

# Prayer Changes Everything!

## I Believe in the Power of Prayer!

July 1, 2017 Volume 29

**H**ow confident are you in your walk with God?

As a Christian, do you feel confident in telling others about the goodness of God? Do you feel obligated to share your faith stories? I do, and here's why. I have messed up so many times in my walk with God, where I could have easily stayed on the wrong path; but for each time I messed up God's love surrounded me like a shield and redirected my path. Lord, I am thankful, that you are a God whose pathway is sure in every way. For all of the many mistakes I have made, you were able to look beyond them and allow me to now use them as testimonies to help someone else. My faith has been tested in so many ways, and as I was going through the testing period, all I could see was the situation, and many times I was tempted to give up, either because of fear of the unknown, or the will to do what was right. But, thanks be to God, for the confidence he instilled in me, for the assurance I needed to walk with him. I have since come to understand, that, we can only focus on our faith when we give God our fears. My brothers and sisters in Christ, as I grew in my walk with God, I became bolder, I was no longer afraid or ashamed of where I'd been or what I'd done, because they were no longer situations, but testimonies that I share, to help shine light on the dark areas of life, to those who have not yet come to know Christ. I share with them the reasons why I am constantly praising God, who did not reject my prayers for help or withheld his love from me when I was going through my struggles, when I was tempted to give up. As a result, I feel obligated to share my testimonies, I am confident enough in the ways of the Lord, to help to encourage others in their walk with God. We just need to be willing to help and God will give us the right words of comfort to share with someone else, even if we are not confident enough to share our personal testimonies. For everything that we go through, there is a lesson to be learned. Do not be ashamed. Be proud, be confident, and share your testimonies. What you have been through is not uncommon, even though it may seem that way. Sometimes it's the shame, or the guilt, that holds us back from sharing our testimonies; but, you and I have come too far to turn back now. God has already paid a ransom for our guilt and our shame; show him how grateful you are and help a struggling sister or brother along the way. Our God, is a good God! If it had not been for the Lord on my side, I don't know where I would have been. Oh, praise be to God!

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# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING!

**A**re you able to find the good in every difficult or hurtful situation you encounter?

Circumstances, situations, and problems, bring changes to our lives and profound changes when they are unexpected. Lord, I am thankful for the changes saving me brought to my life. It did not come without resistance, but, I am thankful that you did not give up on me, but persisted. Lord, when you begin to work in us, we could expect big things to happen. Romans 12:12 reminds us, that, we should be joyful in hope, patient in tribulation and faithful in prayer. But, when we are going through a difficult situation, most times we are not joyful, hopeful, patient, or prayerful. We take the fight or flight attitude. My brothers and sisters in Christ, when people hurt you don't retaliate in the same way, treat them kindly and God will heal your hurt. Too often we allow the negative situations in our lives to color our world and not in a good way; we should instead try to find the good in every difficult or hurtful situation. It is not easy, it requires us to be humble and thankful. We must be able to accept the situations that we face, confident, that we are not alone, and thankful to God, for allowing the situation into our lives, because, without these situations, we will not be able to see how much we have grown in our walk with God, or how far we have come from where we had been. We could depend on God for everything and in every situation and he will never disappoint us. Let us remain joyful in hope, patient in tribulation and faithful in prayer no matter what.

**W**hat are you willing to give up in order to fully embrace all that the Lord has in store for you?

Are you playing hide and go seek with God? Are you misinterpreting God's messages because you do not want to admit or hear the truth about yourself? God is the giver of all good things, the enemy knows that, and will try to mislead and entice us with gifts that will never last. Many times we have sleepless nights and agonize over a decision that we are about to make, and the main reason is that we did not put the decision before God, and therefore are worried about how we are going to bring it to completion. Some of us become so desperate that we become disconnected from God and give the devil opportunity. We cannot allow this to happen. We need to instill some kind of yardstick within us, we need to construct a dam within us, to hold us back from self-destructing. The carrots that the enemy dangles in front of us are not worth the discomfort it brings after eating them. But, let me remind you of this, when you listen to God, when you put your decisions in God's hands, sit back and watch him work it out. Do not play hide and go seek with God, hearing what you want to hear, and seeing what you want to see. Learn to listen attentively to God, to make your petitions to him only, to place your cares in his hands. You will know that your decision has God's blessings when you are going through a situation and every stumbling block you encounter is miraculously rolled away. You will know that God has heard your prayer, because doors that were closed have been opened. But, if we never let go of our own thoughts, our own ambitions, or give up the things that God did not intend for us to have, and listen to him, we will be able to fully embrace all that the Lord has in store for us. "Lean not to your own understanding, but in all your ways acknowledge God and he will direct your paths." Praise the Lord!

