

# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING



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**G**rowing spiritually in God's grace. Where do you begin?

Walking with God begins with the first step of accepting him as the Lord and Master of our lives. Growing with God begins when we learn to communicate with him on an intimate level, and meditating on his word daily to understand what is required of us. As we grow spiritually in God's grace, we are changed, we do things differently, we look at others differently, not in a bad way but in a good way, always bearing fruits of the spirit which are love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, gentleness and self-control. To grow spiritually in God's grace requires people with grateful thankful hearts, appreciative of all that the Lord has done and continue to do; people who are willing to be still in his presence, to listen to his still small voice to guide us in the path where he intends for us to go. All God requires of us is time, time spent with him in prayer and meditation, time to tell others of all that he has done for us, time to show others that God's way is always the better way. If you were wondering where to begin growing spiritually in God's grace, I hope that you were motivated and encouraged, I hope that you will allow God to have his own way in your life today.

**G**od loves us just the way we are, but he has the power to mold us in his own way.

How could God love me the way I am? You may have asked yourself this question many times, during periods of reflection, after you have done something reckless, irresponsible, or hurtful. It's good that you feel this way, because many people commit the same reckless, irresponsible or hurtful acts and they go about their way not giving a moment's thought to those whom they may have hurt in the process. God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of love and sound mind, to discern good from evil. Many times, we know what we should do, but the mind is willing and the flesh is weakened, and God understand this, and that is why he loves us even as we are, but he warns us about presumptuous sins, he warns us that his spirit will not always strive with us. Therefore, when we recognize our frailty in our service to God, we should come before him in repentance, for he is a forgiving and an understanding God, he has the power to mold us in his own way and in his own time. Just pray in this manner, saying, "Lord, I have followed the desires of my own heart, I have wandered like lost sheep, I done things that I am ashamed of, things that are unlovely, but I ask you in your mercy to forgive me, to create in me a clean heart and to renew a right spirit within me. Amen." God answers every prayer.

## A LOOK INSIDE

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# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

**W**ho is your friend? Could you trust that friend to come through for you in times of need?

A friend is one who sticks closer than a brother. During my lifetime, I have learned the importance of friendship. I have had to learn the meaning of true friendship the hard way, because of a need we have as humans to see for ourselves, we are like doubtful Thomases, we have been warned that this person is not capable of being a true friend, but to no avail. We all need two friends; one who will be the only life link you have left, the one person you could call at 3am and know that your call will not be ignored, and the other who will be true to you, who will be real with you at all times. Scripture warns us about putting our trust in princes, for they will fail us, but we are each other's keepers and we should show love without hypocrisy. If we call ourselves friends we should show ourselves friendly, for a friend loves at all times. When we are facing difficult times, we call on the Lord to help us, and we trust him to do so; but, here is where our earthy brothers and sisters whom we call friends come in to play, for God does not always come, but he sends help. Are you being your brother or sisters keeper? Are you being a true friend or a friend of convenience. We must learn to love from pure hearts.



**A friend loves at all time, and loves unselfishly**

**A**re you doing all things for the glory of God, or are you doing them for selfish reasons?

“We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.” If we truly belief this, why are we doubtful, or why do we take the credit for the things that God has commissioned us to do? We are reminded in 1 Corinthians, that whatever we do in word or deed, that we should do it for the glory of God. Knowing this, why do we complain when we have to help someone, why do we have to tell others of the help we gave to someone in need, why do we complain about the jobs we are doing, why are we only available to help others when there is a crowd, why do we use others as stepping stones, why do we extend our hands only when we could reap the benefits, why do we care so much about who gets the praise? God is the only one worthy of the praise, but he is also a rewarder of the faithful. We can do nothing in our own strength, but we could do all things through Christ who strengthens us, so let us do all things for the glory of God. Scripture reminds us to do the things God commands us to do so that it may be well with us. We are reminded to love unselfishly, to give cheerfully, to help willingly, to care deeply, and to do all things without complaining, for if we do it to the least of them, we are doing it unto God. The next time you find yourself in a situation which requires you to be in the service of the Lord, do it to his honor and glory. God sees the good and the bad, he will reward us according to our deeds. We read in Philippians chapter 2: Therefore, if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself, and look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.



