

# Call Upon Me

Sermon #0161

Study by W. D. Frazee—January 28, 1977

“And call upon Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee,  
and thou shalt glorify Me” Psalm 50:15.

For a long time this message has been pointing forward to a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation. Troubles have been increasing as we near the climax.

As the prophet to the remnant wrote, shortly before her death, said:

Soon grievous troubles will arise among the nations—trouble that will not cease until Jesus comes...” *Review and Herald*, November 24, 1904.

That “soon” is already here.

What is it that God is listening to hear from His people? The call.

“Call upon Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me” Psalms 50:15.

The way God gets us ready for the larger troubles is to test us with smaller troubles. Just as we start children in small problems in mathematics and lead them on to larger ones. But you know, a little problem for a child may be as big to him as a big problem is to an adult, isn't it? So the problem you face today is your size. I mean your size provided you do what this text says. Unless we learn how to handle problems, all of them are too big for us.

“Call upon Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me” Psalms 50:15.

In the *Desire of Ages*, page 667, we are told:

“In every difficulty we are to see a call to prayer”  
*The Desire of Ages*, page 667.

Here comes a difficulty that comes down the road to meet me. What am I to see? Not merely a difficulty, a what? A call to prayer. If it were a grizzly bear coming down the path, I imagine I would recognize it as a call to prayer, wouldn't you? There are problems worse than bears. But in every difficulty, we are to see a call to prayer. You know, I like a statement like this because it eliminates any necessity on my part to analyze this particular difficulty to see whether this statement belongs to it; because in how many difficulties? In every difficulty, I am to see, what?

A call to prayer. So, I don't have to look it over and see if it is something I have got to call to God about. No, in every difficulty, I am to see a call to prayer.

"Prayer and faith will do what no power on earth will accomplish" *Ministry of Healing*, page 509.

Will you repeat that with me?

"Prayer and faith will do what no power on earth will accomplish" *Ibid.*

Wouldn't you like to go over that again?

"Prayer and faith will do what no power on earth will accomplish" *Ibid.*

What will do it? Prayer and faith. What will prayer and faith do? What no power on earth will accomplish.

Greater than the United Nations? Oh yes, much greater. More power than all the money on Wall Street. More wisdom than the great men of earth have.

What can get these blessings for us? Prayer and faith. They will do what no power on earth will accomplish. Oh friends, as we go into this time of trouble, I long that we shall learn that Jesus is with us and He wants us to have an active, personal faith in His presence, and His ability to help us no matter what the situation is.

A few nights ago, I heard Doctor Hansen telling a little group in the home a most interesting experience that he heard over in Africa just a few weeks ago. Doctor, will you come and share with us?

[Doctor Hansen speaking]

A few months ago, we were in Zambia, right in the heart of central Africa. On a Sabbath afternoon for our evening vespers, we heard a story related by a man by the name of brother Salim. He is a black man, a Zambian, born in Africa. He is well educated, speaking not only English but French and several Zambian local languages. He is a very intelligent man and a God-fearing man.

Brother Salim told us that just about two and a half years ago, when the Congo rebellion took place, and the rebel forces were fighting, and the United Nations troops were called in, that he was selected to be the personal translator for the head of all the United Nations forces. As translator, he naturally had access to all the intelligence information that was coming through. The movement of troops, the location of supply lines, and all the important information for he was the translator to all of the U. N. forces that were fighting there for freedom in the Congo.

During the fighting, the battle went back and forth between cities and villages. Brother Salim was captured by the enemy forces, and along with many others, was thrown into prison. The enemy knew who he was, and he wouldn't talk. He was

sentenced to be shot. For three weeks, as he was there in prison, they gave him no food just water. They starved him.

Then the day came when Brother Salim was to be shot. They took him out before the firing squad. He was so weak from lack of food that he just collapsed. They began talking among themselves and said, "We can't shoot this man. He can't even stand up. Take him back and feed him."

