**A.S.A.P.**

***Always Say A Prayer***

Ever wonder about the letters of this oft-used acronym? We write a note and then put ***asap*** to encourage haste with getting it fulfilled ***A***s ***S***oon ***A***s ***P***ossible. It causes a secretary or anyone who gets it to feel the urgency and pressure to make it a top priority. So, how about if we look at it in a new light. What if we could change it to mean:
***A***lways ***S***ay ***A*** ***P***rayer?

“There’s work to do, deadlines to meet,

 You’ve got no time to spare;

 But as you hurry and scurry – A.S.A.P.

 Always Say A Prayer.

“In the midst of family chaos,

 ‘Quality Time’ is so rare;

 Do your best, let God do the rest – A.S.A.P.

 Always Say A Prayer.

“It may seem like your worries,

 Are more than you can bear.

 Slow down and take a breather – A.S. A. P.

 Always Say A Prayer.

“God knows how stressful life is,

 He wants to ease our cares;

 And He will respond to all your needs – A.S.A.P.

 Always Say A Prayer.

I like that poem written by an anonymous author. It tells us what Paul said repeatedly in passages like:

 “*Pray without ceasing*” (I Thess 5:17)

“*Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it*” (Col. 4:2)

“*Continuing steadfastly in prayer*” (Rom. 12:12).

When you absolutely, positively have to meet a need overnight, you don’t call FedEx, you call God. King David did 3000 years ago when he prayed during a major life-and-death crisis in his life:

“*Make haste, O God, to deliver me! Make haste to help me, O LORD! … Make haste to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay*.” (Psa. 70:1,5).

For seven long, agonizing years he ran like a fugitive from Saul and the armies of Israel. There had to be times when he thought God was not hearing his prayers. But…

God came A.S.A.P. God came at just the right time. God’s timing was perfect. The ability to see 20/20 comes from viewing one’s life in the rearview mirror. We wonder during the moment of emergency where God is, and is He seeing and listening to us. We cry out in the night, only to hear our own echo. We begin to question whether our prayers got beyond the ceiling. Are our petitions for help only an exercise in futility? Is God nothing more than a deaf, mute and impotent idol? Where are you God?!!

That brings to my memory the famous poem *Footprints in the Sand* read by millions:

One night I dreamed a dream.

As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.

After the last scene of my life flashed before me,

I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,
especially at the very lowest and saddest times, there was only one set of footprints.

This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.

"Lord, you said once I decided to follow you, You'd walk with me all the way.
But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life,
there was only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why, when I needed You the most, You would leave me."

He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you
Never, ever, during your trials and testing.

When you saw only one set of footprints, It was then that I carried you."

While the authorship of this poem is greatly disputed, the likely origin for its idea clearly comes from Deuteronomy 1:31 where Moses is rehearsing God’s deliverance of Israel from Egypt and through the wilderness. Read it for yourself:

29 “Then I said to you, ‘Do not be terrified, or afraid of them. 30 The LORD your God, who goes before you, He will fight for you, according to all He did for you in Egypt before your eyes, 31 and in the wilderness where you saw how *the LORD your God carried you, as a man carries his son*, in all the way that you went until you came to this place.’

Malachi said of Jehovah: “*I am the LORD, I do not change*” (Mal. 3:6). What He did for Israel, He can and will do for each of us. God does not need a A.S.A.P. stamped on our prayers of request for help. He encourages us to “come boldly before the throne of grace” with a promise to give undivided attention to our pleas, and then give answer at just the right time. Indeed, at many times in our life there are only one set of footprints in the sand, but they are God’s, not ours, for it is at that moment He is carrying us.

When you are weary or afraid, remember, turn to God A.S.A.P. Always Say A Prayer.

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