

# OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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<b>SERMON TITLE</b>	Prevailing Through Problems
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<b>SERIES</b>	
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<b>DATE</b>	9/5/2021
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<b>KEY SCRIPTURE</b>	Psalm 77
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<b>SYNOPSIS</b>	We can overcome in any situation by focusing on the goodness of God.
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<b>HIGHLIGHTS</b>	
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## ☞ Prevailing Through Problems

Last week: Dealing with Despair. At the heart of our discouragement and doubt is a pattern of thinking that allows emotions to lead us. When we are stuck in this kind of rut we must ask God for a better perspective because he sees all and knows all. Our emotions only see a sliver of what's actually happening. God sees the big picture, so we ask for a greater perspective and get our focus on him instead of our problems. As we remember all that God has done and we rely on his love for us we can begin to rejoice in his goodness. And, as we enter into his presence with praise he raises us out of the depths of despair.

Today's passage has a similar message. This was a Psalm of Asaph. Asaph was one of David's three chief musicians. He sounded cymbals before the Ark of the Covenant when it was moved from the house of Obed-Edom to Jerusalem. He was appointed by David to preside over the sacred choral services. His family became one of the three families given responsibility for music and song in the Temple. Asaph was celebrated in later times as a prophet and seer, and the titles of twelve of the psalms bear his name. The "sons of Asaph," mentioned in various scriptures were probably a class of poets or singers who recognized him as their master. Asaph is said to have "prophesied under the direction of the king" through his music.

This was a man of God. In fact, he was a leader amongst many men of God. Yet, even this prophetic, anointed leader struggled with doubts.

### ☞ Psalm 77:1-15

#### ☞ The Darkness of Distress (vv. 1-9)

Asaph starts off with one of the best prayers of all time. "Lord, help!"

☞ Listen to his description of the situation: verse 3: "I **groaned**; my **spirit grew faint**." Verse 4: he **couldn't sleep** and he was so troubled that he **became very quiet**. (remember, he was a musician, but was now virtually silent). Verses 5 & 6: He remembers the past and knows it hasn't always been this bad, but right now he's feeling **overwhelmed**.

Asaph asked six questions, all of which dealt with the very character and attributes of God.

**Has He rejected us? No! He is faithful to His Word.** Lamentations 3:31

**Will He ever again show favor to Israel? Yes!** Psalms 30:5

**Has His unfailing love vanished forever? No!** Jeremiah 31:3

**Have His promises failed? No!** 1 Kings 8:56

**Has He forgotten to be gracious? No!** Isaiah 49:15

**Is He so angry, He has shut up His compassions? No!** Lamentations 3:22-23



It has been said that we should never doubt in the darkness what God had told us in the light, but Asaph was about to do so. No matter what God's hand is doing in our lives, His heart has not changed. **He still loves us and always will.**

### ☞ **The Dawn of Decision (vv. 10-12)**

There comes a time when we have to just get ahold of ourselves and move on, and that's what Asaph did. The repeated "I will" indicates that he had come to the place of decision and determination.

☞ **I will appeal to the years of the right hand of the Most High.** He will choose to **look back** on the great power of God. "His right hand" indicates his miraculous power and strength.

**I will remember the deeds of the Lord.** God has done some pretty spectacular things in the past. Let's **get focused** on those.

☞ **I will remember your miracles of long ago. Read your bible** and see what God has done in ages past. He's the same Lord today as he was then. Hebrews 13:8.

**I will meditate on all your works.** Don't just briefly remember, but mull them over and **ponder on the power of God.** Fill your mind with his wonders and begin to actually speak about his goodness.

**I will consider all your mighty deeds.** Here's more thinking and pondering on the right things, but this time it even indicates **singing about the wonders of God.**

He made a decision to stop doubting and was determined to trust God.

### ☞ **The Day of Deliverance (vv. 13-15)**

The pronouns suddenly change from "I" and "my" to "You" and "Your," referring to the Lord. When we look at our circumstances, we focus on ourselves and see no hope, but when we look by faith to the Lord, we begin to see a hopeful end.

☞ Verse 13: **God is holy** – he is one of a kind; set apart

☞ Verse 13: **God is great** – he is large and in charge

☞ Verse 14: **God is miraculous** – he does wonderful, extraordinary things

☞ Verse 14: **God is powerful** – he is strong and fierce

☞ Verse 15: **God is mighty** – his arm is strong and able to help

☞ Verse 15: **God is redemptive** – he pays the price to save & deliver; he avenges his people

We have to think again on what God has done - in other words, we have to focus on Him and Him alone... not on your circumstances and not on yourself because only He can give us true peace and joy.



***☞ Turn your eyes upon Jesus; look full in his wonderful face; and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.***

Let's remember the works of the Lord; let's consider his ways and meditate on his goodness. What are some things you can thank God for? How have you seen God at work in your life?

He did it before; he will do it again.

**Song – Faithful Now**