

GOD CAN HELP

Ephesians 3:20-21

Introduction: Sometimes there come situations we just can't handle by ourselves and we react in various manners. We go into a quiet "mode" where we don't say anything to anybody, we just sort of retreat into our selves. Sometimes we seek advice from friends, sometimes we try to pretend that nothing has happened. There is a source one can turn to that can give help and that source is almighty God. Of all the people who should go to God first when troubles come, it should be the Christian. Let's think for a bit on "taking hold of God."

I. GOD IS ABLE AND WILL FORGIVE ANY OF US

- How can we (vile, evil) come into His presence? How dare we call upon His holy name, etc.?
 - *Psalm 24:3-4* - Everyone of us is sinful.
- How can any of us ever enter Heaven? (*Revelation 21:27*)
- We seem to be further FROM God, but never NEARER to God and the more unworthy we become.
 - *Isaiah 6:5; Luke 5:8*
- "Lord, is it too much to ask that our sins be forgiven?" (*1 John 1:7*)
- How does God forgive our sins?
 - As a friend once redeemed a slave from slavery.
 - *1 Peter 1:18-19* - The friend bought his friend out of slavery
 - Our debt has been paid by a "friend" and we have been set free.
 - We have been healed of disease, raised from the dead by the blood of Jesus Christ.
 - God remembers the sins of a believer in Jesus Christ, no more.

II. GOD IS ABLE TO COMFORT

- We have but to ask God for strength and comfort in time of sorrow and soul needs.
- There is an account of a teenager who drowned and in grief one of the parents took his/her own life.
- A neighbor backed over a neighbor's little child and the little child's father killed the man who drove over his little child.
- Sorrow can warp our lives.
- There are choices we have - drink, drugs, suicide, etc., and then there is GOD!
- Sorrow can drive one away from God or bring one closer to God.
- No matter how deep the hurt, God can bring comfort.

III. GOD IS ABLE TO HELP ONE OVERCOME BITTERNESS

- Senior adults are very prone to grow bitter in their old age.
 - There was an old woman who was very bitter and wrote bitter letters and poems to people. She died and there was only one person at her funeral.
- As WE grow older, may we become sweet and kind, full of faith and full of hope in the Lord.
- God can help us overcome any and all bitterness we may have for whatever reason.

IV. GOD IS ABLE TO HELP US TRIUMPH OVER DEATH

- Is death all there is to life? Is death the end? Is there anything beyond death?
 - How many have asked that question as they approached death, totally unknowing about God.
- Is there life after death? Is there really a resurrection? Is there really something out there for us?
- God has things already worked out - we are born, live our human lives down here on earth, and our old corruptible bodies die. For the Christian, however, immediately upon the death of his/her earthly, human, old corruptible body, he/she is immediately transported into the presence of the Lord and will receive a new body that will never grow old, never get sick, be perfect throughout all eternity.
 - ***1 Corinthians 15:50-55***
- For the Christian, there is no defeat in death for Jesus Christ has assured, insured victory for the Christian.

CONCLUSION:

1. God can and will forgive any of us who come to Him in sincerity.
2. God is quite able to comfort us no matter the degree of hurt or suffering and is ready to do so.
3. God is able to help us overcome the bitterness that we have in difficult times of our lives and enable us to have a brighter outlook on life.
4. God is able to give us (Christians) victory over death for He has a wonderful place awaiting all who believe in His Son and not only that, but each believer will receive a new and eternal body that will be perfect in all ways.
5. No matter what the situation you find yourself in, God is able to deliver you. BUT you have to turn to Him in all sincerity.