

Prayer Changes Everything!

I Believe in the Power of Prayer!

April 1, 2015 Volume 20

What is the desire of your heart that is leading you astray, causing you to sin against God?

We all have desires, but some of these desires are not right in God's eyes. Some of these desires are the result of greed that have overcome us, they are the result of lust, envy, jealousy and covetousness. Let us ask of God to control the desires of our hearts, to give us the mind-set to depend on him, and to grant us the desires of our hearts which are good for us. We should especially pray to God asking him to remove those desires which are wrong for us, and allow ourselves to trust him completely, knowing that he is the giver of all good things, and that he promised that he will not withhold anything good from those who love him, and trust him, and walk in his ways. Knowing this, what is preventing you from walking faithfully in the ways of the Lord? Is it your family, friends, material things, or your own stubborn wills? Whatever the obstacle between yourself and God, earnestly pray to God to remove it, humbly ask him to banish it from you, so that nothing will separate you from the love of God, and that you will be able to walk in his statutes and keep his commandments, all the days of your life. If you have been walking contrary to God's will for your life, it is never too late for a new start. Our God is a God of second chances, he is a God who has predestined great things for us, but we allow the enemy to entice us, to lead us far away from God and his will for us, but it's time to begin a new, allow God to help you, to show you the way and the more you listen to him the more he will show you the way that you should go. You and I have been walking the sinful road for too long, it has brought us nothing but pain and shame, it's time to stop walking away from God and walk instead towards God. His arms are open wide to receive us, his love for us is not one that will be conditional, but rather unconditional. No one else is able to change our unruly wills, but he wants us to submit to him willingly, to trust him, to hold our hands and walk with us. So, are you ready to take a bold step in God's direction? Are you ready to give up those things which have been holding you back? Those things that have enticed you, tricked you into believing that they were good for you, when in fact they were just forbidden fruits which left you hungry and unfulfilled in every way? Whichever direction you were going in, God can turn you around, whatever you were doing that was not of God, he can bring it to an end, whoever you were seeing that was leading you astray, God will deliver you, however low you have fallen, God will pick you up, for his plan for us is not for us to suffer, but that all should repent and turn to him, in whom there is joy unspeakable and endless glory. Welcome home!

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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING!

How fruitful is your field? What are you cultivating in God's vineyard?

As Christians, when we talk about sowing seeds in God's vineyard, we are not talking in the sense of seeds that will grow into corn or peas, we are indeed referring to a different kind of seed—PEOPLE. Many of you are acquainted with the verse of scripture that says, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few, we pray thee, send more laborers into the harvest." When Jesus saw how distressed and dispirited many were, he had compassion for them and he urged his disciples, saying, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." So too, we are experiencing a generation of distressed and dispirited people who need to come to know God, to be a part of his vineyard, and as Christians, we are called upon to go out and preach the word of God to all who will hear and become followers of God, part of his vineyard. Therefore, my brothers and sisters in Christ, we cannot fall asleep doing the work of the Lord, we must be watchful, always looking for new laborers to bring into God's vineyard, we cannot be weary, we cannot be afraid, but we must be ready, we must be armed with the word of God, so that as we have opportunity, we may be able to attract faithful workers for God's vineyard. Being a farmer for God is not an easy task, as you will be discouraged, ridiculed and even attacked as you try to cultivate good seeds for God's vineyard; but, do not be discouraged, or afraid, or you will not reap a bountiful harvest for God. Knowing this, I urge you therefore, to go out into the highways, byways, and alleyways, and preach a word in season to those who are hurting, to this distressed and dispirited generation, that they may become faithful laborers in God's vineyard.

How strong is your desire to know God?

Many of us claim to have a strong desire to know God, yet, we do not seek him. Maybe we do not know where to begin or if finding God is something that is possible for us. The reason why many find it so hard is because they have no relationship with him. But, how important is it to have a relationship with God? I will try to explain it this way. When you first see a man or woman that you desire, you will begin to foster a relationship with that person, because you want to know more about them. The same is true for anyone who truly desires God. The more you learn about him the more you will want to learn, and you will become so excited that you will want to tell the whole world about your new relationship with God, but you must first find him. My brothers and sisters in Christ it is easier to find God that you think. Scripture reminds us, that all those who seek God diligently will find him. Therefore, we will seek to find him through his word, we will look for him in the dark corners of our lives, we will search for him in sickness and in trouble, we will seek him out in sorrow and in pain, for we know oh Lord, that you are not hidden from us, we just need to come to know you in an intimate way. We realize oh Lord, that we cannot be intimate with someone we do not love, so show us how to first love you, to hunger and thirst after you, to put you first in our hearts, and then, we will find you, and you will dwell in us, and we in you. Amen.

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Is there a temptation in your life that has you overwhelmed?

