SBC Chapel Chris Chia

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**Pray to the God in Control**

***Psalm 77***

**Topic:** Prayer

**Subject:** How should we respond to the crisis in our life?

**Complement:** By prayer God can bring us from total abandonment to total assurance.

**Purpose:** The listeners will pray in faith during crisis.

# Introduction

### Interest: What is the most perplexing question in your life? Is it why I signed up for SBC?

### Need: Is it prayer? This is the most talked about and the least practiced subject.

### The intensity of our search depends on the importance of what we lost!

#### We lose our glasses and care about it, but our kids don’t.

#### Ladies losing their handbag is a genuine crisis.

#### Kids losing their phone are absolutely horrified.

#### The psalmist was also in crisis.

### Background: We do not know the precise crisis of what the psalmist was facing, but this doesn’t depreciate the impact of what he faced.

### Subject: How should we respond to the crisis in our life?

### Text: Psalm 77

# I. God is our starting place when we are in crisis (1).

## We cry out to God (1a).

## We need God’s ear (1b).

# II. We still struggle when we trust God (2-3).

## We lack sleep (2).

## At times of crisis, questioning is not simplistically equal to unbelief.

## Struggle to believe, not unbelief, can be part of our relationship with God.

## The rightness or goodness is not in our doubts but the confession of our doubts.

# III. We too often fear God’s abandonment of his people (4-9).

## Instead of sleep and prayer, we reflect on the good old days (4-6).

## Will God be uncompassionate towards me forever (7-9)?

# IV. When we doubt God’s help in the future, we must remember his faithfulness in the past (10-20).

## We fret about the present (10).

## But God was trustworthy in the past (11-12).

## We remember God’s past faithfulness in the Exodus for our present obedience (13-20).

# Conclusion

### Our faith may be a journey from crippling confusion to steady confidence in God (MI).

### Our faith may be a journey from total abandonment by God to total assurance in God (MI restated).

### Hebrews 5:7, “While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God.”

### Therefore, even Jesus struggled with death but entrusted himself to God as our compassionate high priest.

### There is NO such thing as the absentee God, just feelings or perception of it.

### There is NO such person as the abandoned believer, just feelings or perception of it.

### God can bring us from total abandonment to total assurance.