

# Scott's Thoughts

March 3, 2024



*“If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”* (2 Chronicles 7:14, ESV)

I was talking with a friend, and he told me about a trip he had taken about a year ago. He and several other acquaintances were going on a trip that would involve them taking two different trains and spending two nights in a hotel. Because they trusted their memory of the train's departure time, they did not need to look at their tickets. They felt confident, so they just strolled in the train station. There seemed to be a lot of commotion, still no worry. They inquired at the gate as to which track the train would be leaving and were told they had missed their train by three minutes.

Their solution was to hitchhike to the next train station. No cars stopped for a long time, but they did finally get a ride to the next train station, only to find they had missed that train too. Well, of course, they lost all the money they had spent on train tickets. So, they decided to go to the bus station and ride a bus to their destination. From the bus station, two of them went to the hotel and confirmed the reservation. But they could not check in without their luggage, which was at the bus station. So, they returned to the bus station, gathered all their luggage, and the rest of their party, then returned to the hotel. Yep, another hitch. It

was now past curfew, and the hotel could not, by law, let anyone in until morning.

They went back to the cold bus station to sleep. After a less than comfortable night, they all went back to the hotel. There was one more hitch. The hotel personnel refused to refund the money. The group met and decided two of them would find hotel rooms for the rest of their stay. They separated and each of them found one. The problem was that each of them paid for enough rooms for the entire group at two different hotels and both hotels had a no refund policy. By now they were discouraged, so the entire group met to discuss what was going wrong. Their minds were churning. We are going to a Christian conference, why is everything going so completely wrong?

Then someone suggested they pray about all that had gone wrong and ask God to help them put all that behind them and help them to make the rest of the trip without further problems. After praying, the rest of the trip went without a single hitch! Was it Karma? Was it just their time to experience problems? Or was it the God of the universe taking them to school? It was an expensive lesson but one they learned very well.

How about us? Do we stop and pray multiple times a day or do we pray as a last resort? God wants to help us, but sometimes he allows us to struggle so that we ask Him.

*“Let then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”* (Hebrews 4:16, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining. —Scott