

## Hosea 11:7

*My people are bent on backsliding from Me. Though they call to the Most High, None at all exalt Him.*

How many call upon the Lord because they know that He can help them, and even though they do, they don't really love Him?

I know a man whose ex-wife would never contact him, unless she wanted something from him for their children. When she did, she would text him pictures of their children and as soon as he got them, he knew that she was about to ask him for something. Or what about a grown child who never really communicates or talks to his or her parent's. But if he or she gets into a jam they will be quick to call or text mom or dad, because they know mom and dad are always there for them.

But beyond that, how many only pray giving thanks for the food they are about to receive (if they remember to), and that's the only time they really talk to God... Unless they are in dire need, then they use God as their last resort after they have exhausted all other means.

Some people will start going to church, or a bible study when things have gotten bad, and they seem sincere, until the storm has passed, then they seem to have slowly disappeared from the church or bible study, because they think that they don't need God right now.

I wrote a song titled "**This Should Not Be So**" and one of the verses goes like this.

*God, I can take care of the little things  
I just need you for the other ones  
I promise I won't forget You God  
I'll call on you next time I need you*

Then the chorus says:

"This should not be so."

Yet how many are just like that, only calling on God when they need Him, and they know they can pray to Him during those times of needs. But it makes you stop and wonder, how many times will God answer their prayers in time of need, if they refuse to have any relationship with Him at all?

I love to quote this next verse in my teachings, because people seem to use it incorrectly.

✠ **Philippians 4:13** *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

Yea, AMEN! People will say when they hear this verse, because a lot of people use it in regard to when times are tough. But let's read a few verses right before this one to see what Paul is really talking about.

† **Philippians 4:11-12** *Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.*

When Paul was talking about doing "ALL" things, if you read what he just said, "all" would include not just the tough times, but the good times as well. Or as the NLT puts it. "***I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little.***" **Philippians 4:12 (NLT2)**

Because if you think about it, if we think that God strengthens us only in our time of need and when things seem to be going bad, then we can very well fall into what today's verse says.

† ***Though they call to the Most High, None at all exalt Him.***

But don't we need the Lord in those good times as well, and even more so, because we can get comfy in our walk, and soon forget the Lord is with us, or that He wants to be with us, but when things are going well, we tend to NOT include the Lord in those good times, and almost forget about Him. That's why we need to quote that famous verse (***I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.***) in the good times as well as the tough times.

So. Let's not be like the ex-wife I mentioned, or the children who never communicate with their parents. But let walk with the Lord ALL the time, good times or bad or just on normal days.

† **Proverbs 30:7-9** *Two things I request of You (Deprive me not before I die): Remove falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches-- Feed me with the food allotted to me; Lest I be full and deny You, And say, "Who is the LORD?" Or lest I be poor and steal, And profane the name of my God.*

† **Micah 6:8b** *And to walk humbly with your God?*