

Prayer Changes Everything!

I Believe in the Power of Prayer!

October 1, 2017 Volume 30

Thank you, Lord for connecting the dots, so that I could tell someone else, that, I am not where I used to be, but where you want me to be. All that I am I owe to you.

Many of us who have been saved have used this phrase repeatedly – Thank God that I am not where I used to be! But, how many of us are brave enough to honestly tell our story of our journey and how God connected the dots. My brothers and sisters in Christ, there is a bridge that has created a deep divide between us and God, and the barrier was created when we started to walk in disobedience to God, and that barrier will stay in place until we make a decision to fully trust God and walk in his way. But, let us look at some of the materials used to create these barriers – there is pride, arrogance, evil clamor, perverse speech, bitterness, anger, jealousy, covetousness, slander, malice, hate, deceit and hypocrisy, to name a few. Do you realize that God is able remove all these from us with just one swipe of his hand? Yes, he could. But, he wants us to willingly lay them down, and when we begin to make the effort he will help us, because that is his will for us. My brothers and sisters in Christ, we must be prepared for the new day, when Jesus Christ will return, it's time to begin breaking down those barriers between you and God for only then, when we begin to willingly lay down these barriers, that is when we begin to move from where we used to be, to where we are now. It's a journey, and some of us faltered along this journey, but God has picked us up each and every time, and that my friends is how we begin to connect the dots; because I know from experience, that it's a maze; it is not a straight path, and God does this to show us, that, no matter how winding the road, or how steep the incline, that he will be with us, and when he brings us to the place he predestined, he wants us to tell others how challenging it was and how he led us all the way; this reminds me of this song I know and love so very much, because it tells how Jesus led me all the way from where I used to be to where I am now, and where he will continue to take me: All the way my Savior leads me, what have I to ask beside? Can I doubt His faithful mercies? Who through life has been my guide? Heavenly peace, divinest comfort, e're by faith in Him to dwell, for I know whate'er fall me, Jesus doeth all things well. All of the way my Savior leads me, cheers each winding path I tread, gives me strength for every trial, feeds me with the living bread, and though my weary steps may falter, and my soul a-thirst may be, gushing from a rock before me, though a spirit joy I see. This my song through endless ages Jesus led me all the way. Thank you, Lord!

A LOOK INSIDE

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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING!

When you come to know God, life takes on a whole new meaning – Are you ready for a life-style change?

I've been changed, I am new born now, my life has been rearrange, and I am thankful to God. I don't walk the same paths, I don't talk the same way, I don't go to the same places, and I owe it all to God. He said to me, "Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts and return me, I will have compassion on him, and I will abundantly pardon. Wash and make yourself clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, the hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, for your salvation is nearer now than you think, the night is far gone; the day is at hand, cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light which is Christ." Thanks be to God, I listened, and I heard, and I said, "God, create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me," and he heard and answered my prayer. I have washed my hands in innocence. I am able to walk around the altar of the Lord, I am able to daily enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise, being thankful to him, blessing his holy name, for Lord is good and his mercy endures forever. "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15

Do you require strength in a weak area of your life? – I will strengthen feeble knees and cause them to stand, says the Lord.

What is it that you are facing that is making you weak? Is it your health, your finances, your children, your marriage, your relationship with others, or your job situation? My brothers and sisters in Christ, have faith in God, for there is no problem, situation, or circumstance, greater than he is. He warns us, that, if our strength fails in the day of adversity our faith is small. How big is your faith in times of trouble? God is not a god who could lie and He has promised us, that, his grace is sufficient for us, that, his strength will be perfected in our weakness. Therefore, why are you weak, why are distressed? Don't you realize that the joy of the Lord is your strength? Why are you allowing your situation to rob you of your peace? Get up! If you are feeling weak, shout with confidence, "I am strong." If you are sick, shout, "I am well." If your job is stressing you out, say "It's all good." If your down to your last dime, say, "I am rich." Too many times we allow the enemy to triumph over us, when God's banner of love surrounds us. God is and should always remain the strength of our hearts. Whatever we are going through, we should allow God to direct us. Many times in my walk with God, I have been poured out like water, evils beyond number have surrounded me, my enemies confront me from every side, my sickness seems unto death, but I continually remind myself, that, God's grace is sufficient for me, and the Lord supported my lot. He has been my portion, he said, you will live and not die, I will lead you to rivers of water, you will graze in green pastures, I will anoint your head will fresh oil so that your cup will run over. My brothers and sisters in Christ, we sometimes will experience trouble on every side, but we will not be crushed. Why? Our flesh and our heart may fail, but God will remain the strength of our hearts and our portion forever, if we trust him and have faith; so even when we are weak, we are still strong. God strengthens feeble knees and cause them to stand "Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy. Though I fall I will rise; though I dwell in darkness, the Lord is a light for me."

