HOW TO PRAY WHEN YOU NEED AN ANSWER TODAY

PSALM 143

Introduction:

This is the prayer of a desperate man! He has expended all of his inner strength. He faces a situation which baffles him—he does not know what to do next. He feels like a man who has been buried alive. There is only one hope for him—God! The God of the covenant must hear him, or all is lost.

The prayer may have come out of David’s experience with Absalom. That was one of the darkest moments of the king’s life. Thankfully he wrote his prayer down, and left a copy for us. The church has made this one of the penitential prayers and thus a guide for many servants of the Lord who have found themselves in a desperate situation where they needed an answer today.

I. ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR UNWORTHINESS (V. 1-2).

II. REMEMBER HOW GOD HAS HELPED IN THE PAST (V. 5-6)

III. ASK FOR GOD’S DIRECTION (V. 7-10)

IV. COMMIT YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES TO THE LORD (V. 9, 12)

V. RENEW YOUR SURRENDER TO THE LORD (V. 12)
Thankfully this is not where we live, but it is where we are likely to find ourselves at some point in the future. It has been helpfully identified as the “dark night of the soul,” by some who have walked this way. When you find yourself in such a dark night, let the prayer of the troubled king be your guide. He found help when he prayed this prayer. He lived to finish his reign as king, and to complete the work that the Lord has given him to do. So can you!