No temptation that you are facing today is uncommon to man. What you are facing, you are able to overcome with God's help. Many of our temptations arise from lack of faith, we do not trust God enough for the things that we need, and instead, we blame our needs for the temptations that we give in to, the desires of our hearts which lead us astray, and the covetous spirits which lurks within us. When we give in to the temptations which always leads to sin, our soul is disquiet within us, we are down-casted and ashamed, and we are powerless to help ourselves in our weakened state. Instead of praying for the Lord to remove the temptation from you, pray that the power of God will rest upon you, that his grace will be sufficient for you and his strength will be made perfect in your weakness. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not to your own understanding, for the way that seems right unto a man, the end thereof is destruction. Better is a dry morsel and rest with it, than a house full of sacrifices with strife." It is only after we have stepped out of God's way to get those things that he did not intend for us to have and they overwhelm us, we realize that all we gained was sin and shame and we pray for God to deliver us. But, do we ever learn to wait patiently on the Lord? Do we ask him to give us the desires of our hearts instead of taking them out of his timing? Lord, when I am tempted to sin, show me a way out so as not to give in. For better is a little with the fear of the Lord, than much treasure and tumult with it.

Why do we continually lose our way.

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you thought that all was going well one minute and the next, you were in a situation you can't explain. We are warned of this very thing in this song: "Christians walk carefully danger is near, on in they journey with trembling and fear, snares from without, and temptations within, seek to entice thee once more into sin." As we walk along this Christian pathway, we cannot become complacent, we cannot let our guards down, we have to be fully suited up in God's armor lest we find ourselves vulnerable and lose our way. The enemy is determined to lead us out of God's way, but our heavenly Father knows this, and could stop the enemy in his tracks, but he wants us to fully trust him, to believe that he is able to destroy the works of the devil, that any stumbling block which the enemy puts in our way that he could remove it, but, we must be willing to faithfully walk in his way and to trust him no matter what. Because the enemy wants us to lose our way, he puts us through the ringer hoping that we would blame God and turn away from him; but, my brothers and sisters in Christ, God sent us His Son Jesus and named him Emmanuel which is a sign that he will always be with us, therefore trust him with all your heart and allow nothing to separate you from the love of God. Allow nothing and no one to cause you to lose your way, hold fast to God's unchanging hand and allow him to guide you on.

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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:

Christians, Walk Carefully

Written by: ***George Stebbins—1887***

Christian, walk carefully; danger is near! On in thy journey with trembling fear;
Snares from without, and temptations within, seek to entice thee once more into sin.

Christian, walk cheerfully through the fierce storm, dark though the sky with its threats of alarm;
Soon will the clouds and the tempest be o'er, then with thy Savior thou shall rest evermore.

Christian, walk prayerfully; Oft wilt thou fall, If thou forget on thy Savior to call;
Safe thou shall walk through each trial and care, If thou art clad in the armor of prayer.

Christian, walk hopefully; sorrow and pain, cease when the haven for rest thou shalt gain;
Then from the lips of the Judge, thy reward, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.



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INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES FROM THE DESK OF JEWELLYN GREER

If Jesus was raised from the dead, know that God also has the power to save you from sin.

However low you have fallen, God will pick you up, for his plan for us is not for us to suffer, but that all should repent and turn to him.

We will continue to spread the good news, to tell the world that the Lord is risen indeed!

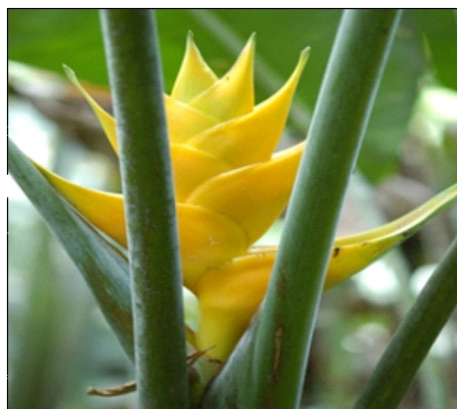
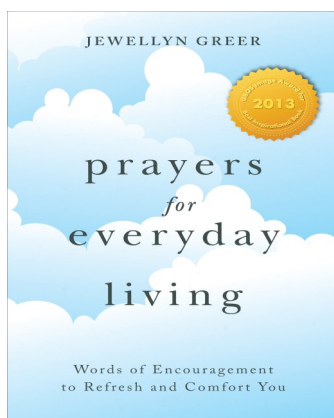
Jesus' rising shows us that death is not an end, but a passage from death to new life.

Jesus, help me to walk with you, let transformation of this world begin with me, I want to begin anew.

Jesus, I will never forget the road you travelled to Cavalry, the shame and reproach you gladly bore for my sake.


We know oh Lord, that you are not hidden from us, we just need to come to know you in an intimate way.

Lord, when I am tempted to sin, show me a way out so as not to give in.




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 **ur Spotlight is on you.** The joys of Easter. Celebrating the Eastertide. Allelujah!
The Lord is risen indeed!

