

Prayer Changes Everything!

I Believe in the Power of Prayer!

January 1, 2017 Volume 27

Am I doing the will of God? Let us make this our aim for the New Year.

Happy New Year! It seems like yesterday that we started 2016 and it came and went, and now we are beginning another year, 2017. How will you begin the New Year? You could start it out by being positive and go where it takes you, or you could dwell in the past and block your progress. I am challenging you as I am challenging myself to continually ask this question no matter what we go through; "Am I doing the will of God?" As we go through this New Year, we will be faced with challenges, we will have ups and down, highs and lows, we will be tempted and tried, we will find ourselves in situations where our faith will be tested, and I want us to check ourselves, by asking ourselves this question before we make any decision, before we voice any retort, before we reply to that cry for help, before we take on any new venture; because, if we begin the New Year not knowing or doing the will of God, who knows how the year will end for us. My brothers and sisters in Christ, we are not going backwards, we are going forward with God before us, we are going to trust God for everything, we are going to lean on Him for guidance, we are going to draw closer to Him, so that He could lead us into doing His will. God has a plan and a purpose for all of us. God's will for us, is His will, His way, and He already knows the beginning and the end. Will you trust Him? Too many times we depend on our own strength, we trust our own instincts, we lean to our own understanding and it takes us down rugged roads, and deep valleys; but it need not be like this, because God always offers to us a better way and His way for us is to do His will. So, before you act, ask this question out loud—"Am I doing the will of God?" Let us not be self-serving, let us not go out of our way to satisfy our desires, or to just make an impression, or to further our own agendas, but instead, do all things for the glory of God.

Happy New Year



A LOOK INSIDE

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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING!

A mighty fortress is our God, on earth is not His equal.

Do you believe this? I do! A mighty fortress is our God and on earth there is no one or nothing that is His equal. God desires to be our Fortress, our Rock; He desires to be the one that we turn to when we are sick, when we are in need, when we are in trouble, so that He could deliver us. But, do we rely on Him? Are we confident in His abilities? Most times, we are doubtful, we turn to every other source and when all else fails, He is our last resort. My brothers and sisters in Christ, God does not see us as opportunity, He sees us as His priority. If God is willing to put us first, should we not do the same? God is able to do for us, what no one else could do. God is able to remove the stumbling blocks in our paths. God is able to see us clearly through eyes whereas others could only glimpse us. God is able to promote us, when others try to stagnate us. God is able to use us through the same channels where others tried to abuse us. God is able to release us from all and everything that has held us hostage, you know why, because, "A mighty fortress is our God and on earth is not His equal. Our helper He is, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing, and if we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing." My brothers and sisters in Christ, there is no need to fight your own battles, there is no need to struggle on alone; allow God to bolster you. He is a mighty fortress and on earth is not his equal. Praise the Lord!

What have you been through that made you trust God more?

When we are going through any struggle in life, the last person we want to trust is God, but, from my experiences, I could tell you confidently, that the first line of defense when you are going through a difficult time is to trust in God. All of us who have been saved have a story to tell. We are here because of something that we have been through that caused us to love God more, to trust Him more. Because, when we are going through our situations, we are most times ashamed to let others know and therefore we suffer in silence. We are helpless on our own, we have no strength within ourselves, but somehow, when we finally decide to trust God, we find that each day, we have the strength to go on, we may go to bed at night saying "Lord, I can't take this anymore," yet, when we awake in the morning our strength is renewed, we are ready to face whatever comes our way and that is because God always keeps His promises. He promised new mercies for each returning day, He promised that He will take our yoke upon Him and give us rest; and when we trust Him and we see how He brought us through our situation we have much praise for Him. When you have been through anything that made you trust God more, He wants you to share it. Tell someone else about it, so that they too may come to have a reason to believe and to trust in God also. Jesus already bore our shame, so we should never be ashamed or afraid to tell our story, because by sharing our story you and I will be helping someone else. Use your situation as a teaching tool. Everything that we go through is for our learning and God will use our situations to promote and to strengthen us.

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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

I have been changed, but am I living a changed life?

Does saying the words I have been changed truly change a person? Too many of us claim to have been changed, but are still doing things the same way, going the same old places, hanging out with the same crowd. When I got saved, I knew that I was really changed. It was a shocker, because the things I used to do I did not feel comfortable doing any more, the places I used to go held no appeal for me anymore, the conversations I used to have were no longer stimulating, but the song in my heart was uplifting. When we have been changed, the creature that shines forth should be different but in a good way. Not everyone will understand the changes in you, not everyone will love you because of the choice you have made, but, know that God will be able to use the new you, to reformed you; so embrace the change, love the new you, and make yourself willing for God to perfect the change in you. He reminds us in Ezekiel chapter 36 and verse 25-27, that, I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Then, I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. After God has perfected us for His glory our lives takes on new meaning, we are more fulfilled, more content, more accepting, and as a result of the change in us, we are more willing to be used in the service of the Lord.

