

PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING



December 1, 2013 - Vol. 6

When we learn to share the little that we have, God multiplies what is left.

Many of us know the story of the five loaves and the two fish; we know the story of the woman who shared the last of her flour to make bread for a stranger; but, how has that impacted our lives in sharing with others? I feel compelled to dig into the story of this woman, who did not know where the next meal will come from to save herself and her son from starvation. Yet, here comes a stranger who asked her for a drink of water and a piece of

bread. She ran back to Elijah the man of God, unknown to her, and explained that she only had one meal left for her son and herself. She told him that they had no more flour or oil to make any more bread. Elijah told her to go home and make a loaf of bread for him first, and you know what happened when she did—her jar of flour and her jug of oil were replenished. When we learn to share the little that we have, God multiplies the rest. Praise the Lord!

God never rations his blessings to us, he just gives them in his own time.

Never be disappointed when you pray to God and do not get what you prayed for, but, be especially thankful, for all that you did not ask for and God granted to you, and for all that you asked for and he did not give to you. God never rations his blessings to us, nor is he regretful for what he gave to us yesterday, but instead he is happy to give us more when we pray. What happens when you give someone a gift and they say thank you, or you do something nice for them and they

show their appreciation in a big way? You are more willing to give again and to do again for that person. So too, when we give God the honor and glory due his name, he finds more ways for us to glorify him. You may think you are in need, but God will give you what you need when you need it. He knows our needs before we ask, and many times, our self-classified needs are barely wants. Know that God never rations his blessings to us, he just gives them to us in his own time.

A LOOK INSIDE

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I will never be too blind to see and appreciate the good things I currently have, and give God thanks.

I may be blinded by the lack and your blessing passed you by. Will insufficiencies in my life, I may be you pause for a moment and just blinded by the clouds which over look around you? See what the Lord shadow my eyes, but I will never be has done for you, appreciate the too blind to see and appreciate the doors he has opened for you, and good things I currently enjoy. How thank him for all that he has given many of us have good things right you. There is none so blind as he in front of us that we don't see and who will not see. Open your eyes enjoy? The reason is that we are too daily to see and enjoy all the busy looking further away from us blessings of this life given to you by God. at the blessings of others, and al- There is so much beauty all around lowing ourselves to get angry, when us, there is so much to be thankful we could be enjoying the blessings for, but instead of appreciating what we have received that are staring us we do have, we complain about in the face. Your blessings may have what we don't have, and this become, and because you were too comes a barrier, a lack, an insufficiency, and an overshadowing of blessing, coveting what they have, everything else that is good.



EVERYTHING

How much is too much, and how little is not enough?

What we consider a little is most better than us, and we keep asking times a lot, for if we never stop to for more. But, when does too much measure a little, by comparing it to become too little? When we become what we have received, then a lot greedy, when we are only looking will always appear to be little. We all out for self, when we care less have been blessed by God. We are about the needs of those around us, daily being blessed by God, but never when we are not thankful to God seem to have enough. God daily who give us more than we deserve, loads us with benefits. He gives to too much will become too little, because the things we need, but is it ever because we will never seem to have enough? We are constantly looking enough. When we learn to be content at what others have, we are content with what we have, when we constantly craving the things we don't learn to give thanks to God for what need, we are always jealous of our we do have, too little will always neighbor who seems to be doing seem like so much more.



A little with a contented heart is plenty.

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The actions of others should motivate the good in you to shine through.

We all respond differently to the situations we face. Sometimes we act quickly, sometimes we move slowly, but, in all things and in all people, scripture reminds us, that we must be slow to speak and swift to act. We should look for the positives and not focus too much on the negatives. We are surrounded by people all day long, people of different races, with different personalities and differing values, but we should allow the people around us to motivate us into action. If they are sad be happy, if they are down-couraged, be encouraged, if they are being unpleasant, be pleasant. It is fair to say that people are generally happy during the Christmas holidays, but it does ring true for everyone. Some may be angry and bitter, sick, lacking and just not feeling the Christmas spirit, and it's up to you and me to do our part. Give love especially at Christmas time, for we are celebrating Christmas because of God's love for us, he gave us Jesus, the light of the world, to bring, joy and peace to the world. Merry Christmas!



Let us not become weary in doing good.

Do difficult times bend you or break you?

If I allow difficult times to bend me, then I am vulnerable to being broken, and God is the potter who mends what is broken. This year has been trying for us in many different ways. Some of us were able to continue on with prayer, and some were broken by fear. My brothers and sisters in Christ, difficult times should not break us if we are strong in the Lord, but we are human, and God understands, and that is why he is always on the mend with us, fixing what is broken, mending what is torn, but God cannot fix you if keep saying you are not broken. Humble yourself before the Lord, fall prostrate at his feet, crawl to him so that you may be able to touch the hem of his garment, and when reach out to him until you hear him say; Who touched me? Then, answer, saying Jesus of Nazareth, your servant is broken, fix me Lord. What better gift could one receive this Christmas, but the whole-some gift of salvation. This is one gift that will keep on giving for years to come. So, if the difficult times had you bending this year, allow God to raise you up and bless you with the gift that will keep on giving for years to come. Accept the gift of salvation so freely given, do not allow the difficult times to bend you out of shape, but just bring you down to your knees in prayer before God—the Mender—the Healer—the Restorer of our faith. Praise the Lord!



When difficult times bend you, God can mold you.

