

# Prayer Changes Everything!

## I Believe in the Power of Prayer!

July 1, 2015 Volume 21

**A** story of faith, hope and love. How do you grieve the loss of a child, when you have to be strong for the rest of the family? My son, my first born son!

Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. I had to ask permission to share this story. It was not my story, but I was convinced that this was a story that needed to be told. My hope is that this story will help someone going through the same struggle. How do you grieve the loss of a child, when you have to be strong for the rest of the family? For a parent to lose a child, a young child, it's devastating, but not being able to grieve freely and still being able to smile, is a blessing. I met this young lady about two months ago and there was just something different about her, she had a radiant smile, great personality, someone you could be drawn to easily. I met her while I was engaged in a business transaction and over the past two months, I have stopped by just to say hello. But, this week, when I stopped by to say hello, another lady came up to her and asked her about her kids and how they were doing? When the lady left, I said to her that I did not know she had kids, and with a smile on her face she said yes, I had three, but I just lost my son, my first born son to cancer, at 14 years of age. She said while you were getting ready for your vacation, I was getting ready to bury my son. Now, what could you say in response? My response was this, I gave her a hug with tears in my eyes and said to her, I never would have guessed this, you are always smiling and look so happy on the outside, but you are dealing with so much within. You could talk about it and not shed a tear. You are truly a woman of God, for one could only do this by faith! I then asked if she had a husband and she said yes. I then said to her that she was lucky to have the support of a husband as he will be strong for her. But that woman of God said, she prays every day, and that she is the one who has to be strong for her children and her husband who still cannot speak about it, and she cannot grieve in front of the other children. She said, I don't even ask God why, anymore, because he knows best. She said her son would have celebrated his 15th Birthday in June, but they celebrated his Birthday in May. She showed me a photo of her son on her phone and he had the brightest smile. She said many people encouraged her to remove the photo from her picture, but she said, I cannot, because when I look at that picture and see his smile, I smile. Life goes on. It's amazing how people of faith are able to go through the darkest hours in their lives with a prayer and a smile. God gives us strength and will see us through every problem we face if we trust him. What have we done to deserve your help each day O God? Give us prayerful and thankful hearts.

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# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING!

**W**hy is there so much hatred in the world? If God so loves us in our sins, we also ought to love one another.

God so loved us, that he gave his only begotten Son, to die for our sins. If God so loved us, why is it so hard for us to show love one to another? There is so much hatred in this world, because many of us say we love God, but our actions say differently. Growing up, our mother always said to us, "Before you do something wrong, think about me and your brothers and sisters; think about how your actions would impact us, and if you care, you would always think twice about doing it. If something is worthwhile taking, it is worthwhile asking for. What you do not like for yourself, do not do it to your brothers or sisters." Our mother's valuable words of advice that she gave to us, have always been with me, and I have passed them on to my daughter, because they worked for me, and I am hoping that they would also work for her. As I have grown and continue to grow in my walk with God, through daily meditation and studying of the scriptures, these valuable pieces of advice from my mother were further manifested to me in John 3:16, in Matthew 7:7 and Matthew 7:12. In your own time you could meditate on these for yourself. But, the fact of the matter is this, if we thought about God, about how much the wrongs things we do hurt his Spirit, especially when the wrongs we do are against each other, we would not be so hurtful to our brothers and sisters. We would be careful to treat each other as we would like others to treat us, and if we learned to ask of God and believe that he is able to provide for us, we would not allow our covetous nature to cause us to rob, steal and lie, and indulge in so many other hurtful actions. My brothers and sisters in Christ, if God so loved us, let us learn to love one another and be kind one to another. People choose hatred over love, because they have not yet come to know God. We must let others see God through us & COME to Him. Our love should be kind, forgiving, lovely, and true, we should never put stumbling blocks in the paths of others, we should be willing to lend a helping hand, we should show love, to those who are different from us; strangers, orphans, widows, the desolate, and the oppressed, just as God in his mercy showed us his love.

