

Spiritually Speaking

Posted by Robin Goldsworthy on Aug 11th, 2011 and filed under Religion.

Question:

I am a senior citizen who prays every day for God to guide the leaders of our country. Sometimes I think God doesn't hear my prayers. I also am on a limited income. The budget crisis really frightened me, because if I don't receive my Social Security check, many bills will have to go unpaid. I did praise God when the agreement among our lawmakers was reached. How, though, can I have faith, even when things like this affect me directly?

– Frustrated Senior

Answer:

Dear Frustrated Senior,

As a senior citizen myself, I can certainly understand your concerns, particularly in light of the recent financial upheaval over the budget and debt ceiling for our country. Prayer is a valuable resource to help us calm our fears and move ahead with greater confidence. So I am glad that you are praying daily to support our government leaders. I hope you are also praying for strength for yourself and others who are anxious about their circumstances.

But we must remember that we have all been given free will when it comes to the decisions we reach and the choices our government officials make are based on what they believe to be true. So we must communicate our concerns to our elected representatives directly. We must be the ones who speak to them through our phone calls, letters and other forms of communication. Ours may be the only voices they can hear in such tumultuous times.

Another thing that we can do is to join with others who share our difficulties with limited incomes and potentially overdue bills to pay. Often gathering with others, particularly those in our houses of worship, can make us all feel stronger. Some of those people, including our clergy, may also know about resources that are available to help those of us who may be in need in such times as these. Remember, we can achieve more together than any one of us can accomplish alone.

I wish I could say something that would set your mind at ease. Unfortunately, that is not within my power. What I can do is to encourage you to find strength in your belief in God, your prayers and the people who share your life. Those are the forces that can sustain us.

My heart is with you as you face your fears and I offer my blessings to you in these difficult times.

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