They put Brother Salim in the truck and started to take him back to the stockade where the other prisoners were kept. On the way back, one of the soldiers pulled open his sack and asked Brother Salim if he wanted some food. The food had flesh in it, and Brother Salim was a vegetarian and had been for several years, and here he had been starving for three weeks. He said, 'No thank you. I can't eat this food. The Lord has forbidden me to eat it. I believe that the Lord will either provide for me, or He will give me strength. I appreciate it, but no thank you.'

These soldiers, though hardened and rebellious, were so impressed by this that they took him, and for three more weeks, they gave him vegetables, and his strength revived. Then came the next day when he was appointed to be shot. In fact, the leader of the rebel forces in the Congo had said, "I want to personally witness this execution, so don't shoot him unless I am there."

They took him out of the prison and put him in a truck. The driver and the guard went along with him down to the appointed place. As they were driving, the guard and driver got to arguing where they were supposed to go, and they couldn't agree. Now just before he left that morning, he had been strongly impressed that the Lord was going to deliver him. He told some of the prisoners who were right there in the same cell that "I will see you back this evening, the Lord showed me." So along the way, as they were traveling, the driver and the guard continued arguing and couldn't agree on where they should go, so they went back to back to get directions from the head of the soldiers about just where they should go. While they were turning around to get directions and starting off again, the delay had caused the head of the rebel forces to get tired of waiting, so he left. When they arrived, he wasn't there, and they had strict orders that Brother Salim was not to be shot unless he was there. So they couldn't execute him. They took him back to the prison.

As he arrived back there, brother Salim walked in, and you can imagine the effect on the other prisoners, for there had been many men who had been taken out and had been executed. They were so impressed that they began to ask him about his faith. For some reason, someone had a Bible, and for hours he studied with them from the Word of God about the promises, the assurance of Jesus' second coming, and the precious truths with those prisoners right there in the stockade.

But the story is not over yet, for he was still under sentence to be shot. One morning the soldiers came in and were going to take it in their own hands. One of them pointed his rifle at Brother Salim and pulled the trigger. The gun didn't go off. He pulled the trigger again, and he checked it, but the gun would not fire. Then he turned to another prisoner and pulled the trigger, and the gun went off and killed him right on the spot.

As Brother Salim told the story, he had not only one deliverance or two deliverances, but a whole series of providence that took place day by day. He was finally—after he was starved and beaten several times—turned loose and stumbled barefoot along the way. His feet began to get sore as he walked through the jungle, trying to avoid the road.

Finally, Brother, he just knelt down and said, “Lord, I need shoes.” He walked along through the bushes, and lo and behold, within a few paces, he found a shoe. He put it on, but it was so awkward walking with one shoe on and one shoe off that he took it off and threw it away. Then as he walked along, his conscience bothered him, and he said, “Lord, I prayed for a shoe, and You gave me one. I will go back and put it on.” He found it in the bushes. As he walked along a little further, he found its mate. Now he had two.

Not too far along, he met some other soldiers from the same rebel forces. As he was talking to them, they argued who this fellow might be. They didn’t believe it could be Brother Salim because the man they had released didn’t have any shoes on, and this fellow had shoes.

As the story goes along, he finally got back to the United Nations forces. He was identified and restored, and as the war was over finally got back to his family. Today Brother Salim is up in the northern part of Zambia taking a little farm and turning it into a missionary training center to prepare young Zambians to preach the gospel. His story of faith is an inspiration not only to them but to me. I know God still hears and answers prayer, for I have seen a man that has been delivered from the mouth of the lions.

[Elder Frazee resumes]

Let’s read our text again, shall we? All together:

“And call upon Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me” Psalms 50:15.

That’s what Brother Salim did. He cried and did he get delivered? He glorified God.

I was thinking of the experience Peter had that Luke, the beloved physician, wrote down in the book of Acts. You remember that Herod decided to kill Peter. He had killed James. It pleased the Jews. Does God sometimes allow His servants to be executed? Sure, the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church. When Peter was thrown in prison, you remember, the whole church did what? Prayed. Doubtless, they read this very promise from the Psalms that we have read tonight and claimed the promise. They prayed night and day earnestly. What did God do? He sent His angel, who opened up the prison doors and brought Peter out.

