

PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING



July 1, 2014 - Vol. 13

Are you serving God with wavering fear? Lord, give us such faith as this to trust and to serve thee without fear.

What is unwavering faith? It is the strong conviction within that God is able to do more than we could ever dare ask or hope for and therefore, we could step out in faith without reservation that God will work things out. But how many of us are serving God with unwavering faith? We doubt his abilities, we run to other sources to meet our needs, and when we can't see the path ahead we become anxious and afraid. We should learn to trust God and in all things believe that he is able. We put more trust in man than we do

in God, but, we should know by now that man will fail us and that God will never fail us. When we are going through the darkest valleys that is when we experience faith failure, but this is the time when we should most likely be building our faith. Our trials are meant to build us up not break us down, but many of us allow our trials to triumph over us, resulting in unwavering faith. So, the next time that you are going through a rough time, pray to God to give you a faith as this, to trust, honor and obey him.

It was pain that taught my heart to fear, and prayer my pain relieved. Praise the Lord!

Have you ever been relieved from pain through prayer? Many will tell you that it's all in the mind, but you and I know how powerful the mind is, and even more powerful is prayer. We have often heard it said that if the mind could conceive it the heart could achieve it. How much more then, if we trust in God, will we not receive of Him what we ask? Many of us because of the pains we've had to bear have come to know God in an intimate way, we have been drawn closer to him, because when all else failed and we had nowhere else to turn we called out to

God, and no matter where we have been or what we have done, God in his mercy heard us, and answered in ways that we never would have imagined, and because of this we are telling out our souls the greatness of the Lord. When you have been delivered by God you cannot keep it to yourself, you have a constant testimony to share. But do we always have to go through or allow these painful challenges to bring us closer to God or to know him? No! But pain teaches our heart to fear and prayer our pains will relieve. Thank you Lord!

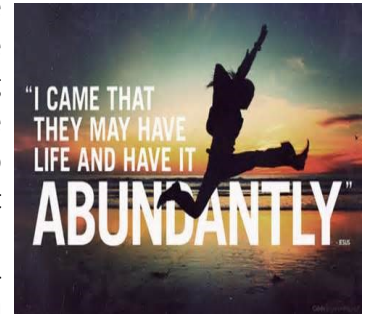
A LOOK INSIDE

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- ⇒ How do we respond to the situations in our lives?
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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

What is preventing you from living the abundant life in Christ ?

Your life may be filled with so much struggles and strife, that you forget to live. It's time to stop and smell the roses. Every morning you awake is a good day because God is in it and it's filled with his countless blessings, so instead of focusing on the problems in your life, look around you and smile. God created the beauty of this earth for us to enjoy, so take comfort in knowing that each little bird that sings outside your window, is not singing to annoy you, that beautiful butterfly hovering over your flower is not the destroyer, that shower of rain did not come to dampen your day, they were all part of God's plan for you and for me to enjoy, he knew that we would have struggles, he knew that we would endure pain, but he promised that through all the unchanging scenes of life that he will be present, he promised that no day will ever be too dark that he will not be near us, he just asks that we trust him to see us through whatever problem we may face and believe that he will work it out, that he will never allow us to suffer beyond what we are able to bear, but we must believe, we must trust him to fulfill his plan and purpose for our lives, and understand that his plan for us is not one meant to fail, but a plan for success. So, begin anew and start living the abundant life in Christ.



It's time to stop and smell the roses.

What happens to us is not as important as how we respond to the situations we face in our lives.

Have you ever had to face a situation where you reacted so badly that you are ashamed of yourself? Many times our reactions to people and situations makes others wonder if we are truly children of light or children still stumbling in darkness. As Christians our responses should reflect the image God. When faced with an unfamiliar or distressful situation we should halt and ask ourselves this question; "What would Jesus do?" We lose out on opportunities because we react to people and situations negatively, but responding in the proper ways could bring about positive results. God gives each of us dreams to strive for. Yet, for a number of us those dreams have not yet been realized, because, we may have encountered obstacles and setbacks, someone may have challenged us causing us to doubt ourselves, and now, our dreams seems distant and unreachable. Why? We must learn to respond to obstacles, setbacks, and challenges in positive ways. Know that before you were born, God had a plan for you, and his plan for you will never fail. Every situation you encounter along the way could be the means to the end, but if you give up, if you react negatively, if you lose your faith in God, it will take you much longer to gain the victory, and miss out on God's best for your life. So, before you react to a situation or person, ask yourself this question. "What would Jesus do? Then, try to do what he would do.



