

Prayer Changes Everything!

I Believe in the Power of Prayer

January 1, 2015 Volume 19

Which situation in your life is robbing your peace? Give it over to God and let him fight your battle.

Many of us have no peace, and therefore, have lost our joy and all hope in God is lost. But, is this the life God intended for us to live? No! God wanted us to live the abundant life in Him, and he knew that without peace, we would not be able to live the abundant life, without peace, we would have no joy, and without joy we would have no hope; so, he sent us his son Jesus to secure our Peace, our Joy and our Hope. If then that God sent these good things to us, why are we allowing others to take them away from us? My brothers and sisters in Christ, the enemy does not want us to be happy, so he sends messengers to destroy our Peace, our Joy and our Hope in the Lord. We must ask God for the discernment to know these messengers, and for the will to rebuke them, before they rob us of all the good things God has in store for us. Do now allow the enemy to steal your Joy, for the Joy of the Lord is your strength, and if you have no strength, you have no might, and if you have no might, you have no trust in God. The enemy comes at us in all forms, learn to give them over to God—our brothers and sister, our parents, our children, our friends, our coworkers, for they come with no love, but a desire to derail us. Put on the whole armor of God so that you will be able to stand. Learn to see the enemy from afar. Learn to walk away and most importantly, know when to keep your peace. But, what is Peace? Peace is the ability to be happy with yourself and others, Peace is contentment, Peace is having love for each other, Peace is being able to give comfort to others even when you are hurting, Peace is the ability to walk away from a situation before it consumes you, Peace is knowing when to speak and when to be quiet, Peace is when you are able to use soft words that will turn away wrath, Peace is being able to work with someone even though they continually threaten your patience, Peace is being able to be courteous even with you are angry, Peace is being humble, when you are been criticized, Peace is being able to say thank you, Lord, as you go through various trials and Peace is allowing nothing to separate you from God's love. My brothers and sisters in Christ, God is able to see you through anything that you will face; be it persecution, trouble, need, sickness or adversity, for he has already sent Jesus to secure your Peace, and if he has secured your Peace, understand, that he has also sent Jesus to secure your Joy and your Hope in Him. Why allow others to rob you of your Peace, for without Peace you will lose not only the ability to sleep through the night, but you will lose everything good that the Lord has predestined for you. Do not allow anything or anyone to rob you of what is rightfully yours—God's Peace, Joy, and Hope.

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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

It's a New Year and it will be filled with new challenges. Are you prepared?

For many, the New Year has begun and they are still living in the year that's past. My friends, you cannot move forward if you keep dwelling in the past. You cannot do things the same way and expect to get a different result. Therefore, let us begin to prepare ourselves for the challenges that we will face. First, we have to look deep within ourselves and ask ourselves this question—Where do we go from here? Many of us begin the New Year without God. We begin the New Year without asking his guidance and direction. We begin the New Year with a plan in mind, but no definitive plan to get there. My brothers and sisters in Christ, if you fail to plan you are planning to fail. Don't have a repeat of years gone by. You went through 2014 trusting in your own abilities, why not begin this New Year trusting in God? He already has a plan for your life and mine, he is ready and able to bring it to pass, but we have to show him that we are ready to step into the role his prepared for us. You cannot begin the New Year with doubt, you cannot begin the New Year with fear. Stop thinking about what you don't have and focus on what you do have. Stop dwelling on what you could have done and focus on what you could do. Stop repeating the same mistakes and instead learn from them. Stop thinking about what others have done to you and think of what you could do for them. Stop your self-condemnation, pick yourself up and say with confidence, "This is A New Year and God is in it, God will lead me, God will direct me, and God, please control me." There is no way that is dark when you are walking with God, there is nothing impossible, when you trust in God, there is nothing that could hurt you that God cannot turn around for your good. So then, will you trust God to go before you and walk without fear? Will you trust and believe that Jesus is always near? He is a good God!

Last year you were faced with what you believed were insurmountable odds, but you made it. God will carry you through the New Year. Trust him.

Sickness, death, job loss, the loss of friends and family, should never be counted as insurmountable odds, but stepping stones to greatness. The things that threaten our existence are only trials that should make us stronger, but many, instead of allowing themselves to be stronger in the areas they were broken, they allow the broken areas to control them. Is God able to see you through all that you will face? Are you trusting in God to fight your battles this year? God is able, there is no day that is so dark that he is not near you, there is no path that you will walk alone, for God is always beside you, there is no task that you have before you that he cannot equip you, there is no sorrow that you face that he cannot comfort you, and there is no worry that he cannot take away from you and give you peace. But, you must trust him, you must believe that he is able to carry you through this New Year. God is always more willing to hear us than we are to pray, but do we worry more or pray more? Often we worry instead of praying, and I know that if we have time to worry, we should have more time to pray. Prayer changes everything! I have been in situations where I am not able to know the outcome, but I trust God, I believe that he is in control and he always makes a way. My brothers and sisters in Christ, the odds you will face this year, should not break you, but strengthen you. Go forth, knowing that God will carry you through the New Year.