What a wonderful deliverer Jesus is! You and I are headed for one experience after the other of test and trial. But He is testing us today with problems—I was going to say, our size. Our size provided that we do what this text says. I want to ask you a question, not to answer me but to answer yourself. How much time are

you spending taking your problems to the Lord in prayer and believing He will answer you and solve the problem? Has prayer become a way of life to you, a way of problem-solving? Our tendency is to think that these problems interrupt our Christian experience, that they delay our spiritual maturity, and get in the road of our soul-winning. But in God's wonderful providence, everything He allows to get in our way can be a stepping stone rather than a stumbling stone.

Of course, it is up to us what we make of it. If we allow the enemy to stop us through these difficulties, then God is sorry. He is disappointed because His purpose in allowing the difficulty has not come to pass. He wants us to learn to do what when we get into trouble? Call upon Him, call upon Him. It doesn't make any difference what the difficulty is, dear friends.

When we came here 35 years ago this month, there wasn't very much here except what was yet to be seen. We started with just a little. Among other things we had to face were some obligations we had assumed on the property. We signed our name to some notes to pay off the obligation. I have a note here I like to look at. It is the last note payment on the property. It is marked paid. Four days before that last 500 dollar payment was due, we didn't know where one dollar was coming from. We didn't have it. We didn't know anyone who did and would let us have it. Do you know what we did?

We did what the text says. We were working, of course. We were plowing and spading, and working in the gardens and the farm, and looking toward getting some building done when we could. But we had to get the notes paid first. And friends, through four different people, the money for that last five hundred dollars was supplied, and we didn't have any of it four days before.

God has kept His promise again and again. Every building on this campus has been made possible by a miracle. No two alike. No two situations ever the same. But through them, all runs the golden thread of God's providence; the glorious fact of God answering prayer:

"Call unto Me..."

Jesus said,

"...and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not"  
Jeremiah 33:3.

This chapel we are sitting in tonight was a whole series of miracles. How God brought together the money, men and materials that made this building possible. The sanitarium over on the hill, when we started that several years ago, all we had money enough for was to pour the footings. How about taking what little money that you have and putting into footings—if you don't get any more, what good are the footings? I am glad that God kept pouring in the money and the materials and the men. More than once as that work progressed, the family on this campus had to gather together in this chapel and seek the Lord as to where the next was coming

from. But the workmen never stopped, my friends, they never stopped. God always had some way to go ahead. Prayer brought the answer.

Tonight I long that God shall inspire in every heart the confidence that He will help you solve your personal problems, for everybody has them. If there is a soul here who doesn't have any right now, you can think of one you had once upon a time, can't you? You can just as well take what we are studying tonight and salt it down, or put it in a deep freeze because you are going to need it. You are going to run into a problem tomorrow or next week. It may be a health problem. It may be a financial problem. It might be persecution. It might be a misunderstanding. It might be a difficulty in the home, or a difficulty with some neighbor, or with some brother or sister in the church. Jesus said it is too bad that offenses come, but they have to come. That is, people have to be tested and tried. And in every difficulty we are to see, what? A call to prayer. Not a call to faultfinding. Not a call to complaining. Not a call to analyzing people and finding what is the matter with *them*. What in the world is the matter with them! Why do they make so much trouble for me? Why indeed? In every difficulty we are to see, what? A call to prayer, a call to prayer. Thank God, He is in the prayer-hearing and prayer-answering business.

When you pray about your personal problem, do you know the place to pray for them? We will go to Matthew chapter six, and we will find out; the sixth verse:

“But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet...”

What's “the closet”? Well, it is a room where you can be by yourself.

“...and when thou hast shut thy door...”

What do you shut the door for? For privacy.

“...pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly” Matthew 6:6.

Secret prayer—praying alone. I was noticing some interesting comments on this in *Volume 1*, pages 145–146:

“When the subjects of our prayers are at a distance, the closet is the proper place to plead with God for them”  
*Testimonies for the Church, Volume 1*, pages 145–146.

