



# Finding God At Your Moment of Need

**“Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you” (Jeremiah 29:12).**

Bulletin VCM-058

04 November 2012

Our text begins with the word “Then”. “Then” is an adverb - a linking word to the preceding ones, and means a number of things including:

1. Immediately or soon afterward
2. Next in order of time
3. Next in order of place

It implies that as a result of preceding conditions being met, then promise that follows will be fulfilled.

Jeremiah 29:1-11 sets out the preconditions for the promises in verses 12 and 13 being fulfilled, some of the key ones being:

- (1) Recognising God’s true prophet in the midst of many false prophets and being willing to hearken to God’s word through them irrespective of current circumstances (the prospect of captivity in this case) (vs1-3,8-9)
- (2) Obeying God’s word through His servant and discarding pleasant / enticing words from false prophets even if they appeal to our viewpoints (vs4-9)
- (3) Faith in goodness of God’s plan and purpose for our lives even if Circumstances suggest otherwise. **It is better to trust the sun rather than the shadows!** (Psalms 118:8,9).

For people, who meet these conditions, God promises:

- (1) To hearken to their prayers (Jerem 29:12)
- (2) That they shall find Him at their times of need (Hebrews 4:16).

However, there is an additional condition that we will do well to observe closely as it is the secret to answered prayers - **“when ye shall search for me with all thy heart”**. What does it mean to “search for me [God] with all thy heart”?

- [1] First, it does not necessarily mean long prayers. The Pharisees “made long prayers” and obtained no desired answers but rather damnation for their lives (Matthew 23:14).
- [2] Neither does it necessarily mean long fasts. The Israelites fasted, mourned and prayed two months every year for seventy years but got no answer (Zechariah 7:1-14). In Isaiah

**“And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:13).**



58:1-14, God not only condemned those who fasted and sought God in vain daily; but also pointed out the route to answered prayers - e.g. in verse 14: **“Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it”**

- [3] Seeking God with all the heart begins with coming to God on His terms, and with a genuine heartfelt repentance (2 Chronicles 7:14; Jeremiah 4:3; Daniel 9:1-27; Isaiah 66:1,2).
- [4] It is founded on the foundation of faith that God exists and answers prayers today (Hebrews 11:6; Mark 11:23,24); Daniel 10:1-21).
- [5] It is developed, built and established on the principles of living in closeness to God and His word (I John 3:22; Proverbs 28:9).
- [6] It perseveres in prayers till the answer comes (Luke 18:1-8; I Kings 18:42-46; Acts 12:5; Daniel 10:1-21).
- [7] It means thanking God for answers received by faith prior to their physical manifestation (John 11:41,42).

Jesus demonstrated in His life what it meant to seek God with all His heart. He started His ministry after 40 days of fasting with prayers. It was His habit to rise up early and go to a solitary place to pray before embarking on the activities of the day. He prayed all night before choosing the 12 disciples. After busy days of Ministry, he retired to the mountain to pray. In preparation for His arrest, he resorted to pray at Gethsemane. He obeyed God totally, and entirely depended on the Holy Spirit.