

Prayer Changes Everything!

I Believe in the Power of Prayer!

January 1, 2016 Volume 23

Wishing you a New Year full of God's richest blessings .

Let me take this opportunity to wish all of you my loyal supporters a Happy, Healthy and Productive New Year. I could not have done this all without your prayers and your support. Let us continue to encourage each other as we have the will to do so, let us try our best to be a friend, a brother, a sister, a valuable resource to those who are in need. Let us share the blessings we receive, understanding that a blessing shared is a blessing multiplied. Many of us are no doubt beginning the New Year on a sad note. It could be that you are not starting out the New Year with someone who was close to you, it could be that you were one of those who recently lost a job, for many it could be that their health situation has changed or your home was destroyed due to a man-made or natural disaster. But, no matter the problem, situation, or circumstance that you are faced with, I just want to remind you that, "God is bigger than all your problems, bigger than all your fears, God is bigger than any mountain that you can and cannot see." I want to remind you that where you were before that it was God who made it possible to recover and the same God who did it before will do it again, that the same faith that carried you through 2015 will see you through 2016 and beyond, if you do not loose heart. Stop worry about what you do not have and focus on what you do have. When we are complaining that things are so bad with us, that we are so in need, if we were to stop wallowing in self-pity long enough to listen to the plight of others we will then begin to realize just how truly blessed we are. So, my friends, be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. Allow nothing or no one to sway your confidence in him, go through every day with a smile on your face, a song in your heart and a spring in your step; because no matter what we are going through we are not alone, God will walk with us through all of the dark hills and valleys and we could take comfort in knowing, that, what we are going through is not the beginning or the end of the world, that this too will pass, and you will look back and give God much praise, because where he will position you will be much better than where you were parked. Praise the Lord!

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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING!

As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

This should be the differentiating denominator in a Christian's life, but many of us as Christians are still immature in that we don't behave in this manner. We get sick, and we think we are at death's door, we lose our jobs and we fall apart. What does this say about us as Christians? Christians should be sorrowful, yet rejoicing, poor, yet making rich, having nothing, but having everything in Christ Jesus. This should be what sets us apart from non-believers. In life, we will experience many troubles, but we should go through them rejoicing, for Psalm 71 reminds us, that, "Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter, you will restore my life again; from the depths of the earth you will again bring me up." Yes, the Lord bruises, but he binds up, for He inflicts pain, and gives relief; He wounds, and His hands also heal. Will He not Himself revive us again, so that we may rejoice in Him? Certainly! For our God wants all the glory and praise and that is why in our daily lives as Christians, our present struggles should not allow us to lose our focus on God or to cause us to forget the good things has done for us in the past. Therefore, "Though the fig tree should not blossom, and there be no fruit on the vines, though the yield of the olive should fail, and the fields produce no food, though the flock should be cut off from the fold, and there be no cattle in the stalls, yet we will rejoice in the Lord!" My brothers and sisters in Christ, if when full, we are joyful in the Lord, when emptied and poor, we should still be joyful in the Lord. Philippians 4:4 reminds us to be always full of joy in the Lord. Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Are you doubtful that the need you have God is not able to supply?

Are you still doubtful of God's presence in your life? There was a time in my life, when everything seems to be going wrong and in that moment I could not feel God's presence in my life, because I was too focused on what I was going through, to really see His footprints in the sand. I could not hear His voice saying follow me. But, when he showed up in miraculous places and I knew that he was always there, I just failed to acknowledge Him. My friends, Jesus knows all about our struggles, Jesus knows our every need and he is able to meet all of our needs because of his abundance in riches in glory, in Christ Jesus. Trust God to fulfill your every desire. Never doubt him because he is able, there is nothing too hard for our God. Just learn to lean on him in your time of need, trust him to come through for you. Do you believe that the same God who said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you," runs away when you are afraid, sick, worried, or in trouble? Absolutely not! None of us need to be fearful that God is not present in our lives. God is not that friend who forsakes you when you are in trouble. God is that friend who is always near, that friend who rich in mercy and grace, he is rich in houses and land, he holds the wealth of the world in his hands. If our God, our Father is so rich, do you think he will not share with us his riches? He said, "I am able to make all grace abound to you, that you always have sufficiency in everything, that you may have an abundance for every good deed. Our God is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we could ever ask or think. We just need to humble ourselves before Him and trust him faithfully and see how great is His faithfulness to us. God provides what we need through unexpected sources. He promised to supply our needs not our wants.

