

God Loves Pit People

In the video series, *Loved by God*, Liz Curtis Higgs says, “The darker the pit, the brighter God’s light shines.”

How dark is it in the pit where you live?

There are two ways to get into a pit—fall in or be thrown in. Either way, when you find yourself at the bottom, miserable and alone, broken and battered, look up! God is there, ready to climb down into the pit to carry you out.

But He won’t force you to leave until you are ready. He’ll wait until you’ve exhausted every attempt to climb out on your own. Go ahead—give it your best shot. He knows it won’t work, but He’s willing to wait until you know it—until you come to the end of yourself and say “help!” All you have to do is ask!

In *Loved by God*, Liz suggests three questions that “pit people” ask God.

1. Are you strong enough to carry me out of this pit?

“God, I’ve got a lot of baggage and excess weight. Are you sure you won’t drop me on the way to the top?”

The Psalmist (Ethan the Ezrahite) described God’s strength this way: “You have a mighty arm; strong is Your hand, and high is Your right hand. Righteousness and justice *are* the foundation of Your throne; mercy and truth go before Your face.” Psalm 89:13-14

2. Are you brave enough to carry me out of this pit?

“Lord, other people have tried to help, but they shrink back when they see how messed up I really am. They are either scared or inadequate. Can you handle it?”

The Psalmist affirms God’s ability to take control: “Who *is* mighty like You, O LORD? Your faithfulness also surrounds You. You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, You still them.” Psalm 89:8-9

3. Do you love me enough to carry me out of this pit?

“Father, when you really get to know me, will you change your mind and decide I’m not worthy of your love?”

The prophet Zephaniah knew about God’s unconditional, unchanging love: “The LORD your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save;

He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.” Zephaniah 3:17

He has already proven His love for you on the cross.

After you ask God for help, the second step is trusting Him to do what He says.

The Psalmist believed God was trustworthy when he wrote: “Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from destruction (*the pit!*), who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender

mercies, who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's." Psalm 103:2-5

So now it's up to you! Do you want to move from the slimy darkness of the pit you've been living in for years, or are you comfortable being stuck in the muck?

If someone else pushed you into the pit, you'll have to let go of your bitterness and desire for revenge before God can lift you out.

I know how you feel—*it's not fair!* Here's how the writer of Lamentations describes it (3:46-66): "All our enemies have opened their mouths against us. Fear and a snare have come upon us, desolation and destruction. My eyes overflow with rivers of water for the destruction of the daughter of my people. My eyes flow and do not cease, without interruption, 'till the LORD from heaven looks down and sees. My eyes bring suffering to my soul because of all the daughters of my city."

"My enemies without cause hunted me down like a bird. They silenced my life in the pit and threw stones at me.

The waters flowed over my head; I said 'I am cut off!'"

"I called on Your name, O LORD, from the lowest pit. You have heard my voice: 'Do not hide Your ear from my sighing, from my cry for help.' You drew near on the day I called on You, and said, 'Do not fear!'"

"O Lord, You have pleaded the case for my soul; You have redeemed my life. O LORD, You have seen *how* I am wronged; judge my case. You have seen all their vengeance, all their schemes against me."

"You have heard their reproach, O LORD, all their schemes against me, the lips of my enemies and their whispering against me all the day. Look at their sitting down and their rising up; I *am* their taunting song."

"Repay them, O LORD, according to the work of their hands. Give them a veiled heart; Your curse *be* upon them! In Your anger, pursue and destroy them from under the heavens of the LORD."

Be honest now—have you ever asked God to zap someone who has wronged you? Thank God, He does not give us what is fair—He gives us grace.

If you are stuck in the pit of revenge and unforgiveness, God wants to carry you out. If you are paralyzed in the pit of lies and addiction, God wants to lift you up.

Some of you have been trapped in a pit for decades. Don't give up! "As long as you are breathing, there is hope!"¹

He stands ready . . . the choice is yours. If you choose life, your response must be:

Help!
I trust you!