Shall I come to this congregation and say, “I wish that you would pray for my uncle. He is going to be operated on next week in Houston”? No.

Shall I come to you and say, “I wish that you would pray for my brother or my aunt. I am sending them these Times magazines, and I wish that you would pray for them that God will help them to accept the Message”?

“When the subjects of our prayers are at a distance, the closet is the proper place to plead with God for them” *Ibid.*

What about the members of our families? The same page:

“We should not come to the house of God to pray for our families unless deep feeling shall lead us while the Spirit of God is convicting them. Generally, the proper place to pray for our families is at the family altar” *Ibid.*

Now you will notice three kinds of prayer here: prayer all alone with God in the closet. Family prayer at the family altar. Then public prayer in the congregation. And there are proper subjects for each of these.

There is a similar statement in *Volume 2*, page 578:

“In private prayer all have the privilege of praying as long as they desire and of being as explicit as they please. They can pray for all their relatives and friends...”

Where? In private prayer.

“...The closet is the place to tell all their private difficulties, and trials, and temptations. A common meeting to worship God is not the place to open the privacies of the heart”  
*Testimonies for the Church, Volume 2*, page 578.

When we have a testimony meeting, that is not the time to tell all your personal and private problems, and sins, mistakes and failures. No. Where's the place to do that? Where, what did we read? The closet—open up the heart to God. In fact that is the purpose of being alone with God. Aren't there a lot of problems that you have that you would rather not tell other people about? I hope you have some inhibition in those matters.

Notice the promise that if we persevere with God in secret prayer, the results will be seen openly. The victories that God gives us, the deliverances that He works out, the solution of problems—will bring a light to our countenance, a joy in our experience, that will cause others to rejoice with us in God's wonderful plan of salvation. You see, dear friend, prayer is not a matter of influencing one another. Prayer is a matter of laying hold of the mighty arm of God and getting God to move in our behalf. And the reason—God has a strategy in all of this.

The reason that God calls us to come into a secret place is not simply that the things that we want to talk with *Him* about are of a private nature. Some of the things that He wants to talk with *us* about are of a private nature. Many a time, God has talked to me about things while I was kneeling down. I was asking Him for help, either for myself or others: things that other people didn't talk to me about, maybe things that other people didn't know, duties that He wanted me to do, weaknesses that He wanted me to correct, sins that He wanted to take out of my life, or errands that He wanted me to go on for Him. Oh yes, these secret prayer occasions are precious fellowship opportunities between the soul and God. Aren't they, dear friends?

This is the fount of blessing. Public prayer and family prayer have their place, but it is secret communion with God that sustains the soul's life. Without this, we are dry and withered like a plant without water.

Now, many people who can pray in public even, or at the family altar—when they get alone with God, it seems difficult for them to pray. Let me give you a few practical suggestions in that. One is, pray aloud. “Well,” you say, “what’s the use of praying aloud? There is nobody to hear.” Yes, God is waiting to hear. “Well, God can hear me, can’t He? Whether I open my lips or not? Sure He can. He can read your mind. Then why pray? Why pray at all?”

Well, the reason to pray is that He told us to. We just read it in our text, didn’t we? Let’s repeat it again:

“And call upon Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me” Psalms 50:15.

Ah my friends, when Jesus was in Gethsemane, do you suppose that He merely thought the prayer when He was talking to his father? Oh no, He cried—He cried to God. And Jesus is waiting for us to talk to Him.

The truth of the matter is that opening our lips and framing our words helps us to keep our minds on what we are praying about. Now to pray aloud does not mean loud. If there’s somebody so close by that that you have to whisper in order to be in secret, you can do that. My point is, open your lips and speak to God in secret prayer.

Another thing that is helpful in secret prayer is taking your Bible and letting God speak to you with its pages as you speak to Him in prayer. Instead of just kneeling down and thinking, “Now what shall I pray about?” (You may have something on your heart; you may pray about that.) If you will take the Word of God and let God begin to speak to you in its pages, then you will have something to talk to him about. Respond—talk to Him about what He has talked to you about.

