

Bible Tracts Inc.

Spurgeon said it:

"No man has such need to pray as the man who does not care to pray. When you can pray and long to pray - why, then, you WILL pray! But when you cannot pray and do not wish to pray - why, then, you MUST pray, or evil will come of it! He is on the brink of ruin who forgets the Mercy Seat. When the heart is apathetic towards prayer, the whole man is sickening from a grievous disease. How can we be weary of prayer? It is essential to life! When a man grows weary of breathing, surely he is near dying! When a man grows weary of praying, surely he ought to pray anxiously for him; for he is in an evil case."

Dangerous Prayer of a Desperate Soul

One reason we love the psalms is their honesty. In them we find ourselves. We find words that express our greatest joys, deepest passions, and worst fears. Psalm 143 is a psalm that reveals a desperate heart.

we do know is that in the moment of genuine desperation David turned to God. Oh, if only we could learn that lesson better.

WARNING: Psalm 143 is a dangerous prayer. Like anything dangerous, it needs a warning label. Below is the warning label for this psalm.

Most of us are not real fond of being changed. That is a flaw we all tend to possess. It is also one reason why God puts us into desperate situations. He is not finished changing us.

You know you are in a desperate situation when v.4 fits you. You feel **"overwhelmed"** and **"desolate"**. These words deserve your study, but basically they describe a soul that is weighed down, jarred, and frozen in place by the situation.

So, how did David pray in his desperation? Was his prayer left for us by God that we can learn to mimic it in our desperate times?



We do not know if these words came when David was being chased by Saul or Absalom. What

A desperate prayer will change the saint before it changes the situation.

Half a Million and Counting

May 2018 was the fourteenth anniversary of Pastor Mark Smith being BTI's Director. One particular item has been the cause for great rejoicing from these years. Based on our best, conservative estimates, over **half a million people** have received Christ as Savior after receiving one of our tracts.

The office people in Bloomington, IL could not make that happen. Printing tracts is easy. Paying for that printing and shipping, and finding partners to distribute the tracts is the real work. Over BTI's 80 year history and especially over the last 14, God has given us so many faithful supporters and co-laborers. They are the ones who made that half million number a reality!

Thank you and to God Be The Glory!!

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Dangerous Prayer of a Desperate Soul – continued

This psalm has two parts. There is a **CRISIS** noted (v.1-6) and there is some **CORRECTION** needed (v.7-12). The crisis reveals a **deserving** soul (1,2) . One deserving judgment. It reveals a **desolate** soul (3,4). And, it reveals a **deliberate** soul (5,6). David pointedly studied God’s past help and was stretching out his hand for help.

So, just how does one pray when in a desperate situation? How does one pray to God so that they put themselves in a place of cooperating with the changes He wants to make? David’s prayer contains seven pleas.

“Lord, I’m Losing” v.7a.

His spirit was failing. He had nothing left with which to fight. Most of us must exhaust ourselves before we begin to seek God’s help.

“Lord, Look at Me!” v.7b.

When God hides His face from anyone they are in trouble. To have God’s face shine on us is His grace response to a humble heart.

“Lord, Love Me.” v.8a. David wanted to hear God’s lovingkindness. He did not want God to simply bend His neck in David’s direction. He wanted God to bow His whole person and intimately minister to his situation.

“Lord, Lead Me” v.8b. When you are frozen in place by desperate times your first steps better be right. They had better be God’s steps. David sought God’s leading.



“Lord, Lift Me” v.9. The writer was asking God to pick him up, but why? David did not simply want deliverance from where he was. He wanted to be where God was. He wanted to flee to Him.

“Lord, Learn Me” v.10. The word ‘teach’ means to point in the right direction. It means to give a destination. David had great reasons to pray this way. He knew that God was his God, a good God, and that His ways are right.

“Lord, Live Me” v.11. It is always the right time for us to pray that God would live through us. Yes, we need God’s direction, but we also need His life and power. Only with this can we live our life for His name’s sake, for His righteousness sake.

This is no quaint, polite prayer. As I said, if it is honestly prayed, it will alter you. It will alter your **WAY** – how

you will live. It will alter your **WHY** – why you are here at this moment in time. It will alter your **WHO** – who is living through you.

Have you and I learned yet that our troubles may be aimed at more than the health of our body or the state of our finances? They just may be aimed at crushing us spiritually to the point of fresh brokenness. They may be aimed at getting us to seek God’s person and help rather than man’s wisdom.

“Overwhelmed Soul” ?

Both Ps. 142 & 143 refer to a person whose soul is overwhelmed. Just what does that mean? Digging into this phrase would make for a worthy word study. Discover where else this Hebrew word is used, who it was used of, and why they became overwhelmed.