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When you have lost so much, how do you begin anew?

What have you lost that God cannot replace? All that you have lost, is nothing compared to all that you could gain in Christ. When I look back on where I have been and all that I have been through, I count it all but lost for all that I have gained in Christ. I never thought that I would be where I am at today, I never imagined that I would be such and Ambassador for Christ, but to God be the glory, great things he has done for me. Because of his tender mercies, I was able to begin anew, he gave me more than enough reasons to believe, that he is able. So, I want to encourage you to keep the faith, keep trusting in God, keeping looking to him who is the Author and the Finisher of our faith. For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. I am dead to sin and alive in Christ Jesus. I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Nothing that I have lost could be compared to all that I have gained and continue to gain with Christ. The carnal mind cannot comprehend this, because to that person, he is losing all the worldly comforts, but to one who truly believes, it is gain. My brothers and sisters in Christ, there is nothing that you could gain in this world that you could not find better in Christ. Let this New Year be your year of new beginnings. God is patiently waiting to give you a new life, to renew a right spirit within you, to make you whole again, so make it your aim to not dwell on what you have lost, but begin anew and see what God will do for you.

All is not lost when you know where to find God.

Do you ever wonder where God is when you are going through a rough time? Do you know how to find God in the midst of your struggles? Do you feel lost and alone and think that God has forgotten you? There are so many situations we face that result in the hardships we experience in our lives. We face financial difficulties, mainly because of job losses, we face family problems, because of divisions and strifes in our homes, we face spiritual warfare because the enemy sees what God has in store for us and tries to derail us by placing doubt and fear in our hearts, so that we will lose our focus and thus our blessings. It's time for you and I to know where to find God in the midst of our struggles. God is there, but we fail to see him, feel him or hear him, because of the noises, the doubts, the insecurities, the wants and needs blinds us to his presence. But if we remove the veil, if we learn to cry out to God in the midst of our situations, we will find that God will uphold us with his right hand, that he will strengthen us so that we could stand, that we will be able to tell others just how present God was in our situation and how he saw us through it. Many times, we feel lost and alone, when we could feel loved and comforted by our Heavenly Father. He said, "Come unto me all ye who travail and are heavy laden and I will refresh you." Know when and how to come to God when you are facing so much. All is not lost when you know where to find God.

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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:

Peace, Peace, Peace

Written by: ***Ken Bible***

Peace, peace, peace - The gift of Christ is peace. When we walk with God, our past forgiven, all in Him is life and heaven. Peace, peace, peace - the gift of Christ is peace.

Hope, hope, hope - The light of Christ is hope. In all our darkness Christ is shining, leading upward, faith refining. Hope, hope, hope - The light of Christ is hope.

Love, love, love - The heart of Christ is love. On all who come He pours His presence, life and love in holy essence. Love, love, love - The heart of Christ is love.

Joy, joy, joy - We praise You, Christ, with joy! Our peace, our hope, our love and treasure, highest calling, deepest pleasure! Joy, joy, joy - We praise You, Christ, with joy!



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INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES FROM THE DESK OF JEWELLYN GREER

Our stumbling blocks should be used as stepping stones, God placed them there to advance us.

If you learn to cry out to God in the midst of your situation, you will find that He will uphold you.

I love your name oh God and in your name I will trust, there is power in the name of Jesus.

Do not dwell on what you have lost, but begin anew and see what God will do for you.

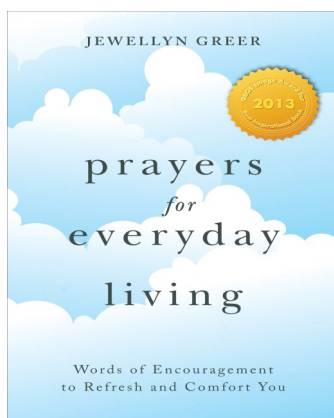
Time spent with God should never be an obligation, but a time for joyful oblation. Take time to pray.

Time spent with meaningless pastimes could be better spent with God. Choose!

I will begin the journey with God today and give him the glory, honor and praise all the way, all the day.


For in a heart where God lives, is home where God abides.

When we are troubled, instead of focusing on God we focus on the trouble and lose our peace.




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 **ur Spotlight is on you.** How to hold your peace. Am I able to keep my peace when everything around me is falling apart?