Another reason for having the Word of God when you pray is the same reason that you take a check to the bank when you want money. Suppose that we visit the bank someday and see one person after another going up there to the teller’s window and coming away with money. Suppose somebody should say, “Well, that that looks easy. I wonder if they would give me some.” And so, suppose that person goes up and says, “Will you give me some money? I just saw a man take \$100.00 away, and another one took \$50.00. Would you give me \$10.00?” Will he give him \$10.00? Not unless he has what? A check. Sure, a man can get \$100.00 if he has a check endorsed. But he can’t even get \$10.00 without the check.

The promises of God are checks. And if you and I will bring God His own promises, and endorse them: “Lord, I know that this is meant for me. And I am submitting Your promise.” Oh friends, there is no limit to what God is waiting to do!



I want you to turn over to those closing words that Jesus had with His disciples there in the upper room. Wonderful words of promise here in John the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter, and the 24<sup>th</sup> verse. He came to the 11 there and said:

“Hitherto have ye asked nothing in My name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full” John 16:24.

They were to ask in whose name? Jesus’ name. We have nothing to recommend us to God. We have no reason to expect that He will look upon us in favor in our sins and weaknesses. But if we come in Jesus’ name—if we accept Him as our Savior and Substitute, praise God friends, His name has power in the courts above! His name is recognized. I can bring His name if I accept His nature—His character, and *all* that Jesus deserves can be mine. Oh, I want that, don’t you? Thank God, I can have it. And in every difficulty, I am to see, what? The call to prayer.

Somebody says, “Brother Frazee, I have prayed, but nothing seems to happen. What shall I do?” Keep on praying, keep on praying.

You remember in Luke, the eleventh chapter that Jesus told the story about the man who at midnight had a friend come to see him, and there was no food in the house. The man had, apparently, been traveling all day and into the night, and he needed something to eat. What did this man do? Why he went to a neighbor...

[Elder Frazee knocks on the lectern]

“Who is there?”

“Your friend—your neighbor.”

“What in the world do you want at this time of the night?”

“ Why I have a friend who has come. He is hungry, and I don’t have anything. Will you get up and lend me three loaves of bread?”

“Oh, I am sleeping. The children are with me. You had better not bother me tonight.”

What did the man do? He kept on until the man got up and got him the bread. You remember, don’t you? It is all there in Luke 11. Jesus told the story not to teach us that God doesn’t like to be bothered. Nothing of the kind. But (get the lesson) if a selfish man will finally give in and get the bread and give it to the man who keeps on asking, how much *more* God will hear the persistent prayers of those who continue in supplication. That’s what He’s telling us.

So ask and it shall be given you. Jesus has got answers for your prayers. Is it true, friends? Is Jesus really up there at the mercy seat holding up His wounded hands for us? Is the light from Calvary reflecting from those golden walls? Is the heart that was broken for us at Golgotha thinking of us tonight?

Oh, as the servant of God says:

“What a wonder it is that we pray so little!” *Steps to Christ*, page 94.

But I tell you honestly (our human hearts work this way) if we can find *any* other way to solve a problem, we will do it. Prayer is usually the last resort. Yes, isn't it? That's why God sometimes has to just shut every door until He can get us to enter the door that leads into the closet—alone with Him.

Anybody here tonight decided that you are going to take some problem to Jesus in prayer? May I see your hands? Thank God, He can give you as much attention as though you were the only one.

Don't ask me how He does it. I only know He does. Yes, He is looking after me as if all He had to do was to just to see that my prayers are answered, my calls are responded to. He is a wonderful friend, a wonderful friend!

Alright, we are going to have a little time of witnessing now. We'll ask that our testimonies be short. There are two kinds of testimonies that I am asking for, especially tonight:

The first, there is somebody here that can say, “Yes, I know that Jesus answers prayer because he answers mine.” Now, we won't have time tonight for you to tell us a long experience. But if you could just add your word that God is true. That will bless some soul and make Jesus happy.

