

# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING



June 1, 2014 - Vol. 12

**H**ow big is your faith? Faith releases the blessings of God but it must be exercised.

We read in Luke 17:5, the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" I too have asked the Lord to increase my faith, and my troubles were multiplied. Was my faith increased or did it decrease? It wavered at first as I was confused, and overwhelmed, but then, when I saw how God worked his purpose out, I was amazed, and I learned to go through each trial with a prayer and praise. How is your faith increased? Our faith could grow through prayer and pain, and it could also decrease in the same way. Why? For many of us, trials and troubles brings us closer to God, because the testing of our faith develops perseverance, hope, and character in us, while troubles and trials see others moving farther away from God because they doubt, and the body then is without the spirit to guide them, and they look for help elsewhere which leads them astray. There are so many instructions on faith for us in the Bible, and if I should put a few of them together it would read like this. Oh ye of little FAITH, why do you doubt? Don't you know by now that FAITH is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen? Live by FAITH and not by sight, and your FAITH will overcome the world. Therefore, examine yourselves, test yourselves to see whether you are in the faith, Fight the good fight with FAITH, run the race, keep the FAITH, for without FAITH it is impossible to please God and – now, for this reason make every effort to add to your FAITH goodness; and to goodness, knowledge and to knowledge understanding, take up the shield of FAITH, wear it as a breastplate of righteousness, and I pray that you may be active in sharing your FAITH, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ, because, anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists, and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Do not be found lacking of FAITH, instead, exercise your FAITH, for without works FAITH is dead, and you will reap no reward! My brothers and sisters in Christ, if you are unsure of how to live by faith, or how to trust God, you must be moved to action. You must be willing to step out of your comfort zone, to go beyond where you are, to do what you have never done, all the while trusting in God to lead you and guide you and he will. As one song-writer said, " Each step I take, the Savior goes before me and with his loving hand he leads the way, and with each breath, I whisper I adore thee, O what joy to walk with him each day, each step I take, I know that he will guide me, to higher ground he ever leads me on, until some day the last step will be taken, each step I take, just leads me closer home". FAITH without works is dead, but FAITH exercised through works gives life.

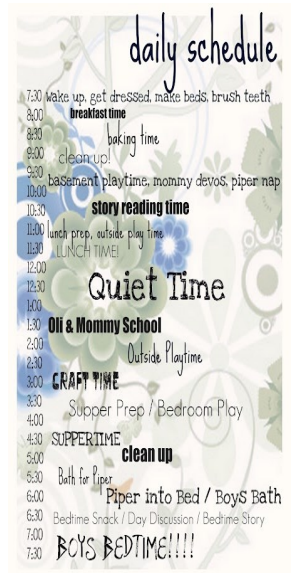
## A LOOK INSIDE

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# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

**H**ow does God fit into your daily life? God has given us time, but no one knows how much. Spend it wisely.

When you stop to pray, does God have your full attention, or do you have a million other things vying for that time slot? If you find that you are being rushed in your devotions with God, stop and ask yourself; WHY? Am I going to bed too late, or do I have too much scheduled in the day that my focus is scattered? **DEBUNK-** You need to rearrange your schedule so that your mind will be clear, ensure that you are well rested before God. When you love someone, do you clear your schedule to make time for him or her? I'm sure you do. When you're going to meet that someone, you prep yourself, you are decked in your finest, you want to smell good and look good, you want to be impressive before them. Is God so much different? Do you love him any less? Then, if you love God and really want to spend time with him, won't you clear your schedule to be with him? Won't you prepare yourself to commune with him? God wants your undivided attention, he is your teacher and if you are not attentive, then how will you learn? We must make prayer a vital part of our daily lives. God hears and answers every prayer, and the more meaningful time you spend with him, the more intimate your relationship with him will become. Not just call out to him when you are in need or in trouble, learn to enjoy spending time with God in prayer, for Prayer Changes Everything! God has given us time, but no one knows how much. Many times when people are on their death bed, you will hear them confess, "I should have spent more time with God". Don't be one of them, you have the time now; spend it wisely in prayer before God.



