

# Prayer Changes Everything!

## I Believe in the Power of Prayer!

April 1, 2016 Volume 24

**T**he Resurrection Story. What Easter is all about. **HE IS RISEN! THE LORD IS RISEN INDEED!**

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, so that all who believe in him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16—This is what the resurrection story is all about, this is what Easter is all about. There are forty days leading up to Easter. During this period called Lent, we reflect on why Jesus died for us, why he paid the ultimate sacrifice for the atonement of our sins. We enter a period of fasting, penitence and forgiveness for the sins we have committed, that are grievous unto God, after all that he has done for us and seek his forgiveness. The resurrection story gives us a clearer picture of Jesus' victory over death and sin, but, until all of us come to appreciate all that he has done for us and accept him, as king of kings and lord of lords and commit our lives to serving him, we will continue on in sin and the evil way, denying ourselves the right to live sober, righteous and godly lives, lives filled with peace, joy, hope and love. When God sent his Son, his only Son to die on the cross to save us, he already knew the beginning and the end, he knew our stubborn, rebellious hearts, he knew that he would have to allow Jesus to die on the cross and raise him up three days later, so that we would believe in him. The death of Jesus on the cross makes us sad, but the joys of knowing that he is risen, that he is seated at the right hand of God, daily making intercessions for us, give us all the more reason to celebrate Easter. If during the forty days of Lent we could abstain from sin and the evil way, if we could retrain ourselves to walk in the way of Cross, then surely, we should be able to continue on the path that will lead to heaven, where Jesus is. If the sinner who hung on the cross next to Jesus was able to recognize that there was something good and right about Jesus and accepted him, why are we who claim to be Christians rejecting him? Let us use Resurrection Sunday to reconnect with God and accept him.

### A LOOK INSIDE

- ⇒ Why God called you out
- ⇒ If you claim Christ walk differently
- ⇒ Why does God test us
- ⇒ What Easter means for our children
- ⇒ Featured Adult Song
- ⇒ Inspirational Quotes
- ⇒ Our Spotlight
- ⇒ Children's Corner
- ⇒ Bible Quiz
- ⇒ Featured Children's Song

# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING!

**H**ave you ever experienced a testing from the Lord?

We are tested in so many different ways; in sickness we are tested, in our families we are tested, in our places of work, we are tested, in our financial situations we are tested. But, the strange thing is this; when we are tested, many of us don't see this as a test from God, to see how strong our faith is, we just want the situation to pass. My brothers and sisters in Christ, there is no sunshine without rain, there is no heartache without pain and there is no victory without overcoming something. When you and I are going through what we view as setbacks, know that God is setting us up for a comeback. I don't know about you, but I have been through some storms in my life, and when I look back and see where I came from and where I am now, I can see that if it had not been for the Lord on my side, I would not have made it. When I look back and see the mysterious ways he delivered me, provided for me, healed me and loved me through all my doubts and fears, I just have to say, thanks be to God, for leading me along the rugged roads and rocky mountains, steep inclines and dark valleys, because I know now, that, in all things that he was there, that he was just testing me, to see if I would turn back, if I would keep his commandments or not, to know what was in my heart. But, glory be to God, by his grace I made it, by his grace you too will make it, just never forget, that the Lord has already charted a course for each one of us and that he is our road map, he is our guide and that he will never leave us to struggle alone, because if he ever leaves us alone, we will never find our way and we could never attain the comeback that he had orchestrated for us, so long ago.

**W**hen God calls you out and why.

Have you ever wondered why God called you out? Many of us are so thankful to God for saving us, that we never really stopped to think about why he did. My brothers and sisters in Christ, God knew us before we were born, he predestined great things for us, but, before he can purpose his plans for us, he has to make us ready. Many times when God calls us, we are reluctant, because we don't think that we are ready, but God foreknew, he knows our abilities and that is why, when he calls us out and says, 'Come out from among them', I don't think it necessarily means that we are in bad company, but that it's our time to shine and we should not be afraid of what our friends will think or say about us, but how God will use us. I could remember the day God called me out and for three months I was in denial, I could not believe that God had called me into his service, without what I considered little to no notice, but the fact is, that, God had given me notice, much notice; he had been talking to me, he had been guiding, even though I was rebelliously walking the other way. But, looking back now, I could see clearly all the many ways that God was preparing me. Because of my decision to follow God, my friends — and I still call them my friends, some of them dislike me, some have disowned me, many don't understand me, but some have stood by me and beyond that, God keeps loving me. My prayer, my hope is that more of us would come to know God intimately, that more of us would answer the call to come out from among them and walk in the plans that God has prepared for us to walk in. My hope is that all of us who are now joint heirs with Christ, will be able to be the persons God called us to be and live the life he planned for us to live. Praise the Lord!