Learn to respond positively to all challenges and obstacles.

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The Lord will not always remove the stresses from our lives. Sometimes we have to go through to come through.

Have you ever prayed to God to bring you out of a situation and the more you prayed the worse the situation became? There is a reason why we experience some situations and God allow us to go through them. You see, you build your faith with every trial you overcome. When you go through difficult situations and you prevail, when you trust that God is with you and allow him to lead you, and you come through it, you have much praise for God, you will have a testimony to share with others, your experience will be sure to encourage, lift up, and enlighten others, to give them hope, that God is merciful, and that he will never leave us nor forsake us. So, don't lose courage, don't give up on God because he will never give up on you. Go through every situation with a prayer and praise, look around you and draw your strength from the good things around you. I know it may be hard to see the good in your bad situation, but there is always good to be found in your bad situation. God will not always remove the stresses from our lives, but allow us to go through them so that we could come through victoriously.

Have you ever felt so guilty that you are ashamed to pray? If you find yourself in this situation there is yet hope for you.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, if we do wrong things and our heart does not convict us, we are living a lie. As Christians, when we fall into sin we put ourselves outside of fellowship with the Lord. But, no matter what we have done or where we have been we serve an understanding and forgiving God, return to Him. There is this song that I love so much, it says, "Christians walk carefully, danger is near, on in thy journey with trembling and fear, snares from without and temptations within, seek to entice thee once more into sin." We are daily targets of the enemy, we are tempted and tried, he causes us to doubt ourselves, and we are even tempted to doubt God's abilities. Many times, instead of listening to God, our faith wavers and gives the enemy a stronghold in our lives, which leads us out of God's way and into shameful situations. We are human, when this happens, many find themselves so deeply lost that it's hard finding their way back to God. We must be reminded that God loves us no matter what, and that his will for us is not for us to suffer, but to live and walk according to his purpose, therefore when we fall into sin and the evil way we should return to God and confess our sins, for he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The struggle you're in today is developing the strength you need for tomorrow.

Don't give up.

Don't give up on God for God will never give up on you.



God is faithful and just and will forgive us from all unrighteousness.

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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:

CHRISTIANS WALK CAREFULLY

Written by: Echoes of Grace

Christian, walk carefully: danger is near; on in thy journey with trembling and fear; snares from without and temptations within, seek to entice thee once more into sin.

Christian, walk cheerfully through the fierce storm, dark though the sky with its threat of alarm; soon will the clouds and the tempest be o'er, then with thy Savior thou shall rest evermore.

Christian, walk prayerfully; oft wilt thou fall, If thou forget on thy Savior to call; safe thou shall walk through each trial and care, If thou art clad in the armor of prayer.

Christian, walk hopefully; sorrow and pain, cease when the haven of rest thou shall gain; then from the lips of the Judge thy reward— enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES FROM THE DESK OF JEWELLYN GREER

I know it may be hard to see the good in your bad situation, but there is always good to be found in your bad situation.

Every morning you awake is a good day because God is in it and it's filled with his countless blessings

We lose out on opportunities because we react to people and situations negatively, but responding in the proper ways could bring about positive results.

As Christians we must learn to respond to obstacles, setbacks, and challenges in positive ways.

When we can't see the path ahead we become anxious and afraid. We should learn to trust God and in all things believe that he is able.

Our trials are meant to build us up not break us down, but many of us allow our trials to triumph over us, resulting in unwavering faith.

Many of us because of the pains we had to bear have come to know God in an intimate way.

Pain teaches our heart to fear and prayer our pains will relieve. Thank you Lord!

When you have been delivered by God you cannot keep it to yourself, you have a constant testimony to share.



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Our spotlight is on you. Trials may come, but through God's grace, we will overcome. Keep the faith.