Published report of

Bible Tracts, Inc. and
Bible Tract Echoes

Executive Director: **Mark Smith**

Board of Directors: **Ryan Banman, Darrell Beernink, Chad Buhman, Troy Crain, Ken Devore, Joey Watt, and Ralph Wingate, Jr.**

Encouraging Notes

I am so joyful to receive the tracts today. It is so timely because we are presently having our annual youth week program in my church, which really needs evangelistic tracts. Children in my neighborhood will also be happy to receive their own designed tracts as well. God bless you and your ministry.
Nigeria

I really enjoyed receiving the Mother's Day tracts. The women here really enjoyed them.
The publications that you send tend to leave our distribution racks quickly. I am glad your words are touching many women's lives.
Pennsylvania

I listen to you in the morning as I drive to work. Your Bible tracts help me be bold with the truth in print to be able to share the good news. I really like the diversity in tracts to use in various situations of daily life. I am a shy person but with a tract I am powered with boldness and on fire for the Lord.



PLACE OF PRAYER IN THE LIFE OF GOD'S PEOPLE:

Commanded Task
Lk.18:1; Phil.4:6

Conquering Task
Eph.6:18

Continuous Task
1 Thess.5:17

Compelled Task on Churches
1 Tim.2:1,3,8

Convicting Task
Jam.4:2

I am pleased to receive your correspondence and I have completed your Bible study. You will find it here with my letter. I pray for your continued fellowship and your work. My prayer is that your work will grow.

I practice my verses and studies daily. I am borrowing a study Bible to help me. I know the Holy Spirit guides me in my study and that I will be successful in my walk with Jesus.

Because of my joy in Christ some other detainees want to begin a fellowship in the name of Jesus Christ. I can't say that I have as much knowledge in God's Word as others, but I share your materials with them. I try to answer their question.

Prisoner

Memorials and Honorariums

In Memory of:

Dottie Mattoon
Mary Abbas

Given by:

Janice Wheatley
Mr. Stephen Maczko

BE A BTI HERO

This summer was expensive. We "borrowed from Peter to pay Paul" to complete our Pakistan printing. Please consider a generous, one time gift to help us repay "Peter".

Thank you !



The Word of God to All the World!

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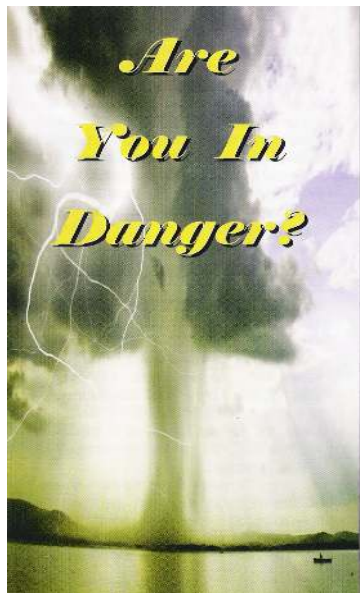
LEVITICUS STUDY

Pastor Mark's radio study through Leviticus is now available on our web site.

Why not check it out and discover the value of this Old Testament legal book for your New Testament daily life.

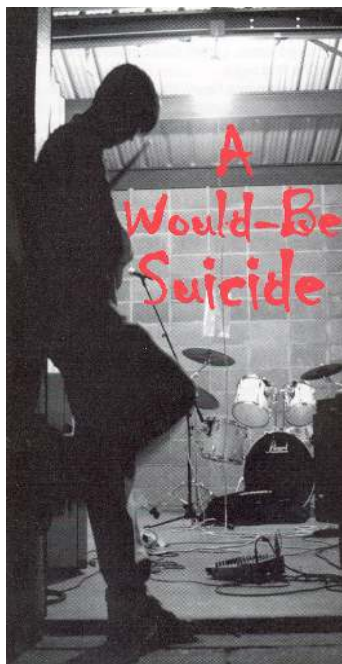
Go to:

bibletractsinc.org



A true story of a 12 year old boy facing a lightning storm alone, but he was not afraid. Why? He did not grasp the danger! Many do not grasp the danger of their sin. This is a good tract for 8-12 year olds and even for family devotions.

*Get some tracts.
Impact a soul.*



Use a suicide tract?

Far more people think about suicide than you realize. It is growing among college agers. Sadly, it is growing among folk claiming Christ as Savior. This testimony tract tells how a teen girl helped stop a suicide and turn a man to Christ by one simple act.

Thankfulness is Biblical and it opens witnessing opportunities.

All kinds of people do things to help us in day to day life - waitresses, mechanics, plumbers, florists, etc. To express thanks with a tip is great, but also give that server a clear gospel tract!

Thank you!

Your service was:

- The greatest service in the world.
- Excellent.
- Good.
- Acceptable.

Recognizing that you're very busy and can't devote your time to only one person, I've tried to give a fair appraisal.

You've noticed that I didn't indicate your service was "the greatest in the world." You wonder what would be required to merit *that* rating? Well, you could have paid *what I owed!* Ridiculous? Of course! No one could expect such service. It would have cost you to serve *me!*

And to give the greatest service in the world would