

So you are at your wits' end? The end of your rope?

Where do you go when there seems to be no place to turn to for help?

1. *Friends.* Most times they only sympathize instead of fixing the problem.
2. *Family.* You get criticism and judgment.
3. *Professionals.* Creates cost and confusion.
4. *Churches.* Your situation can be misunderstood.

Where should you go for help? *God alone.*

God will see to it that no one on Earth can help you because He is waiting to be your God.

Why would He wait until you've exhausted every avenue of hope to force you to go to Him?

1. *We have a horizontal viewpoint.* Before we look up to God we often look to people.
2. *We are independent and prideful.* Many times we don't want to "bother" God or we think we can do it alone.
3. *God can reward faith.* There is no reward for faith when we seek human help.
4. *God alone gets the glory.* When He alone does what He can do He gets all the credit.

Biblical examples of God working out circumstances for His glory.

Exodus 14: parting the Red Sea

1 Samuel 17: David slaying Goliath

Judges 7: Gideon's victorious army of three hundred men

John 9: Jesus heals a man's blindness

John 11: Lazarus raised to life

There are times no one in the whole world can help and it's exactly where Abraham finds himself:

Genesis 16:16 - Genesis 17:1 = 13 years later

At 99 years old, Abraham is still waiting for the son God promised.

Word Study: El Shaddai has three expressions:

1. *Mountain God.* He is mighty and powerful. (*Psalms 65:6, Isaiah 40:12, Isaiah 45:12*)
2. *Warehouse God.* He has complete inventory and has a sufficient supply of everything you need.
3. *God of Love.* He comforts and nourishes out of His goodness and love.

Genesis 17:3

Abram falls to his face before God in honor, humility and respect.

Word Study

Talk: command, commune, teach, share, talk

Genesis 17:4-9

God changes Abram's name to Abraham and makes him a promise.

Every promise from God has three elements:

1. Promises from God are opportunities.
2. Promises from God require obedience.
 - a. Obedience is spiritual (1 Corinthians 2:14)
 - b. Obedience is serious. (Matthew 16:24)

c. Obedience is symbolic. (Romans 2:28-29)

Genesis 17:15-18

3. Obedience will be optional

Genesis 17:23

Abraham practiced immediate obedience.

APPLICATION STATION:

Who or what do you currently turn to first when you need help? Does that need to change in light of this message?

What has God added to or given you since you started a relationship with Him? How can you use that to bless or help others?

What promise has God given you? What opportunity and obedience is involved in that promise?