

PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING



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I am living a simple life because of where I have been and because I know that God can bring change to any situation.

Where I have been did not define me, it refined me. Many of us will face some difficult decisions in life, encounter some difficult situations that will either make us or break us. I was not broken, I was made whole, all because of a merciful God. I have seen the vanity and greed that destroys us, the desires of our hearts which leads us to destruction, the friends we keep that are going nowhere and are stumbling blocks in our pathway, the opportunities they offer which are short-lived, the gifts they give that are worthless, the advice they give which are often misleading, but yet, we can't seem to pull ourselves away from them, until they destroy us. But, we serve a living and an understanding God, a master potter who can make all things new, so when you have trod the path of the unrighteous and you reach a crossroad in your life, and do not know where to go, when you realize that you need a brand new start, but cannot do this in your own strength, call on Jesus. You need someone to stand in the gap for you, someone who is able to turn your life around and make you whole. That someone is Jesus. Where you have been which are often misleading, but yet, we should never define you, but refine you.

What is still holding you hostage? We must learn to forgive ourselves. God has already forgiven us.

What have you done that God has already forgiven you, yet you have not forgiven yourself for? Many of us are holding ourselves hostage to the past, hostage to things that we have done, decisions we have made, places we have been; we have become victims of our own circumstances. But, how long will we allow ourselves to go on this way? How could we pay the ransom that will set us free? My brothers and sisters in Christ God has already paid it in full. He has given us the liberty, he bore our sins so that we might be free. To be free from sin and guilt is a choice. God has made it so easy for us, in that he offered to us Salvation at no cost, he begs us to come, all who are weary, come home, he said, though your sins be like scarlet that he can make them white as snow. So, knowing this, say, "I am free to forgive myself and also others, because I too have been forgiven. I've been set free. I am free because God gave me that liberty."

A LOOK INSIDE

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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

And for the many times He did not bless me on my time, I give Him the glory.

How many of you know that your disappointment was a blessing in disguise? You will only understand this after you have been rebellious, wondering why God did not answer you when you called, and later, you received what was better than what you had requested. I have witnessed God's good timing in my life more times than I could count. We just need to understand, that God's timing is not ours, that his ways are not ours, but to trust him faithfully is a must. I thank the Lord every day that I am willing to wait for his blessings, being content with what I have. If you have ever been blessed when you least expected it, but exactly when you needed it, you will understand the perfection of God's timing. It's amazing to see people who are not walking in God's way, who are being blessed more than you and I who are trying to serving God faithfully, but I just smile, when I recall this song, "Tempted and tried we're oft made to wonder, why it should be thus all the day, while there are others living about us, never molested though in the wrong", but song goes on to say, farther along, we'll know all about it, farther along, we'll understand why. But, how many of us wait long enough to understand why, that God does these things so that others will know of his goodness and give him the glory? Not many of us ever understand why, because we are too busy being angry and jealous at the blessings of others. My brothers and sisters in Christ, do not be jealous or angry when God is at work in the lives of others, he is also at work in yours, and if you are too busy being angry and jealous at the blessings of others, your blessing will pass you by. Thank you Lord, for the patience to wait on you for my blessings.

I have seen God's goodness in my life, therefore, I do not need to be jealous or angry at the blessings of others.

I am trying every day to live a life that is pleasing to God. The harder it gets, the closer I get to God.

Scripture reminds us, that there is a voice of rebellion deep in the heart of the wicked, there is no fear of God before his eyes. But, do you have a wicked heart, do you fear God? If we fear God we will be mindful of the things we do and say, the way we treat others, the decisions we make, and how they will affect others. If we fear God, we would try our very best to be faithful to him, following his commandments and meditating on his word; for in so doing, we will be sure to understand his will for us, and the things we need to do to please him. But, if we are not in tune with God, if we are listening to the wrong voices and being led by the desires of our hearts, we will never be able to live lives pleasing to God. The voice of the wicked one is always ready to lead us away from listening to the voice of God, but as one of my favorite childhood songs encourage, "There's a wicked spirit, watching round you still, and he tries to tempt you, to all harm and ill, but ye must not hear him, though tis hard for you, too resist the evil and the good to do." All we can do is try to live lives that are pleasing to God.

