

"The End of The Rope"



The Beatitudes

How often we think we can handle something, and then, as they say –The bottom falls out. According to this beatitude that is what has to happen often before we realize that we can handle it with God's help, and we let Him take over. Then things are fine. But we must get to that point when we let Him rule. At these times when our spirit is low we are depending on ourselves too much. A fairly new translation of the Bible called The Message by Eugene Peterson puts this beatitude this way. –*"You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule."*

There have been many times in our lives when this happens. I remember one night when our son was very young and we could not get his temperature down. As young parents, we had tried

everything we knew to do. We had given him the medicine the doctor had prescribed, and we had put cool compresses on him. We were at the end of our rope! We had done everything we knew to do as young parents. Only then, we decided to pray. An hour later the temperature broke.

Many times after that I have realized that I can't do it. I don't have that capability whether as a parent, a teacher, or just an individual. But, when we give our problems to God, He provides.

I remember a calligraphy I read once. It said "I'll put it in God's hands tonight, and tomorrow I'll take it back and settle it." I think that is true of us so many times, and many we don't even realize. We are so proud. Yet, we are poor in spirit until we get to the end of the rope, and realize that God has been there all the time.



A poem called, "Footprints in the Sand" written by a young woman, named Mary Stevenson also exemplifies this. There are several versions, but this one is supposedly the earliest.



"Footprints in the Sand"

"One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord. Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.

In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand.

Sometimes there were two sets of footprints, other times there was one only. This bothered me because I noticed that during the low periods of my life, when I was suffering from anguish, sorrow or defeat,

I could see only one set of footprints, so I said to the Lord,

"You promised me Lord, that if I followed you, you would walk with me always.

But I have noticed that during the most trying periods of my life there has only been one set of footprints in the sand.

Why, when I needed you most, have you not been there for me?"

The Lord replied, "The years when you have seen only one set of footprints, my child, is when I carried you."

So often, we don't realize that God is carrying us. Maybe it is because we do not allow him. He is there on the beach or anywhere that we allow him to be. We are all important to him. He carries us

even when we don't stop to realize he is there.

If we are poor in Spirit, we need God's love and amazing grace in our lives. We all fall into that category. However, there are some that don't feel this need. When Christ told this beatitude he knew there were Pharisees among the crowd of people. Christ also knew they were sinners. The Pharisee type of person didn't understand why Christ would be associating with them. Actually when we think we can handle everything on our own that is when we are most in need of our Savior's grace and blessings.

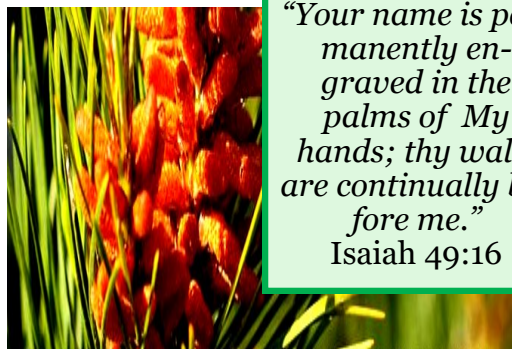
Human beings have an inborn spiritual need...only God can fill that need, and he does it through his Word, the Bible.



We are sometimes like the Pharisee and think we can handle everything on our own. We are then very poor in God's Spirit. However, when we realize our sins and we are seeking God's love we will be blessed with inexpressible spiritual riches and joy. God's promises are always there for us. Have you ever felt like you were at the end of the rope? Sometimes in little things we can help ourselves through prayer, but so often we need to seek help. It may be from a family member or friend, or we may need professional help. We need to remember that God provides that help

whether through family, friends, or professionals. God is there and we need to go seek His help I pray that if you know someone who needs help, you will seek ways through prayer to help that person. It isn't bad to need help, it can be a very enriching experience. You can be the one who needs help or the one helped.

Many times when we reach out to love others, we receive so much satisfaction and we end up very blessed. A wonderful song says *"Reach out and touch. . . If you dare."*



"Your name is permanently engraved in the palms of My hands; thy walls are continually before me."
Isaiah 49:16

"What then shall we say of these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" Romans 8:31-33

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." John 10:28

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help us keep our spirits high with You at the helm, and help us to show others that Spirit of You that You have given us as we face daily life, and then realize that with You all things are possible, but without You we are helpless and flounder trying to do it all ourselves. Please, dear Lord, be with us this day and every day. Amen.

1. How far do we need to go before we realize we can't handle it alone?
2. How can God become more important in our life when we have trials?
3. Why does God carry us?
4. How can we show our appreciation?
5. Is there someone who needs your help?

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"Don't worry about other people's opinions of you. God never told you to impress people; only to love them."
Dave Willis