“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.” Over the past 40 days, many of us reflected on the journey of Jesus to Calvary, we were saddened at all that he had to go through for our sake, and we reaffirmed our faith, we repented and asked God to bring a change to our lives. We were looking with anticipation for Easter, the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ – when we announce the good news. Jesus is risen! Jesus’ resurrection gives us the power to follow him. Because of his resurrection, we are confident that recovery is possible. We are confident that peace and reconciliation are possible. We are convinced that transformation will happen in silent, unseen ways. Jesus’ rising shows us that death is not an end, but a passage from death to new life. Jesus’ rising shows us that we could begin anew. But, will the joys that come with this Blessed Easter continue on with us throughout the year? What will we do to ensure that the joys of Easter reign in our hearts? We could continue to spread the good news, to tell the world that the Lord is risen indeed, tell them how you repented and asked God to create a change in you and because you believed, you are a new creation and a brand new person, that old things are passed away and that you are born again. Praise the Lord! Jesus, help me to walk with you, let transformation of this world begin with me, I want to begin anew. I will never forget the road you travelled to Cavalry, the shame and reproach you gladly bore for my sake, and I could tell the world, that because you live, I can face tomorrow, because you live, all my fears are gone, because you live, I will have life eternal. “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

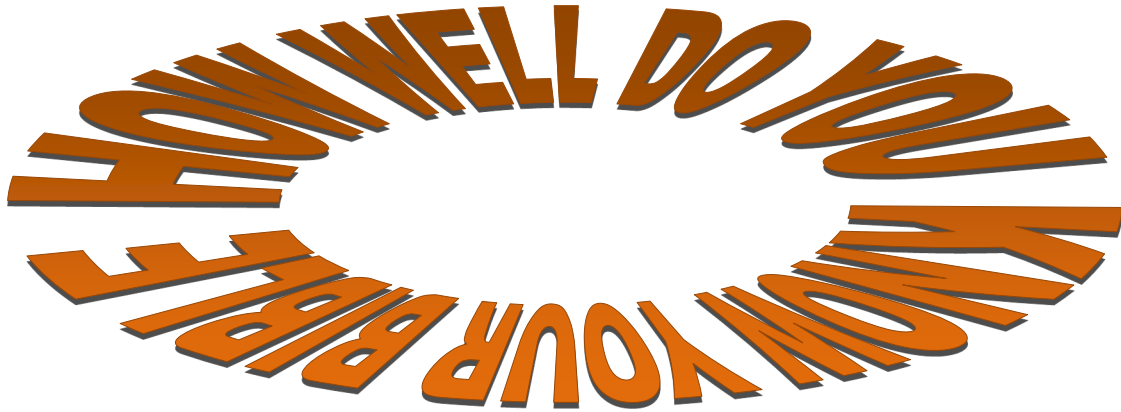
 **Children’s Corner:** Easter is fun for the kids, but we should remind them of the real meaning of Easter.

Our children need to know the real meaning of the Easter Season. Without taking away the fun of Easter Eggs and scavenger hunts, pretty dresses and suits, we should share with them as much as we think they will be able to understand, and involve them more as they grow older, so that they could understand the real meaning of Easter. “Jesus’ ministry, death, burial and resurrection”. I have included words for the children and some for the adults to use as well. Use them as teaching tools or topics for discussion. Have a Happy and Blessed Easter! The Lord is Risen Indeed! Allelujah!

Resurrection	Risen	Compassion	Rainbows	Rabbits	Dresses	Painting
Calvary	Cross	Burden	Ribbons	Bunnies	Party	Decorating
Repent	Crown	Grief	Easter Eggs	Pink	Parade	Chickens
Salvation	Nails	Pain	Chocolate	Blue	Hats	Flowers

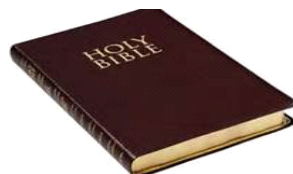
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Match the correct answers to the questions

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
How many days of Lent do we celebrate before Easter?	Jesus' Resurrection
How many traditional colors of Easter are used?	Easter Vigil
What are the traditional flowers of Easter?	Resurrection Sunday
We celebrate Easter as a sign of this. What is this?	Forty
On which day of the week was the Last Supper held?	Passion of the Christ
The Easter Watch is also referred to as this. What is this?	5(red, white, black, gold, purple)
This movie is popular at Easter. Which movie is this?	Thursday (Maudy Thursday)
Easter Sunday is also know as this. What is this?	Lilies



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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 Easter song:

Christ the Lord is Risen Today!
Written by *Charles Wesley - 1707*

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia! Death in vain forbids Him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened Paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia! Dying once He all doth save, Alleluia! Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia! Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia! Praise to Thee by both be given, Alleluia! Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia! Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!

King of glory, soul of bliss, Alleluia! Everlasting life is this, Alleluia! Thee to know, Thy power to prove, Alleluia! Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia!



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