

## **Christian Worship Hymn 413—When in the Hour of Utmost Need**

*When in the hour of utmost need  
We know not where to look for aid,  
When days and nights of anxious thought  
Nor help nor counsel yet have brought,*

*Then is our comfort this alone  
That we may meet before your throne;  
To you, O faithful God, we cry  
For rescue in our misery.*

*For you have promised, Lord to heed  
Your children's cries in time of need  
Through him whose name alone is great,  
Our Savior and our advocate.*

*And so we come, O God today  
And all our woes before you lay.  
Be with us in our anguish still;  
Free us at last from eve'ry ill,*

*So that will all our hearts we may  
To you our glad thanksgiving pay,  
Then walk obedient to your Word  
And now and every praise you, Lord.*

Our hymn this week was written at the time of the reformation by Paul Eber. It is really a beautiful commentary on the Christian life. As foolish, sinful human beings, what is our natural inclination when we are in need? We look to ourselves to try and fix the problem. But that doesn't work. Then the problem begins to grow and grow; pretty soon, we don't know where to look for help. So, we spend worrisome days and sleepless nights trying to solve our problem, but all is for naught. Finally, when we realize that there's nowhere else to turn, we remember the promise of our God.

Before the throne of God, speaking to our heavenly Father in prayer is the only place that we can find true comfort. We cry out to the Lord to answer us! We beg him to save us from this misery of sin. We remind him of his promise to hear our prayers, not because of anything we have done, but because of Jesus. Jesus alone is our Savior and our advocate. He speaks to the Father on our behalf.

So we come with our sins and our problems. We lay them at your feet, O God. We will let you take care of them. You have promised to free us from our sins by the blood of Jesus your Son. You have promised to never leave us or forsake us. Be with us while we languish here on this earth. Take us home to be with you in heaven, where at last we will be free from every ill.

That's our prayer as Christians. We close our prayer with glad thanksgiving and a quiet confidence that God will work all things for our good. With hearts uplifted, we gladly live our sanctified lives by following your Word and singing your praises. And so is the Christian life: a constant struggle between trusting in ourselves and turning everything over to God. May God grant us daily victories in this struggle.