

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE LETTER OF JAMES

LORD, TAKE MY HAND AND LEAD ME

James 5:13 "Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray."

Your life experiences can easily be the occasion of spiritual upset. Through trials, tribulations, problems and suffering the Devil attempts to lead you to "curse" God. He wants you to lose patience with God, abandon your dependence upon Him, fret, worry and become depressed.

You will experience trials and tribulations. You will experience rough spots. There will be high inflation, high prices, and the like. You may suffer economic hardships. Your family, friends, fellow Christians, co-workers and/or employers may not support you like you think they ought. You may suffer religious persecution. You may even feel that God has abandoned you.

Depending upon which translation of the Bible you have, there are as many as 700 passages that mention or encourage prayer. This would indicate that the Holy Spirit, in inspiring the Holy Scriptural writers encouraged prayer so the readers of the Holy Scriptures would know of the importance of prayer. He addressed this instruction to you to pray for you to know how much you can depend upon Almighty God to hear and answer your prayers throughout your life journey.

James writes, "Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray." In your prayers pour out your heart to God." (James 5:13) St. Paul addresses this topic with these words, "The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:5-7)

Peter wrote to Christians who were suffering these words and they are also God's word to you, "the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself

restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever.” (1 Peter 5:9-11)

Prayer: Lord, give me a faith that will lead me to pray continuously. Amen.

Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life's way;
Direct, protect, and feed me From Day to day.
Without Your grace and favor I go astray;
So take my hand, O Savior, And lead the way.

Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear,
For You, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.
Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe,
For when Your hand is guiding, In peace I go.

Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come,
I know that You will strengthen My steps toward home.
Then nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend;
So take my hand and lead me Unto the end.
(LSB 722)