

HOW PRAYER CHANGES THINGS.

#6 "Take Care of Me"

2 Kings 4:1-7 (NLT) One day the widow of a member of the group of prophets came to Elisha and cried out, "My husband who served you is dead, and you know how he feared the LORD. But now a creditor has come, threatening to take my two sons as slaves." "What can I do to help you?" Elisha asked. "Tell me, what do you have in the house?" "Nothing at all, except a flask of olive oil," she replied. And Elisha said, "Borrow as many empty jars as you can from your friends and neighbors. Then go into your house with your sons and shut the door behind you. Pour olive oil from your flask into the jars, setting each one aside when it is filled." So she did as she was told. Her sons kept bringing jars to her, and she filled one after another. Soon every container was full to the brim! "Bring me another jar," she said to one of her sons. "There aren't any more!" he told her. And then the olive oil stopped flowing. When she told the man of God what had happened, he said to her, "Now sell the olive oil and pay your debts, and you and your sons can live on what is left over."

1. Lack is a _____ of life.

5 benefits of tough times:

- Teach us valuable lessons.
- Draw us to God.
- Make us long for heaven.
- Provide opportunities for God to demonstrate His grace and power.
- Help us become more effective in ministry to others.

2. When facing lack, _____ with prayer; don't _____ with fear.

- God already knows about your troubles.

Matthew 10:29-31 (NIV) Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

- God cares deeply about your troubles.

Matthew 6:30 (NLT) And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

- God invites you to come to Him with your troubles.

Psalm 18:3 (NLT) I called on the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and he saved me from my enemies.

Matthew 11:28 (NLT) Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

Hebrews 4:16 (NLT) So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

James 5:13 (NCV) Anyone who is having troubles should pray...

James 5:13 (MSG) Are you hurting? Pray...

3. Prayer helps us see _____.

4. Prayer helps us see _____ - _____ pathways.

2 Kings 4:3-6 (NLT) And Elisha said, "Borrow as many empty jars as you can from your friends and neighbors. Then go into your house with your sons and shut the door behind you. Pour olive oil from your flask into the jars, setting each one aside when it is filled." So she did as she was told. Her sons kept bringing jars to her, and she filled one after another. Soon every container was full to the brim! "Bring me another jar," she said to one of her sons. "There aren't any more!" he told her. And then the olive oil stopped flowing.

5. Prayer accesses _____ resources.