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Songs have a way of saying what we feel. Here is one of my favorites as our featured adult song:

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS

Co-written and co-produced by:

Mariah Carey, Walter Afanasieff , 1994

I don't want a lot for Christmas, there's just one thing I need, I don't care about the presents underneath the Christmas tree, I just want you for my own, more than you could ever know, make my wish come true... all I want for Christmas is you...

I don't want a lot for Christmas, there is just one thing, I need I don't care about the presents, underneath the Christmas tree, I don't need to hang my stockings, there upon the fireplace, Santa Clause won't make me happy, with a toy on Christmas day, I just want you for my own, more than you could ever know, make my wish come true, all I want for Christmas is you...

I won't ask for much this Christmas, I won't even wish for snow, I'm just gonna keep on waiting, underneath the mistletoe, I won't make a list and send it, to the north pole for Saint Nick, I won't even stay awake, to hear those magic reindeer click, 'cause I just want you here tonight, holding on to me so tight, what more can I do, baby all I want for Christmas is you
You...

All the lights are shining, so brightly everywhere, and the sound of children's laughter fills the air, and everyone is singing, I hear those sleigh bells ringing, Santa won't you bring me the one I really need, won't you please bring my baby to me...
Oh I don't want a lot for Christmas, this is all I'm asking for, I just want to see my baby, standing right outside my door, oh I just want you for my own, more than you could ever know, make my wish come true, baby all I want for Christmas is You.



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Our spotlight is on you. I was so busy shopping for something new to wear, that I forgot about the less fortunate who had nothing to wear but fear.

What are you currently wearing? Are you putting on the whole armor of God, or are you clothed in fear? Many of us are shopping in the wrong stores, we are purchasing clothes that cannot keep us warm, we are buying things we don't need, while others are truly in need. This is the season of giving, so while you are busy shopping for something new to wear, something you obviously could do without, remember the less fortunate who has nothing to wear but fear. There are many who have been unemployed, many with little children, hoping for

Christmas gifts, there will be many who are afraid or ashamed to let others know their needs, but my brothers and sisters in Christ, God does not come but he sends help. We are all laborers in God's vineyard, the harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. How many of you are willing to sow good seeds this Christmas season, so that others many reap a bountiful harvest? God loves a cheerful giver, so give, lend, share to the less fortunate, so that they will be covered with more than fear, and be able to spread some Christmas cheer.



Help someone to spread the Christmas Cheer.

Children's Corner: A Christmas Gift for Mother.

Mattie and Jamie were tucked into bed after their Mom read them their favorite bedtime story, "Santa's Lost Reindeer". After their Mom left the room Mattie asked Jamie if she had thought of what they would give Mom for Christmas, and Jamie, said, I thought about getting her something different this year. Different, Mattie asked, how different? Well, you know Mom is always encouraging us to share with the less fortunate, and I was thinking of giving all of my gifts from last year to this year's toy drive at church. All? Mattie asked. Yes, all, Jamie said. But why not some? Mattie asked. Well, we always get more than enough presents every year, and we don't even get to use them much, so why not share with the less fortunate. This would really make mom happy, Mattie said. But, you will not be giving the gift to Mom. Well, Mattie, Jamie said, you remember what Mom said, a gift is not always a gift you receive, but a gift you can share, and I am willing to share in big way that will bring some Christmas cheer to someone else. Mom will be happy, I will be happy, and I know you will be too, and the gifts will make someone very happy. Oh, Jamie, you are the best sister a girl could have, I love you. I love you too Mattie. Good night! (Another Jewel Greer Original)



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I n s p i r a t i o n a l Q u o t e s **from the Desk of** **Jewellyn Greer**

I have been given a second chance to stop and recalculate my journey, now I am depending on my GPS – my God Positioning System.

You may be convinced that every day may not be good because of the troubles in it, but I know every day is a good day with God in it.

If you have not learned anything from your struggle, you will struggle some more.

If we don't go through our various trials thankfully, we will never know how close to perfect we are.

We worry so much about what we have to do; that we fail to reflect on all that we have done before that at first seemed daunting.

We may fail to see the significance in being thankful for the obstacles we face in life, but we should be grateful for them, as they have worked out for our good.



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Match the correct answers to the questions

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
Who wanted to kill Jesus when he was a baby ?	Bethlehem
How many wise men travelled from afar to see Jesus ?	The Angel of the Lord
What gifts did the wise men bring to celebrate Jesus' birth?	Mary
In which town was Jesus born?	Shut his mouth
How did the wise men find baby Jesus?	King Herod
Who told the shepherds that Jesus was born?	Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh
Who was Jesus' mother?	Three
What did God do to Zacharias until John the Baptiste was born?	By a star



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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 I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS MY TWO FRONT TEETH

Written by written in 1944 by Donald Yetter Gardner

All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth, my two front teeth, just my two front teeth,
Gee, if I could only have my two front teeth, then I could wish you Merry Christmas!

It seems so long since I could say, "Sister Suzy sitting on a thistle"
Gosh, oh gee, How happy I'd be, If I could only "whithle."

All I want for Christmas, is my two front teeth, my two front teeth, just my two front teeth,
Gee, if I could only have my two front teeth, then I could wish you Merry Christmas!

Santa Claus and his reindeer, used to bring me lots of toys and candy,
But now when I try to call their names, none of them can understand me.

All I want for Christmas, is my two front teeth, my two front teeth, just my two front teeth,
Gee, if I could only have my two front teeth, then I could wish you Merry Christmas,
Then I could wish you Merry Christmas, then I could wish you Merry Christmas!

