

# BELIEVING LOYALTY REWARDED

You could find yourself in an different place around unfamiliar people and in need of assistance. If that need were urgent enough, you would cry out for anyone to help you. Now, if circumstances were more normal (you are at home or around family and friends) and you needed help, you would not run off seeking assistance from total strangers. You would appeal to those you love and trust. Also, think how those closest to you would feel if you did ignore them and ask for help from strangers.

Who makes your list of those you love and trust. They are probably coming to your mind as you read this. Who are the ones you could call at a moments notice and ask anything of them? Now, is the Lord at the top of that list? Does he even make the short (or the long) list at all? You may be thinking that I tricked you with these questions. However, if my full loyalty and allegiance are to God, then shouldn't he be the first person I turn to when I am in need?

In Psalm 20, David shows a steadfast and loyal dependence upon Yahweh for everything aspect of life. Not only would David seek help from the LORD for himself, this poem illustrates how he would petition for God's help and favor on behalf of others as well. I encourage you to read Psalm 20 several times and meditate on it while you drink your coffee or hot tea. It's a shorter psalm (only nine verses) and I have broken it down into two main parts which I call "Supplication" (vv1-5) and "Salvation" (vv6-9).

The first five verses include nine requests made to Yahweh for someone else. David is calling on the LORD to take action for the benefit of another. He requests God to answer, protect, send help, grant support, remember, accept, give, make plans succeed, and grant requests. I should have the same spirit as David has here - looking to others needs and going to God on their behalf instead of focusing only on my own issues.

The last four verses demonstrate a complete trust in Yahweh's ability to deliver those who are faithful to him. He answers and he is capable of doing something about it. Some really trust in themselves. If they don't see a way through alone, they then turn to family or friends. If there is no help to be found, then they seek assistance from their community (usually through the government). Maybe somewhere during that process, they "sent up a prayer" to God, but it was more out of desperation because they weren't able to solve the problem themselves.

When things are going well, pray for others. Pray that the Lord will answer them when they are distressed. Pray for their protection. Pray that God would help them, support them, remember them, and grant their requests when they turn to him. And when things aren't going so well, turn to the Lord first and foremost, and hopefully there will be others praying to him for you. God is faithful to his promises and he has promised to take care of those who are loyal to him and trust him completely.

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