

In [Psalm 86](#) we read, "Turn to me and have mercy on me; grant your strength to your servant and save the son of your maidservant. Give me a sign of your goodness, . . ." (16 & 17a)

Many of us grew up with the impression that we should not be asking God for things for ourselves. He knows what we need, we were taught (which, of course, is true), and he will provide for us (which is also true). We were taught to just believe that God was with us, and there's truth in that as well.

Here, however, we see a specific request for a sign of His goodness - something very personal for "me." This verse is a clear reminder that God is just fine with being approached when we've reached our limits.

It is entirely in keeping with His role as our Father to have us approach Him when we feel abandoned, discouraged, or overwhelmed. He is eager to respond to our plea, "Give me a sign of your goodness, . . .," and more likely than not, we will be astonished at the nature of His response to us and its perfect timing.