**W**hat happens when we do not trust God to lead and guide us. Will you trust God or your desire?

How many times have we failed in our attempts to follow the desires of our hearts? The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord. Would you agree then, that, if you have failed repeatedly when you followed the desires of your own heart, that, your steps were not ordered by God? Fear to say, the heart is deceptive. Many times, our way seems right to us, but the way that seems right to us, in the end, brings us nothing but destruction. When we take things out of God's timing, it never lasts. When we go against God's will for our lives, things never turn out right. Why then won't we learn to listen to God, to trust him to lead and to guide us? Why is it so hard for us to make our requests known to God and wait for him to give us our fruits in due season? Lord, we will no longer follow the desires of our own hearts, but will instead trust you to lead us in your way. Lord, for too long we have walked in our own rebellious ways, choosing them instead of walking in yours, but today we realize that we could no longer continue on this we way, that we are weak, and vile, and simple, and we need you O God, we need your guiding hand to lead and to direct us. Help us, Lord, to learn to listen to you, our Shepherd, confident, that you will not only lead us out of our present state, but into green pastures, where we may dwell in your presence forevermore. Amen!

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# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

**W**e are too easily conformed to the things of this world. We need to be more Christ-like.

Wouldn't you rather have something permanent in your life than something that is constantly changing? Before you could adapt to one application, then comes another. Are you not tired of the roller-coaster ride that you are on? My brothers and sisters in Christ, the only constant in our lives is God. One song-writer said it so true, our earthly friends may change with changing years, but Jesus never changes, but he could bring much-needed changes to our lives, he could transform us in his image if we are willing to obey him, and he could change our hearts. In this present age, we are more likely to change our sex than we are to change our hearts. We are more likely to change our ways to fit in with the new trends, but understand this, trends come and trends go, but God remains the same. He is the same, yesterday, today and forever. He is a God of change, but his ways, his promises, his love for us, will never change. We need to be more Christ-like instead of conforming to the things of this world. The things of this world are passing away and all that is in it, but God's word cannot be changed, nothing could be added to it or taken away from it. Lord, we confess that we have been changed, but not in good ways, not in your ways, and the changes that we have conformed to are disfiguring us in so many ways, we stand in the mirror and the reflection scares us, and we want to be able to look at our reflection in the mirror and see your smiling face, we want to be proud of the images staring back at us, so change us Lord, so that we would be more like you.

**W**hy does it seem like so many people are unhappy with themselves?

Why can't we be happy with the way God created us and be humble enough to allow him to mold us into what he wants us to be? I am sure if I were to ask you if there was something about your body or your life that you did not like, I would hear an earful. I could remember growing up, I was not happy with the size of my feet. I was wearing the biggest size shoes in my family as a girl. I complained about them so much that my mother gave me a dose of reality that set me straight. She said, "Imagine if you being as tall as you are wore a size 4 or 5 shoe, don't you think you would be off-balance, how would your feet hold up your body? I thought about it and it really made sense and I started loving my feet. Maybe if our friends would be honest with us and tell us to stop complaining about the way we were made, helping us to understand that God never makes mistakes, we would learn to be happy with ourselves. Many could understand if we did not like a situation in our lives, but to not love the man or woman that God created you or I to be, is grievous unto God's Spirit. Only God should mold you and shape you into what he wants you to be and not a plastic surgeon.

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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:

Christians, Guide me O Thou Great Jehovah

Written by: **William Williams—1717-1791, Music by John Hughes 1873-1932**

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;  
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fire and cloudy pillar, lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield;  
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee;  
I will ever give to thee.



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# INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES FROM THE DESK OF JEWELLYN GREER

We are more likely to change our sex than we are to change our hearts.

Only God should mold you and shape you into what he wants you to be and not a plastic surgeon.

Trends come and trends go, but God's word cannot be changed.

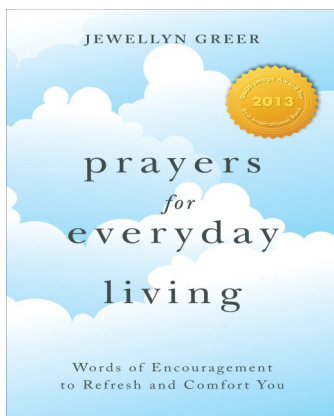
To not love the man or woman that God created you or I to be, is grievous unto God's Spirit.

God never makes mistakes, we must learn to be happy with ourselves.

Lord, I will trust you to direct my steps this day, lead me in the way I should go, Amen!

I will no more follow the evil desires of my heart, but in your footsteps Lord.

I have not always been obedient to you, O Lord, I am tired of getting lost, please show me the way.



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**O**ur Spotlight is on you. Why do we keep doing hurting others and still expect God to bless us. Do good and honor God not bad and dishonor him.