**Help willingly, give cheerfully, love unselfishly.**

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# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

**G**od is not finished with you yet. He is only just getting started.

Who knows this better than I do? I recalled when I gave my life to Christ, I said to my mother, “Mommy, I feel so bad that God is getting the worst of me,” and she said, “God is not getting the worst of you, he has the best in store for you.” When God takes control of your life, your limits are endless, you no longer lust after the things that cannot satisfy you or feel unworthy of God’s blessings. I am proud to say, I have been there and I have done that. Now that God is in control of my life, I am drinking from the wellspring of my father in heaven, and my joy is unspeakable. When I thought that there was nothing good left in me, nothing that God would want to use, he started to use me for his glory. Each time I am elevated to the next level, I barely get time to breathe before my next assignment begins, for God has started his train in motion, which is unstoppable, and I am on board. So, never think that God is getting what’s left of you, for he is the potter and he could make all things new, we are all work in progress, and when he sets our train in motion, nothing or no one could preempt it or stop it. When God is using us for his purpose he will remove every stumbling block and make every crooked way straight. He brings it to pass.



**God’s train is in motion, get on board or get left behind.**

**I**s your faith holding you back from following the path God predestined for you?

God has called every one of us to different ministries. Yes, our amazing God called us by name and assigned our various tasks, but will use us at the appointed time. Many times God has commissioned us and we find every excuse with his timing. I am too young, I am too old, I am not skillful, I not smart enough, I don’t have enough money, no one will support me and the list goes on and on. You may be wondering, if God is able to use me for what he has predestined, why would he allow me to be fearful of following the path he has chosen for me, why would he allow all of these fears and doubts to assail me, even though it’s something that I have always wanted? Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. God intends for us to trust him, to totally rely on him. We of our own selves do not know our limitations but God knows what we can and cannot do. So, in order for us to reach our full potential, we have to trust God when we cannot see ahead, we have to rely on him and no one else, we have to believe that if he has called us for a ministry that he has already equipped us. So, when we receive our assignment, we need to step into the path God predestined for us banishing fear, doubt and insecurity from our minds. We should never doubt our abilities, for the same God who began a good thing in us will complete it.



**God’s pathway for you may look like a maze but follow where God leads you.**

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# INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES FROM JEWELLYN GREER

God measures our faith by the trials we overcome.

We must allow our faith to be justified by our works.

Lord, teach us how to pray, believing in the power of prayer, for prayer changes everything.

In times of affliction we are weak and we need to shut out the negative voices and enlist the help of those around us to bolster our confidence in God.

Many cannot see to give God the glory, because they are still carnal and cannot see the goodness of the Lord; but we who could discern the goodness of the Lord, ought to tell out our souls the greatness of the Lord!

Teach us dear Lord, to drink only from the pleasures of your fountain, the well spring of life.

When we are slaves to sin we bear fruits which we will be ashamed of, but when we are servants of God we reap fruits of righteousness.

Many of us complain that God's way is not right when he deals with us justly, but it is our way that is not right. Bring us to repentance Lord.

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# 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:

## WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

Taken from Ira Sankey's Sacred Songs and Solo's

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear, what a privilege to carry, everything to God in prayer. Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry, everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptation, is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged, take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious savior still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer. Do thy friends despise forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer, in his arms he'll take and shield thee, thou wilt find a solace there.

# EVERYTHING TO GOD IN PRAYER

# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

**O**ur spotlight is on you. What is your bumper sticker saying about you? Is it encouraging or discouraging?

When we are walking in the light of the Lord, our spirits are like bumper stickers, they compel others to read us. People will judge you from the first moment they see you. Scripture warns us against judging others, yet we cannot seem to help ourselves, we continue to label one another without really getting to know one another. Knowing this, especially all of us walking in God's way, should always be careful to believe in the product that we sell, that we are God's children walking in the light of the Lord. We know and fully understand, that we cannot light our lamps and hide them under a bushel where no one can see it, we have to allow that bright light to shine for others who are walking in darkness to find their way to God. If our way is dark, if our outward man is discouraging, if we fail to lift up those who are hurting, if we fail to be

