

God's Sleeves Rolled up

Question about answered Prayer.

Do you ever complain that God is slow in answering your prayers?

If we are honest, I think we would all admit to having cried, 'Lord, why don't you answer my prayer?'

On the other hand, we get caught flat footed when prayers are answered straightaway. How do we react to this sudden answer to prayer?

Did David have reason to complain that his prayers were not answered?

Let us read. Psalm 6: 3-7 and Psalm 13: 1-2. Where David wrote his plea with God to answer his prayers.

Throughout the bible we read of ordinary people just like us who longed for God to answer their prayers and there is a strain running through the bible 'O Lord, how long?' Isa. 6:11, Daniel 12:6-7 Rev 6: 9-10

Even today we hear this cry. When we think of the plight of our farmers due to the drought, when will the war end in Iraq etc. How long?

Do you think we can make deals with God to get answers for our prayers?

Let us look what the Bible says in James 1: 13.

God cannot be tempted by evil nor does he tempt anyone, yet when the Saul's of this world obviously won't repent and the David's of this world cannot go further, God rolls up his sleeves and becomes involved.

God knows how much we can bear. In Corinthians 10:13 we read, God's timing is always perfect.

Can anyone give some examples based on personal experience or some one's story?

God gave Saul many opportunities to seek his forgiveness. For example, twice David refrained from vindicating himself, and each time Saul had a chance to repent.

Saul acted as though he was sorry, but only for a while and he always hardened his heart later.

Maybe someone has hurt you and you ask God, "Why do you let him get away with this, Lord? Why don't you step in? Why don't you judge him?" But perhaps God is saying. I am still dealing with him.'

Have we ever considered how patient God is with us? Let's read Psalm 103: 8.

So finally God withdrew his grace and left Saul to himself. (This is frightening)

What other times did God get involved after the cry 'O Lord how long?'

The time comes when God does step in. But he will only step in when the time is right.

Jack