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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

What is the mess in your life that you could develop into a message?

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. Romans 15:4. The same is true for us who have gone through various trials and temptations; we could develop what we look back on as messes in our lives and use them as messages to encourage others. The reason why most of us don't turn our messes into messages, is because we are ashamed, and we hypocritically watch someone endure the same struggle without saying a word. The best comfort for someone going through an affliction is to be encouraged by someone who has walked that same pathway. Amen! I am not ashamed to say that I have fallen in my walk with God, and I try to encourage those who I see are walking down that same road, by talking about how I allowed the enemy to entice me, then abandoned me. As we grow in our walk with God we are able to discern good from evil from a distance. Scripture reminds us, that, the blessings of the Lord makes one rich and he brings no trouble with it. Praise the Lord! But, too many of us accept what we perceive to be a blessing, then come to realize that it was nothing but trouble in disguise, but, we still had to deal with the consequences. How we overcome could be developed as a message from a mess and used to comfort or warn someone who is about to walk that same path or had that same experience and now dealing with the consequences. We are never alone in our struggles. Scripture reminds us, that we should not let any unwholesome talk come out of our mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. You may have tried to convince yourself that you have nothing wholesome to share, nothing that could be beneficial to others, but, one never knows what they have to say until God puts the words in their mouth and commands them to speak. All of us have a ministry within us, and that ministry sometimes is awakened after a tragedy, or an illness, or a need, or when someone has wronged us; but, most times, our ministry is furthered after we got saved. We then have a Jeremiah experience, where the message is like fire, shut up in our bones, dying to come out. What is on the inside of you dying to come out? What has God done for you that you want to tell the whole world? My brothers and sisters in Christ, God did not save us for ourselves. God saved us, so that we could become ambassadors for Him, to spread His good news without shame or fear, to let someone else know how awesome He really is. Too many of us are lukewarm in our service to God, it's time to get on fire for God. Let us do all that we can to encourage and build one another up, just as we are already doing. Everything that we do should be aimed at not furthering our own causes but to bring God honor and glory and praise. So, whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts and others will come to know God through you, and you will be proud of your mess that turned into a message. Praise the Lord!

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I forgive you! This is most time easier said than done. Could I ask God to forgive me when I can't forgive others?

“And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.” Why do we daily ask this of God, and still find it so hard to forgive others? My brothers and sisters in Christ, forgiveness brings freedom – be kind, tenderhearted and forgiving, one to another, as God in Christ forgave you. Too many of us are locked in prisons of our own making, and there is none so restraining as being in a prison of unforgiveness. Unlike traditional prisons, there is no guard who could open the door and set us free, we alone hold the key and humility is the trigger. Many are hard-pressed to forgive, because it may seem like they are weak, but I know from personal experience, that it takes a big person to say I am sorry, and an even stronger person to forgive. God has forgiven us so many times and most times for the same sin. Could we not forgive someone who has wronged us one time? “And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.” Let us practice what we preach – forgiving others as we have been forgiven. Let us put aside our pride which prevents us from humbling ourselves, which is necessary in forgiving others. Scripture reminds us, that, “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace,” and if he so shows us mercy, it should not be so hard for us to also be merciful one to one another. Sometimes we too find it hard to forgive ourselves for the things that we have done, when God has already forgiven us. Let it go, so that you could be free. What has your sister or brother done to you that you cannot forgive? Why are you burdened with seeds of unforgiveness when you could be harvesting fruits of love. “Come, let us settle the matter says the Lord, though your sins are like scarlet they shall be white as snow, and though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him He has removed our sins from us, as far as the east is from the west. So, the next time you begin to say the Lord's Prayer, and you remember that you hold something against someone forgive them, so that your father in heaven could forgive you also. It's not fair to ask God to forgive us, when we are not able to forgive our brothers and sisters.