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# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

**T**here is no stronghold in your life that God cannot cause to be shaken like ripen figs.

Too many of us forget to thank God when he gives us something to smile about, but, we do not forget to grumble and complain when we don't get what we ask for. Is this the right attitude to have? We must get in the habit of praising God when things are good, to seek his understanding when the way is hard, and for everything just give God thanks. God knows my name and yours, he understands our thoughts, he sees every teardrop that fall from our eyes and he hears and answer us when we call. My brothers and sisters in Christ, there is no storm that God will not carry us through if we trust him. God is bigger and stronger than all of our problems, all of our battles are in his hands to fight, and if we allow him, he will win every time. God causes the good and the bad in our lives and he already knows the beginning and the end of them all . There is no stronghold in our lives that God cannot cause to be shaken like ripen figs. Many of us are happy to accept the good things that God sends our way, but when he withhold the things from us that he knows will cause us harm, we are rebellious. Will you trust him, stop your complaining, and praise him? We always seem to know what is best for us. But, do we really? God is the only one who knows what we need and when we need them and he promised, that, he will give us our fruits in due season. Remember, that green figs will not easily be shaken, allow them to ripen while being thankful and grateful to God throughout the process.

**B**e still and know that I am God – Psalm 16:10

God is my hope, my light, my strength, my healer, and my comforter when I trust him. But, in order to enjoy these blessings, I have to be still and understand who he is, to trust him and expect to be tested at every turn. Isn't God amazing? How many times have we asked God for strength to go through storms in our lives and he helps us, but presents us with something more difficult? When we are faced with a decision to make and we ask for wisdom, God makes the situation become a puzzle for us to solve. Many of us ask God for riches, but he presents us with opportunities that tests our patience. When we ask for courage, he will set before us dangerous situations which will require us to step out in faith. When we ask for patience, he will allow us to wait longer for the things we asks for, when we ask for love, God will present destitute people in our path to help, and when we ask for favors, God will present us with opportunities to be favorable to someone less fortunate. How willing are you to trust God? Do you want him to be your hope, your light, your strength, your healer and your comforter? You just need to trust him faithfully. God's methods are not always straight-forward or easy, and many don't receive the blessing because they give up too soon. Be still and know who God is!

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# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

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

I Know Not Why God's Wondrous Grace!

**Daniel Webster Whittle — 1840**

I know not why God's wondrous grace,  
To me, hath been made known,  
Nor why unworthy as I am,  
He chose me for his own.

### **Chorus**

But, I know whom I believed, and am persuaded,  
That he is able, to keep, that which I've committed unto him.

I know not how, this saving faith,  
To me, he did impart,  
Or how believing in his word,  
Wrought peace within my heart.

I know not how, the Spirit moves,  
Convincing men of sin,  
Revealing Jesus through his word,  
Creating faith in him.



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# INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES FROM THE DESK OF JEWELLYN GREER

The devil does not go after those he already control, he is desperate to regain those he have lost

God has already paid a ransom for our guilt and our shame; show him how grateful you are

There is no stronghold in our lives that God cannot cause to be shaken like ripen figs

If we are not willing to give up the things that God did not intend for us to have, we will never be able to fully embrace all that the Lord has in store for us

Never become so desperate that you become disconnected from God and give the devil opportunity

Lord, when you begin to work in us we could expect big things to happen

The carrots that the enemy dangles in front of us, are not worth the discomfort it brings after eating them

