

## Emmanuel Prayer List - August

### Church Ministries start up in September; Volunteers Needed

- Awana: mid week kids' program.
- Sunday School teachers: during both Worship Services on Sunday.
- Celebrate Recovery leaders.
- Fusion and Surge for pre-teens and teens.
- Welcome Team and Communion prep and clean up.
- Ask God where He wants you to serve.

(After a long time of isolation, many volunteers are needed in all ministries.)

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### Study Continued

9. Read the statements below from Charles Haddon Spurgeon.

Now read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. Based on these and the words of Psalm 13, think about the following:

Why does God allow suffering?

Can suffering be beneficial?

How does God use suffering for His purposes?

Is suffering a sign of God having forgotten us, or ignoring us?

What can we do in the midst of a struggle to be more aware of the blessing of God?



### Charles Haddon Spurgeon 1834-1892

Spurgeon was called the prince of preachers, and continues to be very influential even today. He was a man who loved God with all his being, but struggled with many difficulties, including intense depressions.

Spurgeon once said, "I am the subject of depressions of spirit so fearful that I hope none of you

ever gets to such extremes of wretchedness as I go to."

### Spurgeon began one of his sermons this way:

"Whilst I shall be endeavoring to encourage those who are distressed and downhearted, I shall be preaching, I trust to myself for I need something which shall cheer my heart - why I cannot tell, wherefore I do not know, but I have a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me; my soul is cast down within me; I feel as if I had rather die than live; all that God hath done by me seems to be forgotten, and my spirit flags and my courage breaks down. I need your prayers.

Spurgeon also said, "Depression of spirit is no index of declining Grace - the very loss of joy and the absence of assurance may be accompanied by the greatest advancement in the spiritual life."



### HOW LONG O LORD

### Psalm 13

*"How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?*

*How long will you hide your face from me?*

*How long must I wrestle with my thoughts*

*and day after day have sorrow in my heart?*

*How long will my enemy triumph over me?"*

## Psalm 13 - HOW LONG O LORD

Ps 34:8 Taste and see that the Lord is good, \_\_\_\_\_ is the one who takes refuge in Him.

### DAVID'S COMPLAINT v.1-2

How long \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### DAVID'S PRAYER v.3-4

Look on me and \_\_\_\_\_ O Lord my God

2 Cor 1:3-4

Give \_\_\_\_\_ to my eyes or I will sleep in death

John 8:12

My enemy will say \_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 26:3

2 Timothy 1:12

### DAVID'S DELIVERANCE v.5-6

I \_\_\_\_\_ in your unfailing love

Matthew 11:28-29

My heart \_\_\_\_\_ in your salvation

Hebrews 12:1-3

I will \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord for He has been \_\_\_\_\_ to me.

1. If you have ever been in a difficult situation that seemed to never end, and there seemed no release from it, what was it that kept you going?
2. Read Psalm 13:1-2. We don't know what specific situation David is in, but how would you describe each of the four 'how long' statements, and the kind of situations they might be referring to?

Which of these, if any, can you relate to most?

3. Read Psalm 13:3-4. David cries out to God, looking for answers. Why do you think God often doesn't give answers to the question, 'Why?'

Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. From these verses, how does God use our suffering for His purposes? How have you seen this in your own life?

4. David asks for God to give light to his eyes. What do you think he means by this? Read John 8:12. From this verse, how does Jesus enable us to see beyond our difficulties and hardship, and live by faith.
5. Read Isaiah 26:3 and 2 Timothy 1:12. What do these verses say about how God keeps us safe?
6. Tim Hansel says, "Sometimes it seems that when God is about to make preeminent use of a person, he puts them through the fire." Can you think of some Biblical, or non-Biblical, examples of this?
7. Read Psalm 13:5-6 and Hebrews 12:1-3. Despite his troubles, David kept his eyes focused on the Lord. What practical things does Hebrews 12:1-3 give us to help us keep our eyes focused on God?
8. Read Matthew 11:28-29. If we are to find rest for our souls, these two verses tell us to do three things. What are they and how do we do each of them?

How can taking the 'yoke' of Jesus on us bring rest for our souls?