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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:

Master, speak! Thy servant heareth!

Frances Ridley Havergal — 1836 – 1879

Master, speak! Thy servant heareth, waiting for Thy gracious word, longing for Thy voice that cheereth,
Master, let it now be heard. I am list'ning, Lord, for Thee; What hast Thou to say to me?

Often through my heart is pealing, many another voice than Thine, many an unwilling echo stealing, from
the walls of this Thy shrine. Let Thy longed-for accents fall; Master, speak! And silence all.

Master, speak! though least and lowest, let me not unheard depart; Master, speak! for oh, Thou knowest
all the yearning of my heart. Knowest all its truest need; speak! And make me blest indeed.

Master, speak! and make me ready, when Thy voice is truly heard, with obedience glad and steady, still to
follow every word. I am listening, Lord, for Thee: Master, speak, oh, speak to me!

Speak to me by name, O Master, let me know it is to me; speak, that I may follow faster, with a step more
firm and free. Where the Shepherd leads the flock, in the shadow of the Rock!



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INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES FROM THE DESK OF JEWELLYN GREER

Sometimes we too find it hard to forgive ourselves for the things that we have done, when God has already forgiven us. Let it go!

Dear Lord, let us not merely listen to your word, but instill in us the will to put what we have learned from your word into practice.

When God delivers us from our desert places, we will come out stronger and more on fire for God. Whenever I find myself in a difficult situation, I ask God to imprison me in his presence, so that I could hear what he is saying to me in the moment.

Too many times we allow the enemy to triumph over us, when God's banner of love surrounds us. All of my bones are out of joint, but, I continually remind myself, that, God's grace is sufficient for me and the Lord supports my lot.

Many times we fail to hear what God is saying to us in the moment because we are too busy talking. The best comfort for someone going through an affliction is to be encouraged by someone who has walked that same pathway.

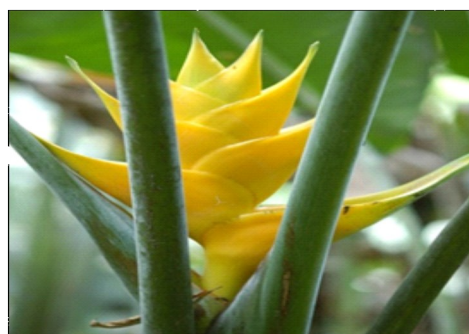
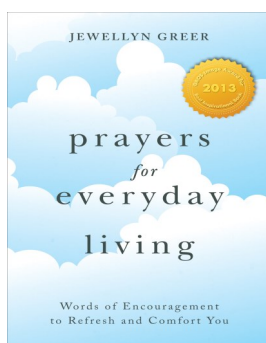
I don't walk the same paths, I don't talk the same way, I don't go to the same places, and I owe it all to God.

When you come to know God, life takes on a whole new meaning.

There is a bridge that has created a deep divide between us and God, and the barrier was created when we started to walk in disobedience to God.

Whatever we are going through, we should allow God to direct us.

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



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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING



ur Spotlight is on you! What is God saying to you in the moment? There is a reason why God has not yet changed your situation.