Let us know how this issue helped you, please [click here](#)  
Questions or comments? Email us at: [jewellyngreerministries@yahoo.com](mailto:jewellyngreerministries@yahoo.com)

# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

**H**ave you ever felt like your whole world was just crumbling around you?

You may have just recovered from one situation and another one takes over, and it's like a domino effect, everything comes crashing down and you say, "Well, what's next?" I have come to realize that the harder and faster my struggles come, the more I need to trust God, because every time this happens, something bigger is experienced. I usually say, that the stronger the pressure the greater the explosion. Christians are always under pressure, because the enemy realizes that our focus is on God and he will try to do anything to turn us away from God. He will seek to thresh us like wheat, but, we must be strong, we must hold fast to the word of God in these times and allow them to sustain us. Many times when we experience something troubling, before it takes away our praise, we should stop and pray, because the enemy will cause doubt and fear to assail us and then, when we are weakened, he will use the situation to cause us to rebel against God, to fall away from all that we have worked so hard to achieve; our hope and our confidence in God. As the songwriter said, "In times like these, we need a Savior, in times like these we need an anchor, be very sure, be very sure, your anchor holds and grips a solid rock. In times like these we need the Bible, in times like these Oh, be not idle, be very sure, be very sure, your anchor holds and grips a solid rock." The devil will thresh you like wheat, but, if you persevere, if you do not lose heart, God will refine you into the best flour and seat you at the king's table. Praise the Lord!

**W**e must never consider our work for God done until our life is done.

How do we know what God wants us to do? He has already told us what is good and what it is that he requires of you and I in Micah chapter 6 and verse 8; to act justly, to love faithfulness and to walk humbly with our God. He reminds us in Proverbs 21 and verse 3, that, to do what is right and just is more acceptable to him than sacrifice and in Isaiah chapter 1 and verse 16, he said, wash and make yourselves clean, take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong; and he warns us in 2 Timothy 2 verse 22, to run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts and instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace and to enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts. My brothers and sisters in Christ, God requires us to do these things consistently. He expects us to consider this our life's work, to do all that he commands us to do. Is it easy? No! Could we do it? Yes! But, only with God's help, only by God's grace; therefore, whatever the good things that we find ourselves doing, let us do it all for the glory of God, because this is his will for us. We must never consider our work for God done, till our life is done. He that follows after righteousness and mercy finds life, righteousness, and honor. Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and build each other up.

Let us know how this issue helped you, please [click here](#)

Questions or comments? Email us at: [jewellyngreerministries@yahoo.com](mailto:jewellyngreerministries@yahoo.com)

# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

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

Easter Song — Hallelujah, He is Risen!

Written by: ***Anne Herring & Jack Schrader—1974***

Hallelujah, "He is risen!" Jesus is gone up on high!  
Burst the bars of death asunder; angels shout, and men reply:  
He is risen, He is risen, living now, no more to die.

Hallelujah He is risen! Our exalted Head to be;  
Sends the witness of the Spirit; that our Advocate is He:  
He is risen, He is risen, justified in Him are we.

Hallelujah, He is risen! Death for aye has lost his sting;  
Christ, Himself the Resurrection, from the grave "His own" will bring,  
He is risen, He is risen, living Lord and coming King.



Let us know how this issue helped you, please [click here](#)  
Questions or comments? Email us at: [jewellyngreerministries@yahoo.com](mailto:jewellyngreerministries@yahoo.com)

# INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES FROM THE DESK OF JEWELLYN GREER

The devil was threshing me like wheat, but God was refining me into the finest flour.

Christians are always under pressure, but, the stronger the pressure the greater the explosion will be.

Thank you God for leading me along the rugged roads and rocky mountains, steep inclines and dark valleys.

We must never consider our work for God done, till our life is done.

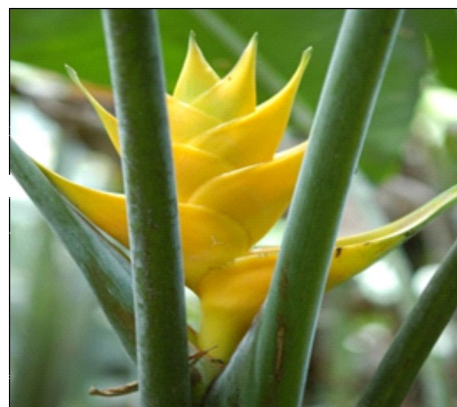
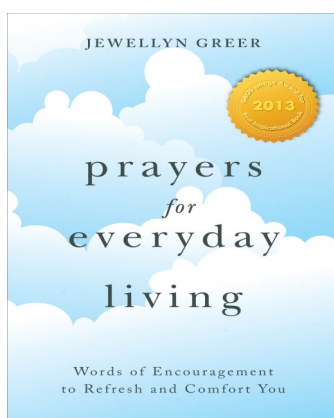
When we get a new job, it comes with new rules and responsibilities, so too is it when we have accepted Christ.