Lord, I want to get closer to you, show me the pathway to living a life that is pleasing to you.

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I am so glad that I was caught in the net of Jesus. He did not let me go or cook me, He preserved me. Thank you Lord!

Many times people go fishing and when they catch a small fish, they sometimes throw it back into the water. But, thanks be to God, the greatest fisher of men, that he did not throw me back into the water, to be swimming against rough tides and high waves, but that his love lifted me into his net. I was sinking deep in sin, but now, I am committed to following Jesus, I want to be a fisher of men, not big, fish or small fish, but all fish, in rivers or canals, but in the wide ocean of the world. I understand that I will be not be successful fishing in every water, but will depend on God to show me where to cast my net, whether on this side or the other side. Our God is a God of second chances, he fished me out of murky waters, not to cook me, but to preserve me. When I look back at my life, and compare it to where I am now, I could only give thanks and praise to our God, who is the Master Potter, our God, who turned water into wine. Look what he did to me! IMAGINE what he'll do for you! If we want to be fishers of men like Jesus, we have to cast our nets on the other side, and whatever catch comes into the net, be careful not to throw it back too quickly, or to cook it, but learn to preserve it for the kingdom of God.

I want to be a fisher of men, because I was caught in the net of Jesus, and he turned my life around.

I f God be for us, who can be against us. Stop looking into the window of your old house.

Many are with us when times are good, when we are able to be of use to them, but when bad time comes, and we are no longer able to support them as we once did, we stand alone, except for God by our side. How assuring it is to know, that we have a friend in Jesus who sticks closer to us than any brother or sister, that when everyone have turned their backs on you, that God, will still stand by you? Many of us at some point in our lives, will find ourselves on the outside, looking into houses in which we once dwelled, because we are no longer welcomed, we could no longer conform to their standards. But thanks be to God, that once we become a member of his household, we will never be cast out, we will never have to be on the outside looking in, we will not be conformed to the standards of others, but transformed, by the renewing of our minds, we will be partakers of all that is good. Scripture reminds us, that if God be for us, who can be against us? Therefore, move on, stop looking into the window of your old house. God shut that door for a reason so why are you still trying to look into the window? If only we could understand that some doors need to stay closed. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of the Lord, than to dwell in the tents of the wicked. Praise the Lord!

If only we could understand that the closed doors in our lives need to stay closed. God closed them for a reason.

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Songs have a way of lifting me up when I am feeling down. Here is one of my favorites as our featured adult song:

The Lord, My God, My Shepherd Is

Written by: ***F. Bland Tucker—1895—1984 Para. of Psalm 23***

The Lord, my God, my Shepherd is, how could I want or need?
In Pastures green, by streams serene, he safely doth me lead.
To wholesomeness he restores my soul, and doth in mercy bless,
And helps me take for his namesake, the path of righteousness.
Yea, even when I must pass through, the valley of death's shade,
I will not fear, for thou art here, to comfort and to aid.
Thou hast in grace my table spread, secure in all alarms,
And filled my cup and bore me up, in everlasting arms.
Then surely I can trust his love, for all the days to come,
That I may tell thy praise and dwell, forever in thy home.



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INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES FROM THE DESK OF JEWELLYN GREER

If we want to be fishers of men like Jesus, we must learn to cast our nets on the other side.

Move on, stop looking into the window of your old house. God shut that door for a reason.

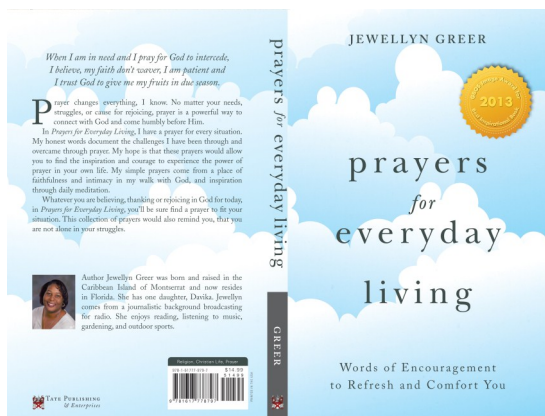
We need not die from cold without, when we could rekindle a fire within.