our brother's keeper, we need to change our bumper stickers. When we are changed, others should see Christ in us, as opposed to telling others that Christ lives in us. Our spirits should draw people to us, and not chase them away from us. Have you met anyone lately who was just a breath of fresh air? You probably were having a bad day, feeling discouraged, lost or alone, and you are going about the day, barely going through the motions, and here comes this person all bubbly and smiling, and your first impression is to scowl and to get angry with this person for no other reason, that they seem happier than you are. You could be too. When this happens to you, step back and read the bumper sticker carefully. Read it in its entirety. – I am the friend of your best friend sent to brighten your day. What a friend we have in Jesus!



**Your bumper sticker is your lantern**

**C**hildren's Corner: Are we raising thankful children? Are we encouraging them to be thankful for all the many good gifts they receive?

What are you most thankful for? List them here:

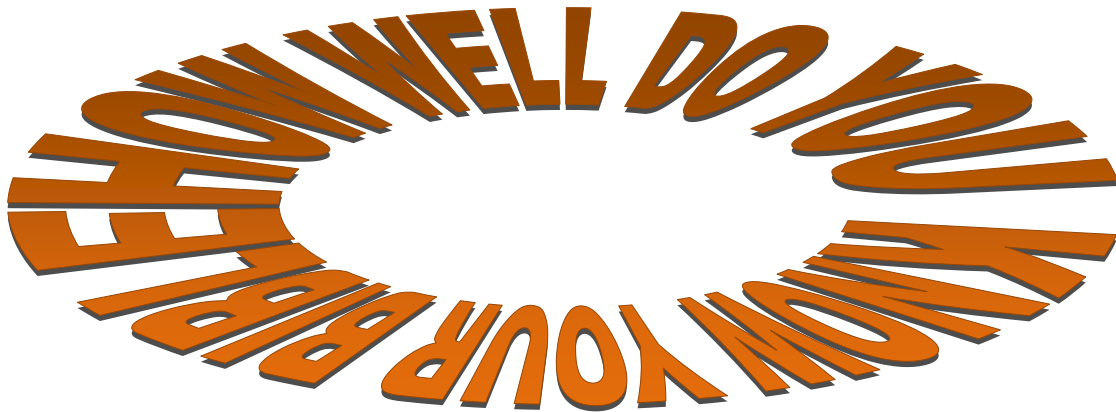
My thank you prayer:

Lord, I am thankful for all the many blessings of this life. Sometimes I may forget to say thank you, but bring it to remembrance, so that I could show you my gratitude. Amen



**Thank you Lord!**

# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING



Match the correct answers to the questions

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
Which foods did Jesus multiply to feed the multitude following him?	Wine
Moses was left in a basket. Who found him and took him home?	The sun
Adam and Eve ate a forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden. Which fruit was this?	The rainbow
This object stood still for a whole day so that Joshua's army could win the battle. What was it?	Loaves and fish
Which king was made to eat grass like an animal until he came to acknowledged that God was Sovereign over all?	Apple
Jesus was at a wedding and this drink ran out. What was it?	A sheep
This object is God's guarantee to never destroy the earth again by a flood. What it this?	Nebuchadnezzar
God provided this animal for Abraham to offer as a sacrifice instead of his son. Which animal was this?	Pharaoh's daughter

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# 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. Here is one of my favorites as our featured children's song:

## JESUS LOVES EVEN ME

Taken from Ira D. Sankey's Sacred Songs and Solos

I am so glad that our Father in heaven, tells of His love in the book He has given, wonderful things in the Bible I see, this is the dearest, that Jesus loves me.

Though I forget him and wander away, still he doth love me wherever I stray, back to his dear loving arms would I flee, when I remember that Jesus loves me

Oh, if there's only one song I can sing, when in his beauty I see the great king, this shall my song through eternity be, oh ,what a wonder that Jesus loves me!

In this assurance I find sweetest rest, trusting in Jesus I know I am blessed, Satan dismayed, from my soul now doth flee, when I just tell him that Jesus loves me.

I am so glad that Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me, I am so glad that Jesus loves me, Jesus loves even me.

# JESUS LOVES EVEN ME

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