



# His Footsteps Prepare the Way for Us

## Serving Leaders in Life

This article was written by Kay Horner. Kay is the Executive Director of the Awakening America Alliance and The Helper Connection, ministry initiatives that serve and resource pastors and their spouses.

**Pastor:** Undoubtedly, you are navigating through ministry challenges unlike anything you've ever encountered in your life. The importance of your spending time in prayer and meditating upon the Word is also unprecedented. In fact, it is vital if you are going to have godly wisdom and know the "way" He would have you lead your congregation and impact your community for Christ (James 1:5; 3:17–18).

Thankfully, Jesus knows you intimately. He sees your struggles and is moved with compassion as you cry out to Him with prayers, petitions, and yes, sometimes questions—yet always expressed with an attitude of thanksgiving for His promise of peace that passes understanding (Philippians 4:6–7). In fact, the Father invites you to call to Him and He will answer and tell you great and unsearchable things unknown to you through your own reasoning, knowledge, or experience (Jeremiah 33:3).

You may identify with the psalmists, who were often filled with questioning in seasons of adversity and fear. Sometimes, matters remained unresolved at the close of their prayers (Psalm 39:7–13). Other times, the psalmist came to a recognition of God's sovereignty and nearness to His people, even amid the turmoil (Psalm 73:23–28).

As you meditate upon the scriptures referenced above, we invite you to be transparent and open before the Lord as He speaks and reassures you of the best "way" to traverse through these unknown paths. Using **Psalm 85** as a pattern for prayer, join with other pastors in the following:



### 1. Express your praise for who God is and thanksgiving for His past deliverance.

*Lord, you have shown favor to Your people, forgiven our sins, and released us from captivity to fear, anxiety, and poverty (e.g., spiritual, physical, emotional, financial, and \_\_\_\_\_ loss, grief, or disappointment).*

### 2. Share your petitions and any questions that may be troubling you.

*Father, would You restore us and reveal Your lovingkindness, granting us Your salvation and healing. Our minds are filled with questioning how long before . . . when will You intervene . . . what are You saying or doing through . . .? More importantly, our hearts are crying out, "Where are You? Will You not reveal Yourself to us in this season of . . .?"*

### 3. Listen for God's response and rest in His peace.

The psalmist heard God saying:

- He would speak peace.
- His desire was for His people to not return to their folly.
- His salvation was near to those who feared Him, so His glory would dwell in their land.
- Lovingkindness, truth, and righteousness would be the blessings from heaven and the attributes of His people.
- He would give what was good, and their land would again yield its produce.

As you close your prayer time, especially recognize what the Holy Spirit spoke to the Psalmist in closing: *"Righteousness will go before Him, and will make His footsteps into a way"* (Psalm 85:13 NASB).

As we celebrate Christ Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, be reminded of His words to His followers before His betrayal and trial: *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me"* (John 14:6).

Recall how the writer of Hebrews reassures us, *"Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith . . ."* (10:19–20).

Finally, picture in your mind a dad, taking his son for a hike through the woods. The path is a new one that hasn't been navigated before. He wisely treads down the tall grasses and knocks aside any thorn bushes. Carefully scouring the surroundings for snakes and predators, the dad makes sure any thing that might harm his child has been crushed. The little boy confidently follows in his father's footsteps because he's not only convinced of his father's strength, but he's assured of his demonstrated love and care from past experiences.

*Thus, says the LORD,  
Who makes a way through the sea  
And a path through the mighty waters,  
"Behold, I will do something new,  
Now it will spring forth;  
Will you not be aware of it?  
I will even make a roadway in the wilderness,  
Rivers in the desert.  
The people whom I formed for Myself  
Will declare My praise"* (Isaiah 43:16, 19, 21).