But there is another kind of testimony that I am listening for tonight—somebody is going to say, “I've got some problems, and I see tonight that Jesus has the answer. And I'm going to seek Him with all my heart, and I know that He is going to hear me.

Alright, come dear ones, you who want to speak.

[A man from the congregation who may be Warren Wilson] I'm thankful that God's plan is to close every door so that we'll have to come to Him in prayer. And I am thankful that He does things that way because I get awfully lonely for Him in between problems.

[Elder Frazee] It will get lonely for you too, brother.

[The man from the congregation continues] I want to tell you a wonderful answer to prayer, and you don't know about it yet.

[Elder Frazee] Well, listen then.

[The man from the congregation continues] You know, we're (Wildwood) running such a big operation all over the world, and we don't have the money to run it. The Lord finances it. Our group up in New Hampshire are struggling to get started this first old winter. Brother Attwood called me about it yesterday morning. We are trying to get out this set of English books that are going to cost \$35,000.00 to

get the first 10,000 of each one printed. We didn't know how we were going to finance this thing. So, brother Atwood said that in talking to some wealthy Seventh-day Adventists printers in the East, and as we were explaining this dilemma to them and one of the men said, "Well, I'll loan you that \$35,000.00 for six months.

That's an answer to my prayer, your prayer, brother Atwood's prayer and a lot of other prayers.

[Elder Frazee] Thank you, brother, that is right up to date.

[A woman from the congregation named Jill] I thank the Lord that He answers prayers. The story that Doctor Hansen related tonight had a very familiar ring to when I was growing up as a teenager in Columbia. But I am not going to tell you about any of those numerous, numerous prayers that we experienced being answered there at that time. God answers prayers right here in Wildwood. I would like to fill in a few sentences about something that happened just within the last two weeks on behalf of someone else in the village.

Our health department has been going over Hooker to do missionary work. We went out two weeks ago tomorrow to give out the *Ministry of Healing* to the very house which we gave bread not too long ago. When I had visited this one particular home, the lady did not let me in the door the first time because she said that her husband had been sick and her house had been having not been in enough order for me to go in and visit. But we had a wonderful visit on the front porch.

The last couple of Sabbaths, when I went back, she invited us in. We went in and her husband was not yet well. He was in his living room, and his leg perched up. I got a chance to look at his leg and in between every toe was matter coming out of his skin. It was very inflamed, and he had a very bad case of cellulitis. So, we talked a little about that he was giving it the right treatment that the doctor had prescribed—except for one thing.

I noticed that as we talked, conversed and the conversation was very free and easy, that he was smoking one cigarette right after the other. That very day was the day before our five-day stop smoking plan was supposed to start. So, we had carried along a few of the invitations to invite people to this stop smoking plan. However, I saw that the way that he was smoking would not make it an easy thing, so we continued on to other subjects.

About the time that we were to leave, I said to him,

"I presume that you know that you will need good circulation in order for that foot to get well."

He was well aware of that. He said that his doctor had told him about that. I asked him if he knew that cigarettes were closing up his arteries and that he was not getting the oxygen he needed to the toes. He said, "Oh yes, my doctor has asked me to stop smoking. But I don't want to stop." He said, "I *like* to smoke, and I want to continue smoking." And so, he thought like that for quite a while.

I said to him, "Well, we are having a program start tomorrow for people who would like to stop smoking. But if you do not have the desire to stop, then we probably will not be able to help you."

He continued to affirm me that he really did not want to stop. Then he looked at me after a while and said,

"But you really want me to stop, don't you?"

I said, "Yes, I really do. And your wife really feels bad that you are sick, but I really believe that God feels worse than she or I do."

He said, "Well, if a person doesn't really want to stop, then how can he stop?"

[Elder Frazee] That's a very good question.

[The lady from the congregation resumes] The Lord was good to me to give me this little answer that I said to him, "Well, I can't give you that desire, but God can give you that desire." And if you ask Him, He will give it to you. And he looked so longingly up into my face. I asked him if this was the time to pray for him. So, we volunteered to pray for him, and he said, "Yes, I want for you to pray for me." So we knelt right there in his living room and prayed for him. And so, I left a card with him telling him to call us if he decided that he wanted to go the next day because he could not drive and his wife did not know how to drive. So, we would have to provide transportation.