**Is there any time left for God in your busy schedule?**

**P**rayer changes everything, but, how prayerful are you? Are you spending enough time in prayer?.

When you have scheduled everything you need to do – Is there any time left for God? Spending time with God should not be an obligation; it should be the most joyful activity of your day. I give God the first waking hours of my day and everything else seems to fall into place. You could do it too. It's as easy as cutting out the things in your life that are infringing on your prayer time with God. But, what are you willing to give up? Think about it! We put so many useless activities before God, activities which will never bring him honor and glory, activities that are leading us further away from God, leaving even less time left for Him. We will all be required to give an account of our stewardship. God will not ask you about how your son or daughter, husband or wife, sister or brother spent their time on earth; he will want to know how plenteous your harvest was, He will want to know how you brightly you shone your light for others to see, or how many times you reached out to help someone in need. My brothers and sisters in Christ make time for God, engage in activities which will bring him honor and glory, for the things of this earth will pass away, but only what's done for Christ will last. Always bear this in mind that we could pray as we live, or we could live as we pray. What will be your choice? Will you live as you pray or pray as you live?



**Time spent with God is time well spent!**

# 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:

## Each Step I Take

Written by: ***W. Elmer Mercer —1953***

Each step I take my Savior goes before me, And with His loving hand He leads the way. And with each breath I whisper, I adore Thee; O what joy to walk with Him each day.

Each step I take, I know that He will guide me; To higher ground He ever leads me on. Until someday the last step will be taken. Each step I take just leads me closer home.

At times I feel my faith begin to waver, when up ahead I see a chasm wide, It's then I turn and look up to my Savior, I am strong when He is by my side.

Each step I take, I know that He will guide me; To higher ground He ever leads me on. Until someday the last step will be taken. Each step I take just leads me closer home.

I trust in God, no matter come what may, for life eternal is in His hand, He holds the key that opens up the way, that will lead me to the promised land.

Each step I take, I know that He will guide me; To higher ground He ever leads me on. Until someday the last step will be taken. Each step I take just leads me closer home.

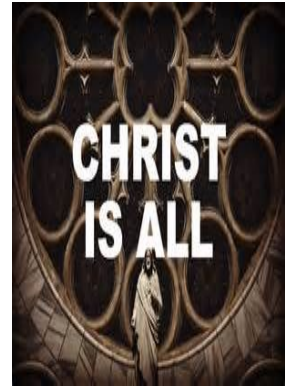


# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

**W**hat is hindering you from growing in your walk with God. STOP!  
It's time to clean house.

I recalled one day I was speaking with my friend and as we discussed the various disasters around the world I said, "Come Lord Jesus." My friend said, "Don't say that!" and when I asked her why, she said, "Because I am not ready." My brothers and sisters in Christ, what is the reason for you are not being prepared for the second coming of our Lord? If you have already accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, what is hindering you from growing in your walk with God? It's time to clean house. It's time to lay aside every weight that is keeping you from walking bold-

ly with God. Do not allow your wife, husband, brother, sister, child, job, or your social or financial status, to keep you from coming to God. You could lose all of these in an instant, and what would you be left with? If I have Jesus and I lose everything else around me, I could count it all loss, for I would have gained everything in Christ Jesus and he will never leave me not forsake me. So, let it go, let them all go, for Philippians 3:7 says, knowing Christ is above all, for whatever things were gained to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Praise the Lord!



Christ is above all -  
He is our all in all.

**I**t's through prayer time that I truly feel the presence of God. When do you most experience God's presence in your life?

Be still and know that I am God? Before I gave my life to Christ, I never had a moment's peace, and the only time I paused was when I was confronted with a situation that was overwhelming and I would call on God to help me. I cannot recall then, hearing him answer or feeling his presence. But, when I gave my life to Christ, and I learned to be still in his presence, I felt his touch, I heard his voice, I came to understand what it meant to be still and know that I am God. If we truly desire to know and to serve God, prayer and worship time, must be an integral part of our daily lives. As we grow spiritually we develop an intimate relationship with God, where we feel his presence. My prayer and worship time with God takes many different forms. I could be reading my Bible, attending Bible study, posting on my Face book page, yes, and interacting on my Twitter page. I could

be praying, or just listening to music or singing, or just being quiet. Whichever way you choose to worship God, let it me meaningful, your prayer time should be aimed at growing closer to God so that you may experience his presence in your life. Many people sing the words of hymns and they never resonate in their thinking. There are hymns for any occasion and you could draw comfort from singing the words or listening to them as a form of worship. Your worship time with God should be used to commune with him, to laud and honor him, to listen to him. not just to bring your burdens to him, but to thank him for all that he has done for you. The possibility of prayer is endless; the power of prayer is transforming; the direction of prayer is guiding; the love of prayer is rewarding and the substance of your prayer is redeeming. Be still and know who your God is.



