

## Prayer: The Universal Cure

“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.” Ephesians 6:18

### DON'T MISS THE FOREST FOR THE TREES

Prayer is supremely important no matter the circumstance.

The prayer by the troubled serves to build confidence in God's control and build strength for godly response.

Songs by the happy serve to avoid a spirit of complacency and recognize God's blessing in our situation.

### WHEN YOU CAN'T DO IT YOURSELF

Things can get so bad you can't even pray.

When things get that bad, you don't just call people you have to call the right people.

**Some Things to Think About  
For the week of June 28, 2015**

Anointing is not medicinal, nor is it magical; but it is faith-building.

The “prayer of faith” often focuses on the wrong person and the wrong thing.

(“If I just believe enough, God has to heal me.”)

How does sin enter into the equation?

Another example of prayer ...

When we are hurting so bad, the temptation is to pray for the immediate relief instead of the ultimate good.

Spiritually mature people are called to give the wide perspective and pray the good prayer.

1. How would you characterize your emotional/spiritual state today? Troubled? Happy? Or so beat up you feel like you can't even pray?

What is driving your answer?

2. Read about Paul's chronic physical problem. What did he do and how did God answer? 2 Corinthians 12:6-10

According to the lesson that Paul learned, what might have happened had God answered his prayer (12:6)?

3. Think about the situation you described in the first answer. We probably can't answer the “what ifs” from a negative answer, but we can write down lessons learned. What have you been learning?

4. When things get so bad, we tend to curl up and hunker down. If you were in crisis, what elder-type (spiritually mature) person or people would you call to stand in the gap with you?