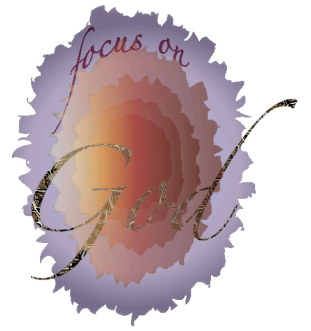


# Prayer in Crisis!

## Jeremiah



My observation has been that when life gets hard, we try to get out! Automatically we think that something must be amiss if life isn't smooth and comfortable. Larry Crabb says, "We are committed to our comfort. But God is committed to our growth and character development!" Wasn't it the Holy Spirit, through the brother of Jesus who said, "Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way." James 1:2-4 Message. And wasn't it the Holy Spirit, through Paul who wrote, "We can rejoice too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us - they help us learn to endure. And endurance develops strength of character in us, and character strengthens our confident expectation of salvation. and this expectation will not disappoint us. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love." Romans 5:3-5 NLT. Ponder, soak, and meditate on Jeremiah's prayer in chapter 32. But before you read his beautiful and eloquent prayer beginning in verse 17, read the first sixteen verses to gain the context of his prayer.

"Ah, Lord God! It is you who has made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you. You show steadfast love to thousands, but you repay the guilt of fathers to their children after them, O great and mighty God, whose name is the LORD of hosts, great in counsel and mighty in deed, whose eyes are open to all the ways of the children of man, rewarding each one according to his ways and according to the fruit of his deeds. You have shown signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, and to this day in Israel and among all mankind, and have made a name for yourself, as at this day. You brought your people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs and wonders, with a strong hand and outstretched arm, and with great terror. And you gave them this land, which you swore to their fathers to give them, a land flowing with milk and honey. And they entered and took possession of it. But they did not obey your voice or walk in your law. They did nothing of all you commanded them to do. Therefore you have made all this disaster come upon them. Behold, the siege mounds have come up to the city to take it, and because of sword and famine and pestilence the city is given into the hands of the Chaldeans who are fighting against it. What you spoke has come to pass, and behold, you see it. Yet you, O Lord God, have said to me, 'Buy the field for money and get witnesses' – though the city is given into the hands of the Chaldeans." Jeremiah 32:17-25 ESV

Jeremiah was unjustly thrown in prison. He was the faithful prophet of God. His prophecy was coming true. The king of Israel hated him. All the other prophets were against him. He was standing alone in his cell. Yet, he asked for nothing! Why would he pray like this? How could he pray like this in a time of crisis? What can we learn from his prayer life?