

PRAYING THROUGH STRUGGLES

Pastor Jeff Alexander + *Never Alone* + October 7, 2018

God provides streams of mercy in the WASTELAND of our struggles.

ISAIAH 43:18-21

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. The wild animals honor Me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to My people, My chosen, the people I formed for Myself that they may proclaim My praise.”

Prayer is HUMBLING ourselves under God’s hand so that He can mercifully lift us up.

1 PETER 5:6-7

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.

***“If you want to be truly countercultural,
practice humility in an age of arrogance.”***

Pastor Gabe Kasper
Campus Pastor, Ann Arbor, Michigan

The Psalms help us to develop a RHYTHM of prayer that is humble and honest.

LAMENT → CONFESSION → REQUEST → RESPONSE

PSALM 42:3-5

My tears have been my food day and night,
while people say to me all day long, “Where is your God?”
These things I remember as I pour out my soul:
how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One
with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng.
Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God.

Can’t shake it.

(LAMENT)

Won’t fake it.

(CONFESSION)

Please take it.

(REQUEST)

I’ll make it.

(RESPONSE)