Grow closer with God  
through prayer.

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# INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES FROM THE DESK OF JEWELLYN GREER

Spending time with God should not be an obligation; it should be the most joyful activity of your day.

Make time for God, engage in activities which will bring him honor and glory, for the things of this earth will pass away, but only what's done for Christ will last.

Always bear this in mind that we could pray as we live, or we could live as we pray.

God has given us time, none of us knows how much. Spend it wisely.

Faith releases the blessing of God but it must be exercised to achieve maximum results.

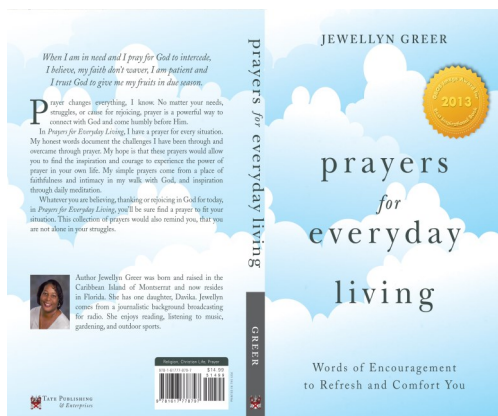
I give God the first waking hours of my day and everything else seems to fall into place.

As you grow Spiritually, lead and others will follow.

Faith without works is dead, but faith exercised through works gives life.

Are you a Farmer, a Farmer for the Lord? How many lost souls will you reap for God?

It's time to lay aside every weight that is keeping you from walking boldly with God. Step out in faith.



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# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

**O**ur spotlight is on you: Are you matured enough in your spiritual life to help lead others to Christ?

God called you out of darkness into his marvelous. Walk in it and allow others to follow. People who spend quality time with God are not popular, but they are less worried, and are more happy and content. Why? As you grow in your walk with God you gain spiritual maturity, and because of this, some people are shunned by friends and loved ones they've known forever. When they recognize that you are no longer carnal minded, and you no longer fit into their circle, they pull away from you. But, should you be offended? No! You need to understand that where you are is not where you want to be, but where God needs you to be, that God has a plan and a purpose for your life, and maybe part of that plan was to lead you out of darkness and reveal to you his marvelous light, so that others could follow. Many who claim to be matured spiritually are uncomfortable around those who are not yet spiritually matured or show no signs of wanting to grow in the knowledge and love of God. If you find yourself in this situation then you are not as spiritually matured as you think you are, because Jesus

preached in the synagogues, in the marketplace, at the sea shore and he was not loved by all, neither was he rejected by all. So too, we must not forget that we were also walking in darkness until God revealed to us his marvelous light and that we too probably rejected many who reached out to us, before God took control. Therefore, you too are obligated to go out and bring more laborers into the harvest of God.

## **ANOTHER JEWEL GREER ORIGINAL**

Are you a farmer, a farmer for the Lord? How many lost souls will you reap for God? You cannot be a farmer and not sow good grain, you cannot be a farmer unless you bear the strain, for after toil and reaping you will surely gain; you will not be a farmer who sows to reap in vain. You must be a farmer who sows through sweat and tears, and you will be a good farmer who reaps the wheat with tares. You will sometimes plant seeds that will see you shed much tears, but, you must be a farmer, who toils on through the years. Good grain sown for Jesus, good grain sown for God, will surely reap a harvest, a harvest for the Lord.

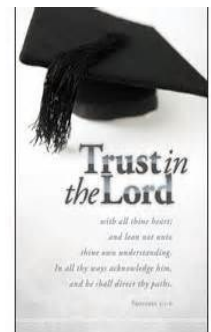


**As you grow spiritually, lead and others will follow.**

**C**hildren's Corner: You've graduated—Congratulations! Now, what is next? Trust God to lead you on.

I've made it through many a daunting year;  
Now, where do I go from here?  
The world to me is a chasm wide,  
And I don't know how I will survive,  
But one thing I know that wherever I go,  
I will have God by my side.  
Could I trust myself to make good choices;  
Or will I rely on deceiving vices?  
I'll trust in God and in him abide,  
For he is always by my side.