Living a life of gratitude is awesome – Do you know how to?

How do you live a life of gratitude? No matter what we go through, we should go through it with thanksgiving, whatever we do, we should do it all for the glory of God. Too many of us are clamoring for so much worthless things, we work two and three jobs because we never seem to have enough, we try to measure up with those who are in better positions than we are and instead of being truly thankful for what we do have, we grumble and complain about what we don't have. My brothers and sisters in Christ, things are not always as they seem. The grass is not always greener on the other side. Stop and take a good look around you and count your blessings. We have more than enough, no matter how little we have, if we learn to share it, God will multiply it, God will use what we have be a blessing to others. But, because we allow our deceitful hearts to lead us into temptation, instead of being grateful, we are gratifying our desires. Learn to be content with such things as you have, give God praise for what seems like the little that he has given you, others are still in waiting. When you learn to live a life of gratitude, your walk is lighter, your smile is brighter and your heart is always full of praise to God, because you have come to know that a grateful heart is a happy and thankful heart. Praise the 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:

Mine eyes look towards the mountain!

From a Swedish paraphrase of Psalm 121

Mine eyes look toward the mountains,
Help cometh from on high;
From God Who never slumbers,
Whose care is ever nigh.
My foot shall not be moved,
My keeper is the Lord;
He never shall forsake me;
I trust me to His Word.
God keepeth me from falling,
Fulfilleth all my need;
His love doth ever uphold me,
In faithful word and deed.
He keepeth me from evil,
My onward way doth trace,
My going and my coming,
He crowneth with His grace.
Amen!



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INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES FROM THE DESK OF JEWELLYN GREER

There is no need to fight your own battles, there is no need to struggle on alone; allow God to bolster you
I see where God brought me from, I know what he brought me through, and I could say with confidence, I am
not where I used to be

When you learn to live a life of gratitude, your walk is lighter, your smile is brighter and your heart is always
full of praise to God

We have more than enough, no matter how little we have, if we learn to share it, God will multiply it
God is able to promote us, when others try to stagnate us

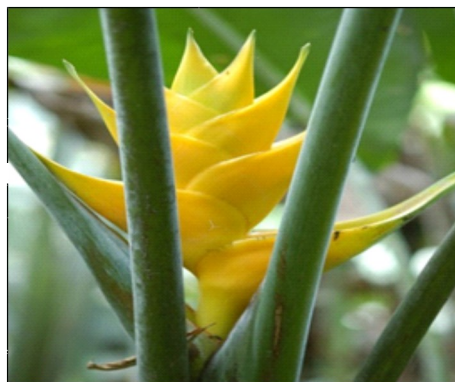
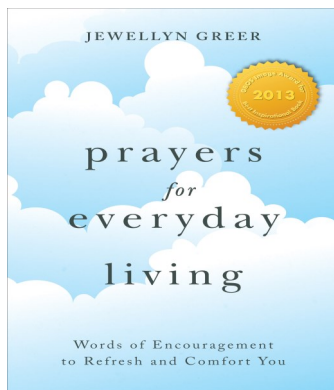
When we have been changed the creature that shines forth should be different but in a good way
After God has perfected us for His glory our lives takes on new meaning, we are more fulfilled, more content,
more accepting

When you have been through anything that made you trust God more, he wants you to share it. Tell someone
else about it

God is able to use us through the same channels where others tried to abuse us
Learn to be content with such things as you have, give God praise for what seems like the little that he has
given you, others are still in waiting

When I am called to serve, I do so with a willing mind and when the enemy confronts me, I stand up to him
with prayer

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



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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

Our Spotlight is on you! am growing in God's grace and it shows. Thank you, Lord!

My brothers and sisters in Christ, I am growing in God's grace and it shows. I am not boastful, I am thankful. Thankful to God, because I see where he brought me from, I know what he brought me through, and I could say with confidence, I am not where I used to be, praise the Lord. I know that I am growing in God's grace, because I am being tested and tried, I have been in the melting pot, I have been pulverized and pressurized, antagonized and criticized, but, by God grace, I am still here. Despite my struggles, I find more joy in God's service, and more purpose in prayer. God is daily making me more fit for his kingdom, so the more useful I'd be to him. When I awake in the morning, my first thoughts are of God, and my first utterance is "Thank you, Lord, for this new day." As I go through each day, I find the time to lift someone up in one way or the other. When I am called to serve, I do so with a willing mind. When the enemy confronts me, I stand up to him with prayer and when I am going through my struggles, I take comfort in knowing, that my God is always near. When we are growing in God's grace, we should be the first to experience the changes and others will notice it too. You cannot be growing in God's grace and not shine. He said he will be gracious to you, that he will cause his face to shine upon you and give you his peace. Are you growing in God's grace?

