and larger, till nothing could possibly meet them. Some people are never content with what they have.

Occasionally I hear some say, "Nobody really loves me." But God has always loved you. You may not have known it or taken time to notice. Jesus said, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16). Paul said in Rom. 8:32, "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?" God loves us more than any of us realizes.

Sometimes I hear people say, "I just don't feel forgiven." It's easy at times to listen to our feelings rather than listen to God. God said, "for I will be merciful to their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more" (Heb. 8:12). God is able to forgive our sins and forget them against us, no longer holding us accountable. The apostle John said, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). When God forgives us, He forgives us completely.

Some people facing temptation say, "I just can't say no!" It is easy to fall weak to the pressures of this life. In Christ there is hope. Paul said, "No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it" (1 Cor. 10:13). David understood the power of God's word to help. He said, "Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You" (Psalm 119:11)

Some at the end of their rope say, "I just can't bear it anymore!" Paul who was dealing with a thorn in the flesh heard God say no three times but learned something more valuable. God told him, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." *Grace is sufficient!* Paul responded, "Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me" (2 Cor. 12:9-10).

Sometimes at the hardest moments, we learn best how good and how powerful God can be in our lives.

The Hebrew writer said in Hebrews 11:6, "And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him." Faith is so important in our lives. What we often need most in life is a faith. Paul boldly said in Romans 8:34-36, "Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, 'For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.'" Paul continues, "But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom. 8:37-39) The most important thing you can have in your life is a close, personal, loving relationship with the God of heaven, who loves you. He loves you already, because He created you, but He asks you to love Him. Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15). Loving God, loving Christ, means caring enough to do His will.

To become a Christian, believe with all your heart that Jesus is the Christ, repent of your sins, confess the name of Jesus, and be baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. As a Christian, you won't have to fight your battles alone. You'll have the help of God every day and in every thing.

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