

## **Bias in Evaluating Transformational Development**

Reflect on Psalm 20

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The psalmist entreats us to put our trust in God, to call on God in times of trouble, to rely on God to grant us success in our plans. Can I do this as an evaluator and still produce trustworthy findings?

Evaluators seek to control bias through techniques that verify information and disclose plausible factors that may influence findings. But bias is relative to a worldview. What is free of bias in an empirical worldview may be greatly tainted in another worldview.

Seeking to do God's will throughout an evaluation event is the way that a Christian evaluator copes with bias. Pray as a team for understanding of the information at hand, for discernment of evidence related to the forces of good and evil, for humble courage to proclaim Jesus as Lord in ways that enhance development in the project communities.

Use empirical techniques to verify information but search for meaning within the Christian worldview.

*Lord, let me not be enslaved by either my culture or my past learning. Let me put all of my conclusions in the light of your word and retain only those that I can still see in that light. Amen.*