All day Sunday, I prayed for that man, and he didn't call. And it was 10:00am, and he didn't call. My husband was about to come home from the stop smoking plan, and I couldn't get my mind off of him. So, I decided that I was going to call, but then I realized that it was too late. But the next day I called in the evening. I asked his wife, "how is your husband feeling?" I thought that perhaps he could start the stop smoking plan late, even though he missed one day. And she said to me, "My husband is doing just fine. He hasn't smoked once since you prayed for him."

[Elder Frazee] Praise the Lord.

[A man from the congregation] I'm thankful that the Lord answered our prayers—prayers of the past and our prayers for today. What a blessing to know that all perplexities are gone! And I am thankful that the Lord is going to answer for tomorrow.

[A woman from the congregation] I too, just wanted to say tonight that I am so thankful that the Lord does answer prayers. And not just once in a while, either. It was really thrilling to hear sister Jill's talk tonight because we were praying for that man too. And it was just one of the little things. I have been so impressed lately; Jesus said that if your faith be as a mustard seed... I think, "Oh Lord, if I had some more faith just think what I could do." So, I am just praying that the Lord will give me more faith, so that I can really believe what He says.

[Elder Frazee] Sister, you know how to get more, don't you?

[The woman from the congregation responds] Ask for it.

[Elder Frazee responds] Yes, but use what you have. Faith is like muscle—it grows as you use it.

[Another woman from the congregation] I'm a category one. I'm so thankful that the Lord answers our prayers and that He loves us. I'm especially thankful because I know it's a thrill to the angels sometimes, when Jesus and the angels arrange to answers while I am still thinking about praying them. This has happened to me many times when I am thinking, "Now here is a problem and I know that Jesus wants to do something about this but I don't know what He wants to do. So, I am going to pray about it." And before I get around to praying about it, He's already answered it. And of course He said that He would.

[Elder Frazee] Thank you, sister. Glad to see you, Homer!

[Homer] The day before yesterday I arrived here again from San Jose, Costa Rica. On an extended trip down through Central America, we visited nine of God's programs that are being carried on throughout Central America. The joy to me—in almost every program, I have conversations with different ones who are truly seeking God's way; who are desiring to get back to the pattern in one way or another. This gave me courage to believe that the Lord could help in a project that I am carrying on.

On our way down, we visited and came to the conclusion that the Lord wanted us to have more farmland. After looking around quite extensively, we saw many doors close. And all of a sudden, we saw a door open wide. My brother-in-law had been wanting to sell his property at a very reasonable price for a long time, but he couldn't find a buyer. So, the Lord opened that door. But, as you can well imagine, that these many problems that are unsolved yet—Richard Scott needed to get moved down, we need money for planting crops and equipment.

And so you can imagine that I've been in prayer since I had nothing else to do while I was riding all that way. We had a few other problems, too, to bring my mind to prayer. But apparently, I'm in the second category, and I imagine that some of the other folks here who are interested in our project are also in that category in that matter. So, I ask an interest in your prayers as we continue to pray that the Lord will continue to impress hearts and that He will also change hearts because there are hearts that need to be changed and more completely dedicated to Him as He opens doors so that the work can expand in that area of our world.

[Elder Frazee] Amen. Thank you, brother.

[A woman from the congregation] It's so interesting how we grow in the Christian life. I can well remember when I first became a Seventh-day Adventist. It was sort of on the emergency room basis. Whenever I had a problem, I would pray, but I didn't know too much about the in-between times. I don't remember exactly when I began to find out that I didn't have to do all this thinking. I used to think that it

was a kind of cheating if I didn't do all the praying all at once, and if I read a little poem or something—that was someone else's, and that wasn't my prayer. I had found that in opening the Bible and reading the promises of God and meditating upon the promises that I have read have enriched my prayer life very much.

It makes it a little bit longer, but that way, God and I can communicate together. And this is one of the most precious things that I have learned about praying—that it is not just a one-way street from me to God; it goes both ways.