For the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. How many of us when we are going through trials see them as temporal? Not many, because we are not prepared for them. We view our trials as life threatening, never-ending, and some even allow the trials they face to change them. Our trials should never define us, but refine us. As Christians, we cannot expect to go through life without facing difficulties, challenges and obstacles, and believe it or not, the trials you go through before you give your life to Christ are nothing compared to what you will go through after you've given your life to Christ. When you are walking in God's way, you become more valuable to the enemy, and therefore, he will test you with the most severe trials that you could imagine.

They could be in the form of physical, financial, spiritual, or emotional, but whatever the test, rely on God to see you through, for he promised that whatever you are going through is temporal, meaning this too shall pass, that his grace is sufficient for you. I heard it once said that with every new level comes a new devil, but we should be prepared for these levels that God will elevate us to, knowing that the enemy is seeking every chance to block. Scripture reminds us to take heed that we think ourselves stable lest we fall, but to remain sober and vigilant at all times, praying in the spirit for guidance and protection, being confident in God's grace which is all sufficient. Trials may come but through God's grace, we will overcome. We just need to keep the faith.



IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU!

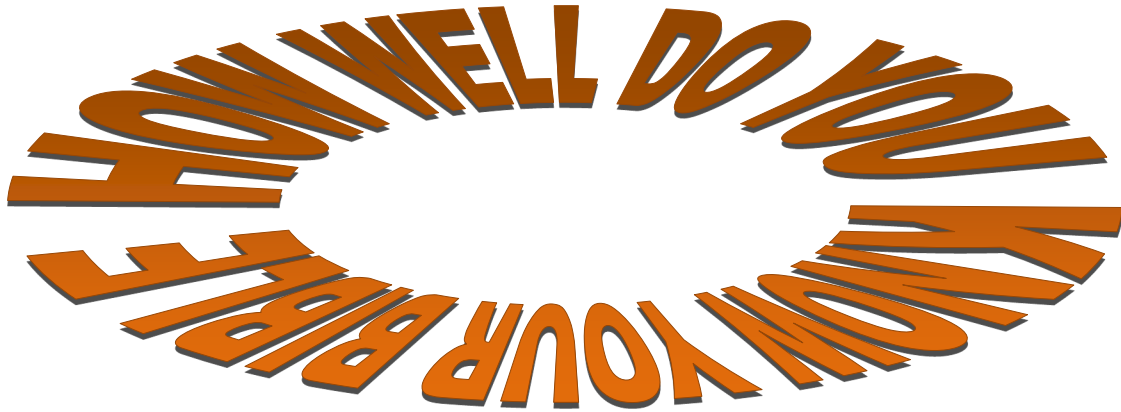
Children's Corner: It's Summer Time! Here are some of the things you could do. Check them off as you go along. Have fun!

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|------------------|----------------------|
| Tennis | Amusement Parks |
| Bike riding | Volunteering |
| Hiking | Treasure Hunts |
| Beach | Traveling |
| Summer Camp | Local Fairs |
| Reading programs | Movies |
| Cookouts | Art & Craft projects |
| Birthday Parties | Finger painting |
| Museums | Cooking lessons |



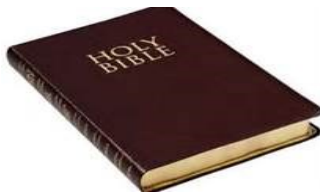
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Match the correct answers to the questions

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
What was the boat Noah built called?	Bread and fish
Who received the 10 commandments from God?	Camel
What food do we ask God to give us in the Lord's prayer?	Judas
This prophet was swallowed by a fish.	The heart
What did Jesus feed to 5,000 people?	An Ark
Which of the apostles betrayed Jesus?	Jonah
What animal was often used for transportation in the Bible ?	Bread
People look on the outward appearance, but what does God look at what?	Moses



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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:

LORD TEACH US HOW TOPRAY ARIGHT

Written by James Montgomery—1819

There's Lord, teach us how to pray aright, with reverence and with fear; though dust and ashes in thy sight,
we may, we must draw near.

We perish if we cease from prayer, O grant us power to pray! And when to meet thee we prepare, Lord,
meet us by the way.

God of all grace, we bring to thee a broken, contrite heart; give, what thine eye delights to see, truth in the
inward part.

Faith in the only sacrifice that can for sin atone; to build our hopes, to fix our eyes, on Christ, on Christ
alone;

Patience to watch and wait and weep, though mercy long delay; courage our fainting souls to keep, and
trust thee though thou slay.



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