Learn to forgive yourself for something God has already forgiven you.

God can bring a change to any situation, he brought a change to mine.

I want to be the spark that will keep someone else's fire glowing.

Difficult situations should not break you, allow them to make you become a better person.



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Our spotlight is on you. Are you dying from cold without or dying from cold within?

I recently read for the first time, this poem by James Patrick Kinney, "The Cold Within", and it was so profound that I wanted to etch this poem in the back of my mind. It gave me so much food for thought, and I will constantly ask myself this question, "Am I dying from cold without, or dying from cold within?" This poem tells the story of six people trapped in the bitter cold, with a dying fire. Each one had a stick of wood, and when the fire was dying, rather than throwing their stick of wood on the dying fire to revive it, they selfishly held on to it and died of cold, when they could have rekindled the fire and save their lives. My brothers and sisters in Christ, we need not die from cold without, or allow others too, because every one of us has a stick of wood with which we could rekindle a fire. But, because of cold hearts, many die, relationships die, organizations die, all because of the cold hearts within us, our reluctance to share, our inhumane nature, our indifference to others, our need for revenge, and to render evil for evil. One song writer, said, "It only takes a spark to get the fire going, and soon, all those around, could warm up to its glowing, and that's how it is with God's love, once we've experience it, we'll want to pass it on". But how many have experience kindness and of God, or have had someone keep the fire glowing for them, yet, when the time came to keep the fire glowing for someone else, allowed the fire to go out because they refused to pass it on? Many of us could bring much needed change to the lives of others, but we watch from the sidelines, and do nothing. Life is a journey, and we all have a part to play in the journey of life. What will be your role? Will you be the spark to keep someone else's fire glowing, or will you not only allow the fire to go out, but allow yourself to die from cold within?

God, please lead me daily to someone where I could rekindle a dying fire.

Children's Corner: It's Eastertime, begin a new tradition with your kids. It could be as simple as baking cookies. Try the recipe below.

Sugar cookie recipe makes 4 dozen

Ingredients

2 3/4 cups all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon baking soda

1/2 teaspoon baking powder

1 cup butter, softened

1 1/2 cups white sugar

1 egg and 1 teaspoon vanilla essence

1.Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). In a small bowl, stir together flour, baking soda, and baking powder. Set aside.

2.In a large bowl, cream together the butter and sugar until smooth. Beat in egg and vanilla. Gradually blend in the dry ingredients. Cut teaspoonfuls of dough into shape and place onto ungreased cookie sheets.

3.Bake 8 to 10 minutes in the preheated oven, or until golden. Let stand on cookie sheet two minutes before removing to cool on wire racks.



Mmmm, Sugar Cookies indeed!

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Match the correct answers to the questions

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
How many hours of darkness were there when Jesus hung on the cross?	Joseph of Arimathea
How many pieces of silver was Judas willing to sell Jesus for?	3pm
How many times did Jesus ask Peter if he loved him?	Thorns
Some robbers were crucified Long with Jesus. How many were they?	30
How many times did Jesus fall on his way to Calvary?	Three
They put a crown on Jesus' head and mocked him, what was this made from?	3
Who asked Pilot for the body of Jesus?	3
At what hour was Jesus crucified?	2



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Childhood songs that we have learned have been passed on for generations. Let's keep it going. If you have a song that you would like to share, email it. Here is one of my favorites as our featured children's song:

All Things Bright And Beautiful Written by *Cecil Frances Alexander - 1848*

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings, He made their glowing colors, He made their tiny wings.

The rich man in his castle, the poor man at his gate, He made them, high or lowly, and ordered their estate.

The purple headed mountains, the river running by, the sunset and the morning, that brightens up the sky.

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun, the ripe fruits in the garden, He made them every one.

He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell, how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.



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