

## One Preacher's Prayer

When I am discouraged and there is no sign of progress; when people are seemingly insensitive and unimpressed with the great things of Thy word; when people have obviously made the world a fit place for their hearts and not for just their hands; when it seems that preaching is listened to habitually and out of a sense of duty instead of hungrily and out of privilege; when expressions of appreciation are followed with little or no action; and I am discouraged—GOD, HELP ME!

When I am not sure about things; when there is uncertainty about what to say and when to say it; when I know a rebuke is needed, but hesitate to articulate it; when I am not sure about what is genuine encouragement and what is flattery; when I am not sure whether a word was said in sincere criticism or out of spite; when I am not sure I should go; when I am not sure how long to stay or how far to go; when circumstances are such that right is not easily discernable; when I am not sure—GOD, HELP ME!

When I am torn between two; when I must make the choice without regard to the consequences; when it is necessary to select or determine, knowing that the decision is not the popular one; when I must choose even if it indicts me; when the easy way would be to procrastinate and postpone; when the easiest choice is not the right one; when I am torn between two—GOD, HELP ME!

When I am tempted; when the baubles and bangles of life are attractive to me; when there is a desire for recognition by the world; when I become momentarily fascinated with vocations that offer more in the way of money, security, fame; when the evil one is at my side no matter my turning; when it appears that the “way of escape” is blurred and distant; when I begin to dwell on the provocative and sensual, when I am tempted—GOD, HELP ME!

When things are good; when people are hearing what I say; when they are zealous and active; when the young are growing and the old are becoming wise; when enthusiasm buds and the sheer excitement of serving is obvious; when benevolence is done without assignment; when visits are made without prodding, and work is abounding; when there is a real, earnest regard for the spiritual; and when there is a tendency for me to take credit for such growth and development; yes, when things are good—GOD, HELP ME!

And when I am happy; when I have prayed as I ought; when I have remembered Thee; when I have given proper thought to what might have been without Thee, when I ponder with great satisfaction Thy forgiveness; when I clasp hands with a friend and brother in Christ; when the common meal with those of kindred spirit is cause for great rejoicing; when the simple glance of one who cares fills my heart with love; when the contemplation of the grace of God swells my being with great appreciation; when I am happy—GOD, HELP ME!

When I must go on; when I share sorrow with the ancient worthies at the loss of loved ones; when I see the wayward stray further and further from Thy protecting care; when I must weep at the open grave; when I must, with David, see my sin before my face; when I, with Peter, see my denial of Thy greatness; when I, midst great persecution and intense pain, must continue on my way; when I am lost for a moment and the sheer terror of it grips my soul; when I reach for a friend and find no one there; when those dear to me would mock and ridicule my meager attempt at service; and when, through it all, I must go on—GOD, HELP ME!

Dee Bowman