Lord, make my heart pure, so that from within me will come good things. In our anger or jealousy, many times we hurt others intentionally, we set out to cause them harm, we speak ill of them, we are just unlovely towards each other, yet, we expect God to be good to us, and he is. Our God is mercifully kind, he is generous, his love towards us is immeasurable. We need to follow his example. Let us try to be more like Jesus. Let us pray to God to create in us clean hearts and to renew right spirits within us, for Matthew chapter 12 and verse 35 reminds us that a good man out of the good treasures stored up in his heart, brings forth good things and that an evil man out of the evil treasure stored up in his heart, brings forth evil things. If you have been doing or saying evil, hurtful things to your brothers and sisters, it only means that your heart is evil, your thoughts and actions are evil, for the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. You are a corrupted soul, you need to repent and ask God to help you, because for every careless word that you and I speak, every evil seed we have sown, we shall give an account for it in the day of judgement. Proverbs chapter 10 and verse 20 reminds us that, the tongue of the righteous is choice silver, but the heart of the wicked is of little value, that a soothing tongue is a tree of life, but perversion in it crushes the spirit. Therefore, going forward, let us ensure that our character, conduct and conversations would be flawless, always full of grace, and encouraging, that we do nothing further to dishonor God, while hurting others, for by our words we will be justified, and by your words we will also be condemned.

**C**hildren's Corner: Summer Time, is Fun Time. The kids are out of school, let's see how we could keep them entertained.

Summer provides a lot of idle time for the children, and we need to keep them engaged so that their idle hands will not be engaged in too much idle works. We all know what a challenge it could be for parents especially during the long Summer days. With Summer Camps so expensive and where grand parents are no longer at home to help out, we have to become very creative. Here is a suggestion for you. Our employers understand the challenges we face with our kids, so here is what you could do. With other working parents, just like we do car-pooling we could do child-pooling. What this means, is that you form a group with other trusting parents in your neighborhood or at work, and develop a roster, as to who will chaperone the kids to where. Organize field trips, movie outings, trips to local and theme parks, Library visits and Ice Cream socials, visit the beaches, historic attractions, have picnics, etc. One or more parents could take a day off from work a week and rotate to chaperone these kids. For one, they will enjoy each other's company, and two, everyone will chip in with cost so that it is not burdensome on one person. The kids will have more than enough to keep them occupied and entertained, and you the parents a little less stressed this Summer. If you need help in organizing this, please call me. 617-238-5134, I'd be more than happy to assist you in getting started.

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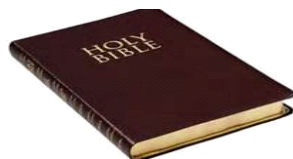
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**Match the correct answers to the questions**

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
When it's hot we tend to eat this fruit a lot. What fruit is this?	Squirrels
Which month is National Ice Cream Month?	Disney World
During the Summer, there little creatures gather nuts for the Winter. What are they?	Mosquitoes
This type of clothing is especially popular in the Summer. What is this?	Tent
People go to this place a lot for Summer Vacations. Where is this?	July 3rd
This is a very important piece of equipment when camping. What is this?	July
These insects are very pesky in the Summer. What at they?	Watermelon
The "Dog Days of Summer" begins on this date in July. Which date is this?	Shorts



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**C**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 childhood song:

Jesus Loves Me This I Know!

Written by ***Anna Bartlett Warner - 1827-19-15***

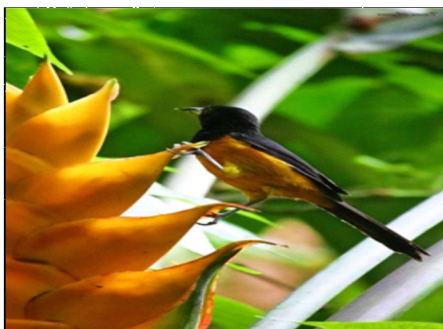
Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so, little ones to Him belong, they are weak, but He is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know, as He loved so long ago, taking children on His knee, saying, "Let them come to Me." Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me still today, walking with me on my way, wanting as a friend to give, light and love to all who live. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! He who died Heaven's gate to open wide, He will wash away my sin, let His little child come in. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! He will stay, close beside me all the way; thou hast bled and died for me, I will henceforth live for Thee. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.



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