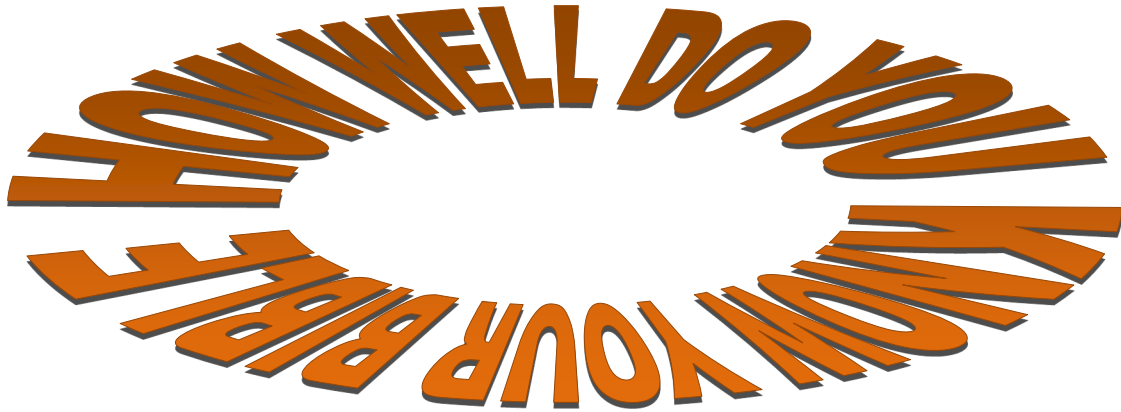
"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." John 16:33—I know that it is not easy to keep your peace when everything around you is falling apart. It is not easy to keep your peace when you are being persecuted. It is not easy to keep your peace when your security is threatened, but know that the storms in your life and mine, helps to keep us on track with God. Every day I ask God to present situations in my life that will keep me on my knees in prayer and closer to him; for the struggles in my life have helped to sift out the impurities in my life, the more cheerful I am in the midst of tribulation the more God helps me to overcome. I am reminded in 2 Corinthians chapter 4, "Therefore we do not lose heart, even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal." It will come to pass, it did not come to stay, all the worries, the hurts, the infirmities, the wants and needs will pass, and if you are faithful, God will turn it around for your good. Learn to be joyful in tribulation. Learn to draw your strength from the well spring of God. Allow the situations you face to draw you closer to God, for tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope, which does not disappoint.

 **Children's Corner:** Did you get all that you wished for Christmas? Let us be thankful for what we have received.

Our children are growing up in a materialist world and because we have grown so accustomed to giving in to the pressures around us, we have not only become blinded to the true meaning of Christmas, we are robbing our children of experiencing the true meaning of Christmas. This Christmas just past, afforded me the opportunity to spend time with some young family members some of whom I had never met, and I feel truly blessed to be able to show them that Christmas is not just about gifts they receive, but spending time with family and friends, sharing laughter and tradition that they did not seem to know existed. I am hoping that your wish for Christmas was one filled with family and friends, memories that will indeed last a lifetime, moments that you will forever cherish in your hearts. If you did not at least get all that you wished for Christmas, I hope that you could find it within yourself to be thankful for what you have received. I feel truly blessed for all that I have received, for all the joys, the love, and the peace I experienced especially with the young family members. Let us not only put Christ back into Christmas this year, but allow the spirit, the joy and peace of the Christmas just past to remain alive in your heart and mine all through the New Year. The same spirit that was alive in you and in me, which saw us sharing and loving and caring, may God help us to carry it on through the year. Happy New Year!

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Match the correct answers to the questions

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
Those who trust in the Lord, are like this Mountain which cannot be moved. Which is it?	Delight
The joy of the Lord is this. What is it?	Anxious
Jesus came to secure these three things. What are they?	Joyful
God warns us not to be like this, but through praise and thanksgiving make our requests known to him. What is this?	Zion
We must learn to be this in the midst of tribulation. What is it?	Your strength
Even if we appear to be perishing on the inside God is doing this on the inside? What is this?	A Great Light
The people who is darkness dwelled have seen this? What is this?	Hope, Joy & Peace
If we do this the Lord will give us the desires of our hearts. What is this?	Renewing us



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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:

Wonderful Peace Written by *Warren D Cornell - 1889*

Far away in the depths of my spirit tonight, rolls a melody sweeter than psalm;
In celestial strains it unceasingly falls, over my soul like an infinite calm.

Refrain

Peace, peace, wonderful peace, coming down from the Father above! Sweep over my spirit forever, I pray,
in fathomless billows of love!

What a treasure I have in this wonderful peace, buried deep in the heart of my soul, so secure that no
power can mine it away, while the years of eternity roll!

I am resting tonight in this wonderful peace, resting sweetly in Jesus' control; for I'm kept from all danger
by night and by day, and His glory is flooding my soul!

And I think when I rise to that city of peace, where the Anchor of peace I shall see, that one strain of the
song which the ransomed will sing, in that heavenly kingdom will be:

Ah, soul! are you here without comfort and rest, marching down the rough pathway of time? Make Jesus
your Friend ere the shadows grow dark; oh, accept of this peace so sublime!



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