

### July 1, 2013 - Vol. 1

o you make prayer an integral part of your day? Do you believe in the power of prayer?

Many people have asked me these moil, so there are so many things to because of his love for us.

give him thanks for; How could I not questions, and the answer is yes. I begin make prayer an integral part of my day? and end each day in prayer, because Everyday we need to get down on our from the rising of the sun to the going knees in prayer before God, not just to down of the same, God's name should lay our troubles on him but just to give be praised. He does so many wonderful him thanks and praise for all of his things for us, from waking us up each goodness towards us. I know that morning, providing food on our tables, prayers changes everything if you bepresenting opportunities for us through- lieve. God is able to do all that we ask out the day, and at evening time, he and he even grants requests to us that gives us quiet rest from the days' tur- we did not think we were worthy of,

ow strong is your faith? Many of us as Christians are strong in the faith until troubled times come.

As you grow spiritually this verse will encourage mean so much more to you. "Be joyful when they are going through a rough in hope, patient in trouble, and persist time, but when it's our turn we experitent in prayer." We are daily faced with ence faith failure instead of increasing so many trials and so much tribulations faith. When I began my closer walk that it seems impossible that we could with God, I hated it when someone who ever have a moments peace or experi- knew what I was going through said, "I ence real happiness. Our troubles seem will pray for you." I would mumble, insurmountable, our every effort at "don't you think I pray for myself? I making it, fails, our sickness seems unto don't need your prayer I need your death, but we cannot give up, we must help." But now I know that I have to go be strong in the Lord and in the strength through my own deserts to enjoy my of his might, because he will never test streams of living waters, and to continuus beyond what we are able to bear. Strangely enough, we are able to

our brothers and sisters ally pray in the spirit trusting God, for there is power in prayer.

#### A LOOK INSIDE

- $\Rightarrow$  Rising from the ashes
- ⇒ Would you describe your life struggles as beautiful?
- ⇒ You cannot see God's plan for your life if you continue to do things your way.
- ⇒ Stepping out in faith Are you ready?
- Featured Adult Song
- Inspirational quotes
- Our Spotlight
- Children's Corner
- Bible Quiz
- ⇒ Featured Children's song

ising from the ashes to give God the glory.

"He raises the poor out of the dust and he lifts the needy out of the ashes." (Psalm 113) Have you ever been brought down so low that you felt like all hope was lost? Was this a lesson-learned event? How did you rise from the ashes? There is someone, somewhere who is waiting for God to not the tail, you will be blessed in your raise him up out of the dust and to lift him up out of the ash heap. I don't know who you are or what situation you are in, but if you are able to look up from wherever you are, and call on the name of the Lord, and

believe that he is able, he will raise you up. When you have fallen so low, don't give up, keep holding on to God's unchanging hand, and he will cause you to rise up with wings like eagles, and seat you with princes, you will be the head and going out and your coming in, you will be able to tell someone else that you serve a God of second chances. If you are down, there is only one way to go-UP, blow off the ashes and never look back.



We shall all rise up with healing in our wings.

# ould you describe your life struggle as beautiful?

Have you ever had to struggle to get out of together, and marvel at the way in which a situation and the more you struggled back and put the pieces of your puzzle

God brought you through, and at that the harder things became? I have found time, you are overwhelmed with emotions that living a life for God is very much like because, you may have been rebellious this, it is a constant struggle, it is both when you realized the situation you were challenging and rewarding. The stronger in, and you may have gone against God's my faith grows the more obstacles I face. I will trying to get out of it, but had you not did not understand what it meant to be been through it, you would not have such content in my state, I fought to get out of a great testimony to share. Therefore my my situations; but, do you realize that brothers and sisters in Christ, we are resome situations are not meant for you to minded in James 1: 2 to count it all joy get out of until you have God's approval? when you go through various trials know-Many people do not want to go through ing that the testing of your faith produces life's struggles. But, you will have much endurance, and let endurance have its pertestimonies to share with others after you fect result, so that you may be perfect and have been through your storms and with complete lacking nothing. Know that you God's help you come out shining, then, have to endure your struggles and let God and only then, you will be able to look work his purpose out, then you will receive your blessings from the Lord.



When you have struggled and you receive a break-through words cannot describe your emotions.

You cannot see God's plan for your life if you continue to do things your way.

Many of us have for far too long been operating as lone rangers. We make our when will we get it right with God, when plans, and forge ahead with our decisions, before ever asking God's guidance; but when we fail, when we realize that the choices we made were and we are the clay. He could mold us disastrous, were detrimental to us, we and make us after his will. If we continue then come crying out to God for help. We to follow too much the desires of our own need to get it right with God. We have to hearts, to take control of our situations understand that he made us, and not without a plan or a purpose, he said in making our plans before consulting with Romans 8:29, For those whom He has him we will have only ourselves to blame known beforehand He has also pre-destined to bear the likeness of His let God, and watch him bring to pass the Son. Therefore, why are we still so

determined to operate as lone rangers, will we learn to let go of our pipe dreams and foolish follies, and let God have his own way in our lives? He is the potter instead of giving them over to God, for our misfortunes. Learn to let go and plans he has for your life.