Children's Corner: Happy New Year! Challenge Word Scramble — **Good Luck!**

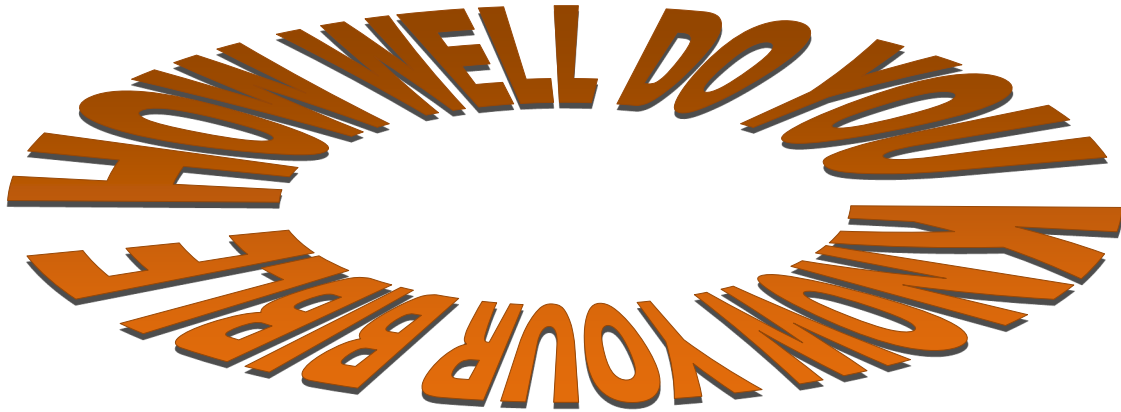
Can you unscramble the New Year words?

lrsoetnuiso	_____	bterelIncoia	_____	bgcabea	_____
smpisorse	_____	nsoram	_____	asth	_____
eitarsmuerqs	_____	utiq	_____	efutsl	_____
rscefakericr	_____	pgsera	_____	ngicdcan	_____
ucgoldok	_____	agnittos	_____	msectous	_____

I WILL BE POSTING THE WORD SCRAMBLE SOLUTIONS ON MY FB PAGE

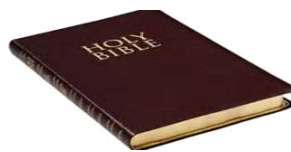
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Match the correct answers to the questions

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
Who fought Goliath with a sling shot and won?	The Prodigal Son
Because of his disobedience he was swallowed by a whale.	Noah
Jesus asked a Samaritan woman at the well for this.	Daniel
His brothers sold him into slavery. What was his name?	Jonah
Jesus appeared to him in a burning bush.	David
The Lord shut the mouth of the lions and he was not hurt. Who was he?	Water
He was ordered to build an ark ahead of the great flood.	Three
He asked his father for a portion of his goods and went away and squandered it.	Joseph



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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. Our featured childhood song is a favorite of Carol Meade, Hollywood Florida.

We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder!

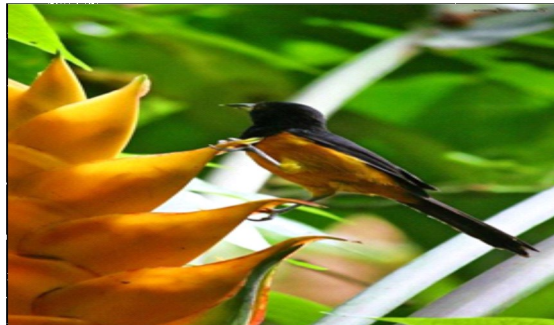
We are climbing Jacob's ladder, we are climbing Jacob's ladder,
We are climbing Jacob's ladder, soldiers of the cross.

Every round goes higher, higher, every round goes higher, higher,
Every round goes higher, higher, soldiers of the cross.

Children, do you love my Jesus? Children, do you love my Jesus?
Children, do you love my Jesus? Soldiers of the cross.

If you love Him, why not serve Him? If you love Him, why not serve Him?
If you love Him, why not serve Him? Soldiers of the cross.

Rise, shine, give God the glory. Rise, shine, give God the glory.
Rise, shine, give God the glory. Soldiers of the cross.



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