

## THERE'S NO RECOVERY WITHOUT PRAYER

Life's Healing Choices  
Rick Warren

### EXAMPLES OF PRAYER CAUSING RECOVERY

#### 1. WHEN THE ISRAELITES GOT IMPATIENT & REBELLIOUS

*"The people grew impatient with the long journey, and they began to speak against God and Moses. 'Why have you brought us . . . to die here in the wilderness' they complained. 'There is nothing to eat here and nothing to drink. And we hate this horrible manna' So the LORD sent poisonous snakes among the people, and many were bitten and died. Then the people . . . cried out, 'We have sinned . . . Pray.' . . . So Moses prayed for the people. Then the LORD told him, 'Make a replica of a poisonous snake and attach it to a pole.'"*

Numbers 21:4-8 (NLT)

*"Whenever someone was bitten, and he looked at the bronze snake, he recovered." Numbers 21:9 (HCSB)*

WITH PRAYER WE CAN RECOVER . . .

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#### 2. WHEN JEROBOAM WAS UPSET HEARING A HARD TRUTH

*"When King Jeroboam heard this, he pointed at [the prophet] and ordered, 'Seize that man' At once the king's arm became paralyzed. . . . King Jeroboam said to the prophet, 'Please pray for me to the LORD your God.' . . . The prophet prayed to the LORD, and the king's arm was healed." 1 Kings 13:4, 6 (GNT)*

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#### 3. WHEN HEZEKIAH WAS TOLD HE'D NEVER RECOVER

*"In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah . . . went to him and said, 'This is what the Lord says: Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover.' Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord, 'Remember, Lord, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes.' And Hezekiah wept bitterly. Before Isaiah had left the middle court, the word of the Lord came to him: 'Go back and tell Hezekiah . . . I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you. . . . I will add fifteen years*

*to your life. And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria.' . . . and [Hezekiah] recovered." 2 Kings 20:1-7 (NIV)*

*"A writing of Hezekiah king of Judah after his illness and recovery: . . . You restored me to health and let me live." Isaiah 38:9, 16 (NIV)*

*"In these very conditions my spirit is still alive—fully recovered with a fresh infusion of life! It seems it was good for me to go through all those troubles. Throughout them all you held tight to my lifeline. You never let me tumble over the edge into nothing. But my sins you let go of, threw them over your shoulder—good riddance!" Isaiah 38:16-17 (MSG)*

WITH PRAYER, WE CAN RECOVER . . .

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#### 4. WHEN TWO BLIND MEN CRIED OUT TO JESUS

*"There were two blind men sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was passing by, they cried out, 'Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!' The crowd rebuked them, telling them to be silent, but they cried out all the more, 'Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David'" And stopping, Jesus called them and said, 'What do you want me to do for you?' They said to him, 'Lord, let our eyes be opened.' And Jesus in pity touched their eyes, and immediately they recovered their sight and followed him." Matthew 20:30-34 (ESV)*

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#### 5. WHEN PETER HAD HIS MASSIVE PUBLIC FAILURE

Predicting Peter's fall Jesus said: "[Then the Lord said,] 'Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to have you apostles for himself. He wants to separate you from me as a farmer separates wheat from husks. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith will not fail. So when you recover, strengthen the other disciples." Luke 22:31-32 (GW)

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#### 6. WHEN JOB LOST LITERALLY EVERYTHING

*"After the LORD had finished speaking to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite: 'I am angry with you and your two friends, for you have not spoken accurately about me, as my servant Job has. So . . . offer a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer on your behalf. I will not treat you as you deserve.' . . . So [Job's friends] did as the LORD commanded them, and the LORD accepted Job's prayer. When Job prayed for*

*his friends, the LORD restored his fortunes. In fact, the LORD gave him twice as much as before!" Job 42:7-10 (NLT)*

## **OUR RECOVERY IS ONLY COMPLETE . . .**

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### **Jesus announced his mission on earth by reading Isaiah 61:1-4**

*"God's Spirit is on me. He's chosen me to preach the good news to the poor, to announce freedom to those held captive, to give recovery of sight to the blind, to set the burdened and battered free, to proclaim that this is the time of God's Favor!" Luke 4:18 (MSG)*

### **The rest of Isaiah's prophesy adds:**

*"To heal those who are brokenhearted . . . to comfort all those who grieve . . . to give them crowns instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of [tears of] grief . . . They will rebuild the ancient ruins. They will restore the places destroyed long ago. They will renew the ruined cities." Isaiah 61:1-4 (GW)*

### *Next Steps*

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