When you and I are going through what we view as setbacks, know that God is setting us up for a come back.

Too many of us claim to be in Christ, but want to continue walking in the same old ways, doing the same old things and this will not work.

When God gives us a new heart and puts a new spirit within us, we must walk differently, talk differently, see things differently and act differently, all for the glory of God.

Get more quotes like these at: <http://prayersforeverydayliving.com/quotes/>



Let us know how this issue helped you, please [click here](#)  
Questions or comments? Email us at: [jewellyngreerministries@yahoo.com](mailto:jewellyngreerministries@yahoo.com)

# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

**O**ur Spotlight is on you. If we have been raised to a new life with Christ, let us keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, at the right hand of God.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17. My brother and sisters in Christ, if anyone of us claim to be in Christ, we are a new creation, the old things are passed away and we are born again. But, too many of us claim to be in Christ and want to continue walking in the same old ways, doing the same old things and this will not work. When we get a new job, it comes with new rules and responsibilities, why then do you think it is any different when you have accepted Christ? Your role as a new creation should be seeking the things of God, spending time with him, feeding his sheep wherever you go and working out your salvation with fear and trembling. When God gives us a new heart and puts a new spirit within us, when he removes our hearts of stone and gives us hearts of flesh, we must walk differently, talk differently, see things differently and act differently, all for the glory of God. We should not have to tell others that we are changed, our conduct and our character and our conversations should speak for us. No more will we follow after other gods and serve them, but serve the one true living God. Therefore, since we have been raised to a new life with Christ, let us keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

**C**hildren's Corner: Easter is just more than Easter Eggs and pretty dresses. It's about the sacrifice God made for us all—What makes Easter any different from Easter now to Easters gone by and what does it mean for us and for our children?

Easter is such a wonderful time of year. It is the most significant celebration in the lives of Christians; but, while we as adults celebrate the risen and ascended Lord, we must ensure that our children enjoy all the joys of Easter, while helping them to understand the real meaning of Easter. As a child growing up, Easter was about pretty dresses, concerts, church services and Easter picnics. Why should it be any different today for our children? We have to explain to them why we celebrate Easter, we need to encourage them to share in passion plays to help them understand the truth about Jesus; how he came into this world and the sacrifice he made for us, and when that Blessed Easter Sunday comes around, they will be proud to join in the celebrations, the pretty dresses, the Easter Egg hunts, the Easter baskets, the Easter picnics, just as we did Easters gone by. Parents, we have a responsibility to heighten the interest of Easter for our children in positive ways. Hope your Easter is truly blessed.

## HE IS RISEN! THE LORD IS RISEN INDEED!

Let us know how this issue helped you, please [click here](#)  
Questions or comments? Email us at: [jewellyngreerministries@yahoo.com](mailto:jewellyngreerministries@yahoo.com)

# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING



**Match the correct answers to the questions**

| QUESTIONS   | ANSWERS             |
|---|---------------------|
| This disciple denied Jesus three times. Who was he?   | Jesus' Resurrection |
| What does the name Jesus means?   | A Stone             |
| Jesus was mock as a king and he was given a crown but it was not gold. What was it made of? | The Cross           |
| What is the forty day period that leads up to Easter?                                       | Palm Sunday         |
| Jesus was forced to carry this wooden fixture all the way to Calvary. What was it?          | Peter               |
| Easter Sunday is the celebration of what?   | Thorns              |
| This Sunday precedes Easter Sunday. What is it called?                                      | Lent                |
| This was used to seal the tomb where Jesus was laid after his crucifixion. What was it?     | Savior              |



Let us know how this issue helped you, please [click here](#)  
Questions or comments? Email us at: [jewellyngreerministries@yahoo.com](mailto:jewellyngreerministries@yahoo.com)



# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

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. Our featured childhood song is a favorite of Eileen Castillo of St. Mark's Episcopal Church—Dorchester MA

## Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man!

Author— *Unknown*

The song recounts the story of Zacchaeus as reported in Luke 19:1–10.

Zacchaeus was a wee little man ,  
and a wee little man was he.

He climbed up in a sycamore tree  
For the Lord he wanted to see.

And when the Savior passed that way  
He looked up in the tree.

And said, 'Zacchaeus, you come down!

For I'm going to your house today!

For I'm going to your house for tea!

Zacchaeus was a wee little man,  
But a happy wee little man was he,  
For he had seen the Lord that day

And a wee happy man was he;

And a wee happy man was he.



Let us know how this issue helped you, please [click here](#).  
Questions or comments? Email us at: [jewellyngreerministries@yahoo.com](mailto:jewellyngreerministries@yahoo.com)