“Speak, Lord, in the stillness, while I wait on Thee; hush my heart to listen, in expectancy.” Too many times we fail to hear what God is saying to us in the moment, because we are too busy talking, petitioning God about changing our situation. But, know that God already knows about our situation, before it began and how it will end. So be patient. Consider it pure joy when you encounter trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. But, endurance must do its complete work, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing. Someone once said, if we want to see the sunshine we must put up with the rain. Amen! Isn’t it beautiful when the rain stops and the sun comes out and sometimes it brings with it the most breathtaking rainbow? A woman in labor instantly forgets the pains she just went through after her bundle of joy is placed in her arms the first time. These are examples of what God will do for us if we are patient in tribulation. Our situation may be an inconvenience, it may be painful, but do not lose heart; God always has something good when it’s past, but we have to be patient. Too many of us are afraid to walk in our desert places, we need to learn how to survive in our desert places, because that is when God really has our attention, when we have no one else to rely on, no one else we could trust. I had had the best encounters in my walk with God, when I was in my desert places, and whenever I find myself in a difficult situation, I ask God to imprison me in his presence, so that I could hear what he is saying to me in the moment. When God delivers us from our desert places, we will come out stronger and more on fire for God. We will be excited to share our testimonies to anyone who will listen, of how great our God is. So, if you are still asking God to change your situation, stop and say, “Speak, Lord, in the stillness, while I wait on Thee; hush my heart to listen, in expectancy. For the words You speak, Lord, they are life indeed; living bread from heaven, now on my spirit feed.” Thank you, Lord!



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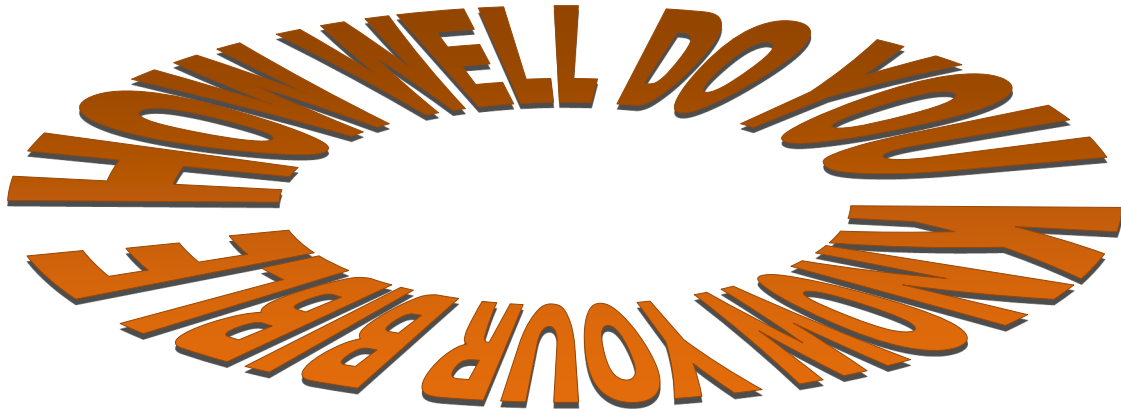
Children's Corner: Fall is here and there is so much we could be doing. Check off the activities as you complete them and share your story. I'd love to hear.

Fall is Here!



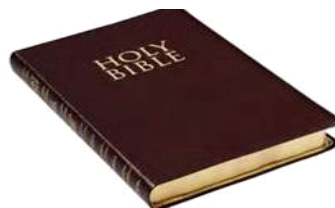
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Match the correct answers to the questions

QUESTIONS/SCRIPTURES	ANSWERS
I can do all things through Christ who...	Against us
Do nothing out of selfish ambition, or...	Various kinds
If my strength fails in the day of adversity, my faith is...	Teach us
Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass...	Strengthen me
Though I fall I will rise; though I dwell in darkness, the Lord is a...	Small
Consider it pure joy when you encounter trials of ...	Vain deceit
For everything that was written in the past was written to ...	Trouble with it
The blessings of the Lord makes one rich and he brings no...	Light for me



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

Lord, speak to me!
Frances Ridley Havergal - 1872

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak, in living echoes of your tone; as you have sought, so let me seek
your erring children lost and lone.

Oh lead me, Lord, that I may lead, the wandering and the wavering feet; oh feed me, Lord, that I may feed
your hungering ones with manna sweet.

Oh teach me, Lord, that I may teach, the precious truths that you impart, and wing my words, that they
may reach, the hidden depths of many a heart.

Oh fill me with your fullness, Lord, until my heart shall overflow, in kindling thought and glowing word,
your love to tell, your praise to show.

Oh use me, Lord, use even me, just as you will, and when, and where, until at last your face I see,
your rest, your joy, your glory share.



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