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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

What have you been facing that you thought would break you?

I am sure that all of us have experienced situations where we thought that we would never recover from, yet, we are shouting from the rooftop – Lord, I am still here! God you are good, all the time, all the time you are good! Amen! When I am going through anything that threatens to break my spirit, I liken myself to a palm tree in a storm. The wind will bend it in every direction, yet it will not break, and when the storm is past, the palm is still standing tall. I am here to remind you, that forever, God is faithful, and that whatever the situation you find yourself in, it did not come to stay, it came to pass. It may bend you, but don't allow it to break you. Many times, we are in pain, we are so sick that we could not imagine facing another day like this one, yet, when we awake in the morning, we are well and we again start sing, "If it had not been for the Lord on my side, tell me, where would I be, where would I be?" But God's promise to us, is that, he will refresh our souls while we sleep, and we need to understand, that if our souls are being daily refreshed, we should be happy, people, thankful people, because when God refreshes our souls, he promised that he will lead us in green pastures, that he will anoint our heads with fresh oil, so that our cups will overflow. My brothers and sisters in Christ, God's purpose is not to hurt you, but to strengthen you. What you are going through is only preparation for greater things to come. God has not forgotten you. He is building character in you and in me. When we are going through our struggles we should learn to praise God more and complain less, we should be thankful for the situation that is putting so much pressure on us, because anything that is under pressure will explode, and your explosion will be good for you, because the stronger the pressure the greater your explosion. A lot of the time, people don't recognize where you have been until they see where you are going, but this is an opportunity to tell them where you came from and who brought you here, and, that as a result of where you have been you are shouting from the rooftop – God is good all the time, all the time God is good. My brothers and sisters in Christ, whatever the situation that you and I are facing today, say with confidence, "I am stronger than my situation because God is in the midst."

What we need going in to the New Year is to get our minds right, to get right with God.

We all make resolutions for the New Year, resolutions that we cannot and will not keep, but, I would like to encourage you to begin the New Year by reflecting on your life, where you have been, the roads you have taken, the paths you have walked. Did it work out in a good way for you? Too many of us continue to do the same things, go the same places, meet with the same people year in, year out. It's time to clean house, it's time for new beginnings if you want to see different results. Many of us have heard the call of God and have been reluctant to follow his voice, to go where he leads, but, I can assure you that a walk with God will take you places you have never been, and allow you to meet new people and do great things, all for his glory. Are you ready to begin anew?

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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:

God Moves In A Mysterious Way

Written by: ***William Cowper—1773, just before the onset of a depressive illness, during which Cowper contemplated suicide by drowning.***

God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea and rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines, of never failing skill,
He treasures up His bright designs, and works His sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take; the clouds ye so much dread,
Are big with mercy and shall break, in blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,, but trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence, He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast,, unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste, but sweet will be the flower.

Blind unbelief is sure to err, and scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter, and He will make it plain.



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INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES FROM THE DESK OF JEWELLYN GREER

When I am going through anything that threatens to break my spirit, I liken myself to a palm tree in a storm. The wind will bend it in every direction, yet it will not break.

God's purpose is not to hurt you, but to strengthen you. What you are going through is only preparation for greater things to come.

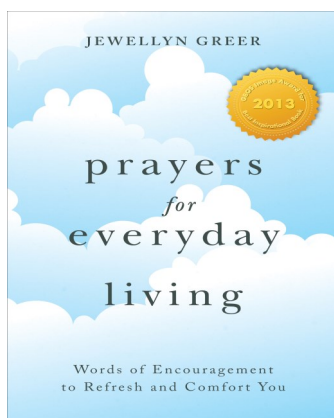
When we are going through our struggles we should learn to praise God more and complain less.

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Whatever the situation that you and I are facing today, say with confidence, "I am stronger than my situation because God is in the midst."