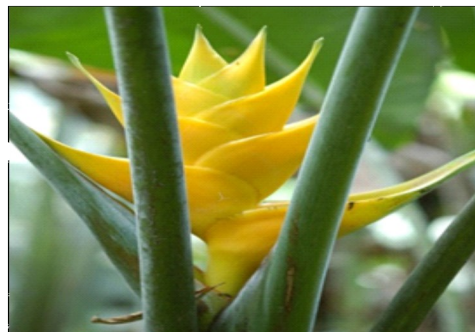
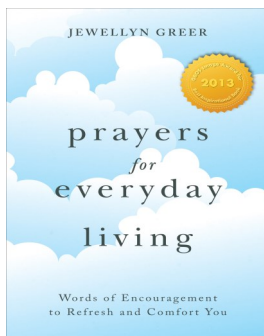
God's methods are not always straight-forward, many don't receive the blessing because they give up too soon

Without the situations we face we will not be able to see how much we have grown in our walk with God

Get in the habit of praising God when things are good, and to seek his understanding when the way is hard

God causes the good and the bad in our lives and he already knows the beginning and the end of them all

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



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**O**ur Spotlight is on you! How easy is it for you to encourage those around you?

Would you call yourself an encourager? Many of us have been discouraged in our walk with God or in our daily lives. I have been there, and I know what God got me through it. I am proud to say, that, I now find it easy to encourage others. Early in my walk with God, when he was giving me a tough lesson in humility, I found myself thinking of going back to my old ways; but, there were prayer warriors in my life, who had been there, and were able to encourage me, to hold my hand on this journey, and I just want to say, "Thank you, for encouraging me." As we grow in our walk with God, we are tested more, but many don't see it this way. The reason is because as we grow in our walk with God, we learn to handle things differently. Situations that used to rile us up, see us praising God, the harsh words that would have caused us to respond in like manner, are replaced with grace, when we are waiting on God to bring change to a situation, we are patient. But, we are human, and there will be times when because of just being human, we react humanely, and God understands. As Christians, we are never beyond being encouraged. The devil does not go after those he already control, he is desperate to regain those he have lost. We cannot allow him to control us ever again, we must resist him; but, we cannot do this alone, we cannot do this in our own strength. Let us trust God to send the right people at the right time, to stand in the gap for us. Let us make it our aim to encourage those around us daily. We all need each other.

**C**hildren's Corner: Summer is here and time for lots of fun activities. Check off all of the activities you could find below that is on your Summer fun list.

## It's Summer Time!

Camping

Picnic

Biking

Barbecue

Beach

Museum

Fair

Stargaze

Hiking

Concert

Sleepover

Games

Movies

Fishing

Catch lightening bugs

**Have Fun! Be Safe! Enjoy!**

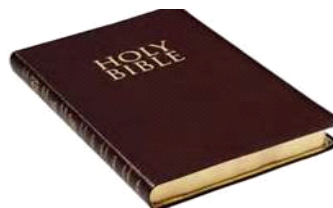
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**Match the correct answers to the questions**

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
He built the ark exactly as the Lord commanded without question.	Joseph
The Lord promised him an heir in his old age and it was so.	Jericho
His brothers sold him into slavery, but it was all part of God's plan.	David
Moses was afraid to speak as the Lord instructed, but, the Lord sent this brother to help him.	Hannah
Joshua trusted the Lord, when he promised him this city.	Noah
She promised the Lord, that if he gave her a son, she would give him back to the Lord all the days of his life.	Wisdom
God made him king and he could have asked for anything, but he asked God for this and received it.	Aaron
The Lord was with him wherever he went, cutting off his enemies.	Abraham



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# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

**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. Our featured childhood song is one of mine learned in Sunday School.

We Are But Little Children Weak!  
**Cecil F. Alexander - 1850**

We are but little children weak, nor born in any high estate,  
What can we do for Jesus sake, who is so high and good and great.

Oh, day by day each Christian child, has much to do without within,  
A death to die for Jesus sake, a weary war to wage with sin.

When deep within our swelling hearts, the thoughts of pride and anger rise,  
When bitter words are on our tongues, and tears of passion in our eyes.

Then we may stay the angry blow, then we may check the hasty word,  
Give gentle answers back again, and fight the battle for our Lord.

With smiles of peace and looks of love, light in our dwellings we may make,  
Bid kind good humor brighten there, and still do all for Jesus sake.



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