You are pulling against the tide of God, yet you refuse to give in

## tepping out in faith. Are you ready?

get it, but we were more focused on could too.

We must learn to step back from where doing it our way, or we were not sure we we are in order to step forward to where would be able to do as instructed; but we need to be. I have learned that God with God, I fully understand that he will never position you where he has not speaks to us, and we must learn to listen equipped you, and too many times he so that we could follow his directions plants a dream in our hearts and we allow clearly. There were times when God fear and negative voices to hold us back, instructed me and I heard him clearly, to cause us to miss out on our blessings, but I was afraid to do what God asked of yet, we step out confidently to follow the me, so I found every reason to delay it, I desires of our hearts which always fail. kept asking God why me; but God has a For instance, someone may give you sense of humor, and the very thing that I specific instructions on how to complete was afraid of he kept pushing me towards a task, and you still did not complete it as it, until I had no choice but to step out instructed, because you thought your way with in faith and with confidence, believwas better. Most times it's just like when ing, that I could do all things through God speaks to us, its not that we did not Christ who alone strengthens me; you



With God leading you your step will never be misguided.

ongs have a way of lifting me up when I am feeling down. Here is one of my favorites as our featured adult song:

#### MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE

Written by: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887

My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away, O let me from this day be wholly thine!

May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire! As thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide; bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away, nor let me ever stray from thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream shall o'er me roll; blest Savior, then in love, fear and distrust remove; O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!





Allow God's marvelous light to shine through you so that others may be led by it.

You may have made some bad decisions in the past that followed you into your future, but you could outrun them with God's help

What you are going through should not define you, but what brings you through should refine you.

The day is too short to be compromised by negativity, lengthy your day with spirituality

Your path may be filled with debris, but you could use the debris to light a fire to keep someone else warm

Other people will be quick to judge you, because they don't understand you, but God is always quicker to defend you because he loves you

Your thoughts are the feet of your mind, they will allow you to walk hand in hand with God



ur spotlight is on you. If your friends could see on the inside of you, what would they see? Are you as happy on the inside as you appear on the outside?

happy? Is happy how you look or how you could have if you are happy—peace, perfect feel? Do you depend on others to make you peace. A lot of us are not happy people, happy? To me, happiness is not how you because we are not Godly people. To the look but how you feel. To me, happiness is a outside world we have everything else, state of mind, finding your happy place. some are even are jealous of us because they Happiness is derived from the peace that are convinced that we have it all. But, if you have on the inside of you. If you are not only we could catch a glimpse inside the at peace, you could never be happy. Let us window of each other's hearts, we would really examine ourselves to determine our see the tears, the fears, the doubts, the happiness. We have nice jobs, healthy children, lots of friends and the means to and all of the jealousy that we keep bottled entertain them, the beautiful home and the up. We must make it our aim to find our two car garage with our vehicles of choice. happy in God, he will give us the peace that Yet, we have no joy. Why? Happiness is surpasses all understanding, love and joy.

Are you happy or on the other side of being not about what you have, but what you worries, the hunger and longings, the hatred,



How happy are you?

hildren's Corner: If you could fill this room in your house with the things that makes you most happy, what would those things be? I have started a list for you, now you add your own choices to the list. (Game-play with friends)



Mom Dad







# Match the correct answers to the questions

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
Who were the parents of Cain and Abel?	Daniel
Joseph's brothers were jealous of him because he wore what?	Camel
Faith is likened to a seed, which seed is this?	Noah
One faithful man prayed from his window three times a day, who was this man?	The Lord's prayer
It is easier for this animal to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to get into heaven. Which animal is this?	David
God ordered a man to build an ark. What was this man's name?	Adam and Eve
Who was the man who killed the giant Goliath?	Mustard
What is the name of the prayer that Jesus taught us?	A coat of many colors



hildhood 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:

#### THERE'S A FRIEND FOR LITTLE CHILDREN

Written by Ira D. Sankey

There's a friend for little children above the bright blue sky, a friend who never changes whose love will never die, unlike our friends by nature who change with changing years, this friend is always worthy of that dear name he bears.

There's a rest for little children above the bright blue sky, who love the blessed Savior and Abba, Father, cry, a rest from every turmoil from sin and sorrow free, where every little pilgrim shall rest eternally.

There's a home for little children above the bright blue sky, where Jesus reigns in glory and home of peace and joy, no home on earth is like it nor can with it compare, where everyone is happy nor could be happier there.

There's a crown for little children above the bright blue sky, and all who look for Jesus shall wear it by and by, a crown of brightest glory which he will then bestow, on all who found his favor and love his name below.

There's a song for little children, above the bright blue sky, a song that will not weary though sung continually, a song which even angels can never, never, sing, they know not Christ as Savior but worship him as king.

There's a robe for little children, above the bright blue sky, and a harp of sweetest music, and a palm of victory, all, all above is treasured and found in Christ alone, oh, come dear little children, that may be all your own.