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Turn to the Lord by Carl Beyer and Friends

To whom do you turn for help? It always seems convenient that people turn to God in times of need, and then quickly resume their "old ways" once a crisis has passed. But I think about myself, as a father. As a Dad, do I just want my kids to need me during the good times? Is that my job, "Good Time Dad?" I certainly hope not. I want my kids to think of me FIRST in their times of need, and I want to be able to offer whatever assistance is needed. In these lean financial times, I pray the support needed is more spiritual than financial, but I want to be there for them.

If I, myself, as a simple human being, can wish to be the one called upon in time of need, how much MORE must our glorious Lord and Father wish to be there for us? Are not our times of need the times at which our Lord comes to mind the most? Find a tragedy, find a full church. Find GOOD times, find people at [    ]. YOU fill in the blank. Even the most pious among us should admit we pray more, go to church more often when times are bad than when they are good. God, I imagine, is aware that His flock loves Him but that He is most in their minds when they are in need.

The question, then, is, is it morally acceptable to turn so fervently to our Lord in times of need? Right off the top, I say, "Yes, but with conditions."

The first condition is our daily prayers and Mass obligations. Let us be sure, when we call upon the Lord, that we have a relationship with Him. Would you go up to a stranger and plead for help? We ought to pay homage to our Lord in the good times, that He may remember us in our trials.

The second condition is our knowledge and understanding of the Lord. It is not enough to say empty prayers, nor even simply to be present during Mass. Take the time to know your Faith. Read the Bible. Pay attention during Mass. Attend biblical study groups; volunteer, and most of all, be thankful to our Lord for the blessings you enjoy!

The third condition is humility. Why humility? Because, what we poor mortals often do is to take credit upon ourselves for what we accomplish using the gifts provided by our Lord and Holy Spirit. But, bad times? We ask the Lord why He allows them. Our pride gets in the way of our humility. Be proud of your accomplishments but recognize that without our Lord's graces they would not be possible. Hard times are to be realized as our Lord's reminder for us to Be Humble. Hard times remind the Lord's flock that we need to turn to Him for help. Ask for help and give thanks for His blessings.

The fourth condition is to acknowledge the help. Here's a classic story to illustrate this, about the boat.... *A farmer is in Iowa during a flood. The river is overflowing. Water is surrounding the farmer's home up to his front porch. As he is standing there, a boat comes up. The man in the boat says, "Jump in, and I'll take you to safety." The farmer crosses his arms and says stubbornly, "Oh no, thanks, I put my trust in God." The boat goes away. Water rises to the second story. Another boat comes up. The man says to the farmer, who is now at his second-floor*

*window, "Hurry! Jump in. I'll save you!" The farmer again says, "Oh, no thanks; I put my trust in God." The boat goes away. Now the water is inching over the roof. As the farmer stands on the roof, a helicopter comes over and drops a ladder. The pilot yells down to the farmer, "I'll save you - climb the ladder!" The farmer yells back, "Oh, no thanks; I put my trust in God." The helicopter disappears. The water continues to rise and sweeps the farmer off the roof into the swiftly moving water, and unfortunately, he drowns. The farmer goes to Heaven. God sees him and asks, "What are you doing here?" The farmer replies, "I put my trust in you, and you let me down!" God says, "What do you mean, 'I let you down?' I sent you two boats and a helicopter!"*

This classic story reminds us to recognize help when it is offered, by our fellow humans, through the grace of God. The help may not appear in the form in which we seek it. You need money? You play the lottery. You do not win and then think the Lord did not answer your prayers. If God had allowed you to win the lottery, you would likely have encountered a whole new set of problems. No, the Lord often works mysteriously, and it is our job to recognize his works and to be thankful for them as He delivers them to us.

Go forth and Turn to the Lord. Go forth and humble yourself to accept the help God delivers. God Bless You All.