The world ahead now offers me  
A choice to be chained or a choice to be free  
The opportunities are endless,  
But it all will be useless,  
If I sit idly by and chase pies in the sky,  
So I will depend on God as my guide,  
And all to him I will confide.  
My fears, my dreams I'll leave at his side;  
For I know he will lead me where I should go;  
And my way would be clear to follow.

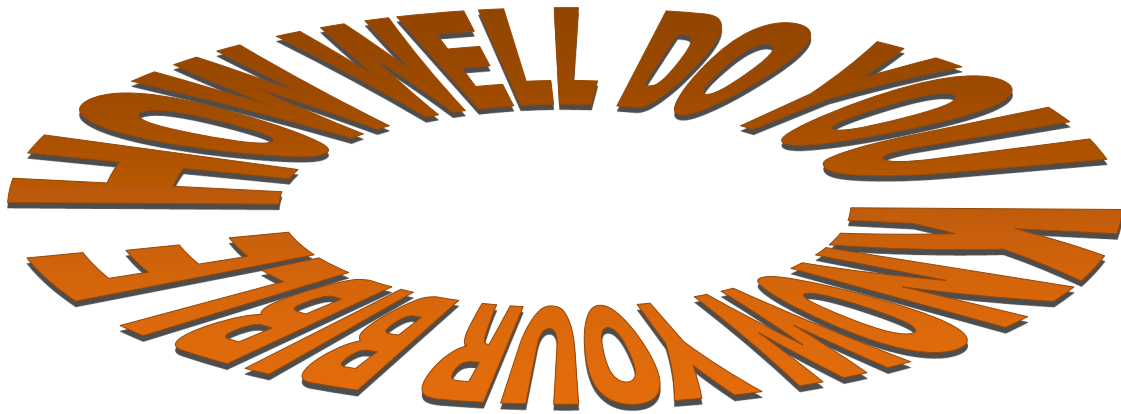


**God will lead you be willing to follow Him.**

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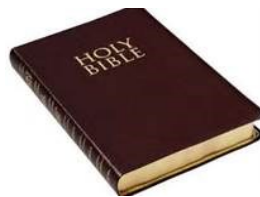
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**Match the correct answers to the questions**

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
A burning bush caught this man's attention. Who was he?	Joash
This King was seven years old when he began to reign. Who was he?	Mount Nebo
This man climbed a tree to see Jesus. Who was he?	A dove
This man ate grass for seven years. Who was he	The Temple
King David started out his life in this occupation. What was this?	Moses
What was the first bird Noah let out of the ark after the flood?	Zacchaeus
Moses saw the promise land from this mountain. Which mountain?	Nebuchadnezzar
In which place did Jesus confront people selling doves?	A musician



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# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

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:

Pray About Ev'rything  
Written by: *Joy Rice Martin—1965*

## Chorus

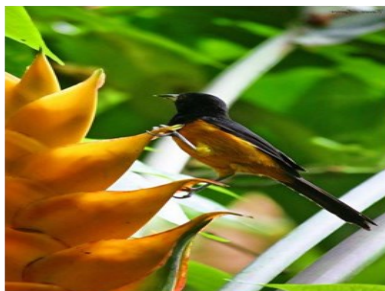
**Prayer is a wonderful treasure; Prayer is a wonderful thing. Blessing all ours without measure; so pray about ev'rything (ev'rything).**

Once I was burdened with many a care; problems too hard for my weak soul to bear; then in God's Word came a message so clear; Pray about ev'rything.

Ask of your Father, He loves to please; unlock His treasure, He gives us the keys; claiming this promise, I dropped to my knees; Pray about ev'rything.

Doubting and fretting can only bring shame; worry and fear will dishonor His name; go to your Savior His promise to claim. Pray about ev'rything.

Riches in Jesus, abundant and free, needs in our work or whatever it be; ours for the asking, this only His plea; Pray about ev'rything.



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