What you are going through is only preparation for greater things to come.

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



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Our Spotlight is on you. 2015 made me aware of a few things, but, none so profound as the gifts that God has given me that he intended for me to use for his glory.

In 2015, I lost many friends who were in the same age group as I am and many times I said, it could have been me, and, if ever I am thankful that God saved me is now. I am now truly convinced that God is daily enriching my life in every way with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge which he is revealing to me daily. I was able to help at least one person accept Jesus before he passed away, and it helped me realize the gift that God has given to me and the need for me to use it more to bring him honor and glory. God has given me the gift of reading, praying and singing, and many times, people have asked me where I get my happy juice from, and it's basically because I have a happy heart and from the gifts that God has given me; I realize that they are not only for my benefit, but to bring comfort to others, and sharing makes me happy. Whether I am at work or at home, at church or out socially, God always presents opportunities for me to share my gifts, you could too. Just try it. Many times we have friends and family who are going through rough times and we may think that we do not have much to offer them in terms of support, but, know that your support could be financial, emotional, physical and spiritual. Many times, all someone needs to hear is a kind word, they may just need a hug, or a smile, or just someone to pray with them and assure them that it's going to be alright. Never miss out on an opportunity to be kind, thoughtful, lovely, caring, or prayerful. Money answers to a lot of things, but prayer changes everything.

Children's Corner: What was the highlight of your Christmas?

I am hoping that all of you had a Very, Merry, Christmas and have much to share with your friends when you return to school. Many of you I am sure have received lots of gifts from family and friends, some that you were happy to receive and some that were not your favorites. In the spirit of giving and sharing, I would like to encourage you to donate some of the not so favorite gifts that you have received to someone who was not as fortunate as you have been. You will be surprised, that, something as simple as a teddy bear would bring much joy to someone who did not receive anything for Christmas. It may be hard for you to understand that someone was just lucky enough to have had a meal, but the fact that will be even more surprising would be to know that someone else did not have a meal. So, give generously, share willingly and watch the smile glow on your friends faces. Some of you may be too young to understand this, but situations could change. Today, your parents may be employed and are able to give you all the creature comforts life could afford, but in an instant this could all change and you may find yourself being one of the unfortunate kids who will not receive any gifts at Christmas, so, learn to be thankful for what you do have and learn to share what you have with others who don't have.

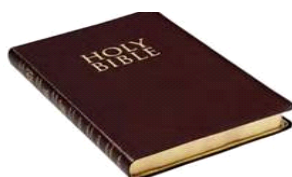
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Match the correct answers to the questions

| QUESTIONS | ANSWERS |
|---|------------------------|
| What does "auld lang syne" mean? | New Year's |
| Where does the famous ball drop on midnight of New Year's Eve? | 1904 |
| Every year people usually stay up past midnight to celebrate this event in a bid way. What is this event? | Grapes |
| People traditional eat these to bring about financial prosperity in the New Year. What are they? | Times gone by |
| Who first recognized January 1st as the beginning of the New Year? | Lobsters |
| When did the New Year's celebration begin in Times Square New York ? | Greens, Lentils & Peas |
| Which delicacy would you avoid eating on New Year's to avoid | Times Square New York |
| Which fruit do people in Spain eat at the 12 strokes of midnight? | The Romans |



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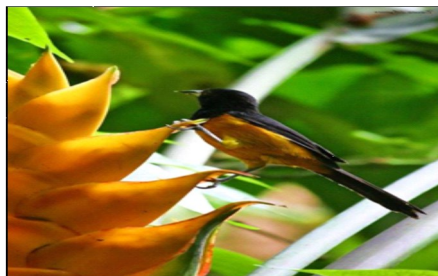
Childhood songs that we have learned have been passed on for generations. Let's keep it going. If you have a song that you would like to share, email it. Here is one of my favorites as our featured childhood song:

Away In A Manger!
Written by ***William J. Kirkpatrick - 1895***

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head,
The stars in the bright sky, looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes,
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my bedside, 'Til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay,
Close by me forever, and love me I pray,
Bless all the dear children, in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven, to live with Thee there.



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