[Elder Frazee] Thank you.

[Another woman from the congregation] I feel comfortable asking for a new heart or a new spirit. But I feel that sometimes that it is a waste of time to pray about little things, but the Lord reminded me that He does care about little things. Recently, I had this spider plant in my room, and it has been growing for two years very well, putting out lots of new leave but no shoots—baby spider plants. I did everything that I could to make it put out new shoots: I watered it faithfully, I repotted it, I did all these things. I couldn't figure out why it wasn't putting out new shoots.

So after two years, I thought, "Well, I'm going to pray about this." I thought that it was really silly, but I knelt down and said, "Lord, this is a minor thing, but if You want, could you make this plant have a new shoot." I made the prayer like He didn't have to do it, but if it was His will. I thought that this was ridiculous and that nothing was going to happen. And then, in a matter of days, that plant gave two new shoots. And on each shoot, there's not only one but there's a whole bunch of beautiful little blossoms.

When we went up to Washington, it got really cold in that room, and the leaves on the side of the window froze. But those new little shoots look better than ever. So, the Lord does care about little things.

[Elder Frazee] Thank you.

[Another woman from the congregation] I was reading about promises that we can trust in the Lord. There are a lot of people that believe that if you claim enough promises and believe hard enough, then your prayers will be answered. And all you have to do is claim the promise. But I was reading in one of these books by Elder Venden what happened to Huss and Jerome. They had all kinds of promises that they claimed, but they still were burned. Well, the idea was to trust God with your life, enough if it means doing something that you would not choose, like being burned. I'm thankful that the Lord has taken the burden of me trying to plan my life and to just trust Him because He loves me so much and wants the best for me. I just praise Him for that revelation tonight.

[Elder Frazee] Good! Your getting through the second grade, and you'll be ready for third.

[A man from the congregation] I am sure that there are some folks here tonight who need to know how to pray and get answers like this. That's the reason

that I wanted to say a word. I didn't know how to pray or anything about praying, but I wanted to be a Christian. I got on my knees, and I said, "Lord, make me a Christian," and that's all that I said. And I'm here tonight. Another time shortly after that, I wanted to quit smoking. So I said, "Lord, I can't do it, so You will have to do it for me." I smoked almost three packs a day. I got up and never touched cigarettes from that time to this day.

But there is something that I regret, folks, and I want to bring it to your attention. Do you know what I regret as I look back at times that I neglected to pray? Whenever you have the need, don't neglect to pray. Call on God and He will answer.

[Elder Frazee] Let's say our text again:

"And call upon Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee,  
and thou shalt glorify Me" Psalm 50:15.

Is there anyone here tonight that has never given your heart to Jesus, and you will tonight and you want our prayers, will you stand?

Is there somebody here tonight that once gave your heart to Jesus, but you took it back, and you have been walking without Him? Tonight you want to give your heart back to Him, will you stand? Just remain standing.

Is there somebody else who says, "Yes, Lord!"

God bless you, sister. Just remain standing a moment.

Somebody else who says, "God is calling me. I'm making a full surrender tonight."

Is there somebody here tonight who says, "I've got a problem—a special problem that God knows all about. And tonight I'm determining by God's help to press into prayer so that Jesus can solve that problem." Will you raise your hands?

Shall we kneel together?

Our father, bless these who tonight who have stood in decision. Put their hands in the hand of Jesus. Take them, Lord, very close to Thy dear heart. And make them know how glad Heaven is for their return. Fill them with Thy good Spirit. And Lord, You've seen these scores of hands of those who have a problem. Who is there here tonight that doesn't have some kind of problem, Lord? We're bringing them to Thee individually, specifically just now.

And we pray for we know that our prayers are heard through Jesus' name. We pray that Thou wilt take each desire as though that one were the only one that was coming from this planet tonight. And we believe that our prayer is heard because we believe that it is Christ that died, is risen, ascended and intercedes for us. And we thank Thee in His name, amen.

[Elder Frazee and the congregation sing “the Doxology”]

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