# **TOPIC:** YOU NEED A.D.o.G (Active Dependence on God)

Active dependence on God means we base our actions on God's word and trust Him to supply everything that we need or hope for. This results in a deeply devoted relationship and continuous peace.

#### **KEY POINTS**

- In your everyday life running to the grocery, waiting for the train, or biting into a slice of banana bread how conscious are you of your absolute dependence on God?
- Consider this: over the past 25 years, the air that we breathe in order to live has contained less and less oxygen. The incidences of many types of cancers have gone up as the available oxygen has gone down.
- These statistics drive home to us that if we are humans living in this world today: we need God.
- It's time to switch from passive unawareness of God to an active, conscious, every-day, every-pray dependence on God.
- Our need is a blunt reality of life. And it can be a joyous reality that brings a peace most of us don't understand. ("If you know the Lord is keeping you, what'cha got to worry about?")
- Solid scientific research double-blind studies now show that prayer can produce medical outcomes that medicine cannot.
- Check out Bro. Lee Stoneking's testimony online. A DNA defect caused a heart attack that left him dead for 45 minutes on a concrete floor in Australia. He is alive again. And the DNA defect can no longer be found in his body.
- Whatever hidden issues there might be in your body or in mine, God is expert at dealing with all of that. Every day, we need to be actively dependent on God. Every day, we need to be giving thanks for blessings and deliverances we did not even know we needed. Let's "forget not all His benefits."
- Take a look at Psalm 107:23-31. Can we understand that our problems, our needs, our dreams and our aspirations are opportunities to experience the work of God in great waters – waters that could easily drown us?
- ► The waves of life are real. They're serious. They're powerful. That's why we must have Christ in the vessel. That's the only way it makes sense to smile at the storm.
- Otherwise we're just being foolhardy. The sea can break your boat into pieces in a heartbeat, even if you think you've built the world's first unsinkable ship. We need God.
- We should search the Word for how to live and then do what it says. Because we need God. We should take the time to pray and listen for His voice of guidance. Because we need God. We should fill up our hearts with love, gratitude, praise, beauty, goodwill toward others and the happiness of submission toward God.
- We should think on these things. Because we need God. We should be quick to repent and just as quick to forgive. Because we need God. And so on and so on...
- ► The need to be actively dependent on God is not new. Let's go back about 29 centuries and visit the land of Judah during the reign of King Asa (see II Chronicles 14 and 16:1-10).
- Maybe there was a time in your life when you were very aware of your dependence on God.
- ▶ Then things somehow changed. Maybe prosperity increased.
- Maybe you're a more experienced and capable person now.

**KEY SCRIPTURES:** Philippians 4:6-7;

Psalm 107, 37:4-6; 2 Chronicles 14, 16:1-10

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ice-Breaker: What/Who in your life has been most influential in getting you to where you are today (positively or negatively)?

- Maybe a mass of troubles and cares, distractions and urgencies are pressing in and crowding your attention.
- Maybe the devotion you had to God has changed; the time you spent with God; the relationship you felt with Him.
- Maybe right now it doesn't feel as if God is aware of what you are going through. Or maybe you feel He doesn't actually care.
- But in fact the scripture we read in 2 Chronicles tells us that the eyes of the Lord are constantly scanning the earth, looking for people whose hearts are completely turned toward Him. People who are loyal to God, who insist on trusting Him and seeking Him. People who are actively dependent on Him.
- Is that you? Do you want that to be you? It's your choice.
- What can you depend on yourself? Your great looks? Your connections? Your money? Your beautiful house? Your fantastic job? The degree you just completed and the body of knowledge that's now in your mind?
- Which of those things can add one centimetre to your height or increase the oxygen in your air?
- There's an alternate way to consider: Psalm 37:4-6 says, "Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. <sup>5</sup>Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass. <sup>6</sup>He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday."
- So where are you right now in your life anxious, concerned about things? Or have you done what King Asa did later in life – switched to depending on resources and solutions other than God?
- You can change your actions. You can change your heart.
- Remember where your real help is, where it always has been, where it always will be – in God. That's where miraculous outcomes will happen. That's where you will find peace.

### **DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS**

- Make a list of things you depend on. Re-read the list above, think deeply, pray and ask God to bring to light things you are unaware of or haven't acknowledged – family, talents, approval ...?
- This is our year of Persistent Prayer. How can this focus on prayer help you to actively depend on God?
- What specific areas in your life depend on God's intervention, right now? Take them to the Lord in prayer!

## **Prayer Time**

"I need Thee, oh, I need Thee; every hour I need Thee; Oh [help] me now, my Saviour; I come to Thee."

## **WEEK OF SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2017**

#### NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

(Reminds me/Cor	nfirms) (New ide	a) (Think about)
【(Do this)	Speaks to my heart)	(Must share)
PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS		