

# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING



September 1, 2013 - Vol. 3

**W**e have so much to be thankful for, yet, we find more time to complain than to give God thanks.

If we have time to complain about what we don't have, we should have even more time to thank God for those things that we do have. Rather than fighting to hold on to those things that we took out of God's timing, things he wants us to give up, we should learn to let go and let God have his own way in our lives. God cannot bless us if we keep eating forbidden fruit, God will not bless us if we keep holding on to things he did not intend for us to have. So, let us learn to thank God instead of complaining. Let us begin to thank God for all the blessings in our lives. Dear Lord, we thank you, for the disappoint-

ments in our lives that were our true blessings; we thank you, for our dreams that were not realized that kept us hopeful, we thank you, for the most difficult people in our lives who forced us to be better people; we thank you, Lord, for the stumbling blocks in our lives which held us back to receive something better; we thank you, Lord, for the gifts you denied us that would have hurt us, and we especially thank you, for loving us, even though we have been ungrateful and unthankful. We must be mindful always, that it's not happy people who are thankful, but thankful people who are happy.

**M**y mind's made up, and I won't turn back—I am on the right track now.

As a child growing up, I've always heard this saying, "To turn back is bad luck". But Jesus warns us in the Bible that if anyone puts their hand to the plow and turns back, he is not fit for the Kingdom of Heaven. When you have been on the wrong road for a long time, stumbling at every turn, perplexed at every crossroad, frustrated at every dead end, and you cry out to God to show you the way, and he says, "follow my footsteps in the sand", you know you are on the right track. I don't know which road you are on; if you are on the wrong road, at a cross road, or at a dead end, but I want to encourage you to look to Jesus your shepherd, who will lead you when you are lost, who will carry you when you are too tired to walk, who will strengthen you, so that when you have made him your choice, when you have decided to follow him for the rest of your life, you will stay on the right track and won't turn back.

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# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

**I**n the multitude of your anxieties, God's comfort will delight your soul. Will you trust him?

Has there ever been a time in your life when you were going through something real bad, and you find yourself praising God? Yes! In the multitude of your anxieties, his comfort delights your soul. For others, when problems assail them, the last thing they want to do is to give God praise; instead they curse and complain, they question God, they doubt that he is able to see them through, and therefore find no delight in his comforts. I will encourage you to try praising God in the midst of your smallest anxiety, begin meditating on his word, sing hymns of praise, just talk to God, and he will give you the peace that surpasses all understanding. Your mind will become clearer so that you could handle your situation, your step will be more sure as you will walk with confidence, and you will be able to say when it is past, "If it had not been for the Lord on my side, tell me, where would I be?" Thank you Lord, for in the multitude of my anxieties, your comfort delights my soul. Thank you, that when my troubles seems overwhelming that you will be my comforter, that you will quiet the disquietness within me, and bless me with inner peace.



**Learn to praise the Lord in the midst of your struggles.**

**D**on't let your wait on God become a weight on you.

Many of us pray to God for good things to happen in our lives, and we wait expecting them to happen, but as we wait for our prayers to be answered, our situations get worse instead of better, sometimes it becomes so hard that we are tempted to give up; but what we failed to do as we petitioned God, was to ask him to block the messengers of Satan sent to buffet us, lest we receive our blessings. My brothers and sisters in Christ, learn to ask the right gifts of God, learn to recognize the messengers of Satan sent to buffet you. They are messengers of worry, messengers of doubt, and messengers of discord. While you wait on God, be careful, of the company you keep, be mindful of the things that you see, be cautious with the gifts you receive, and above all keep the lines of communication open between you and God. Your wait on God should never become a weight on you. But, many times when we get tired of waiting, we stop listening to God, and begin listening to the wrong voices, we begin to doubt that he is able, and we look to other sources for the things that we need, and instead of these becoming a relief to us, they become a burden. The gifts you receive that are not of God will only bring you temporary happiness, but the things of God brings joy forever more. "Have faith in God, for assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, be removed and be cast into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says." If your wait on God is becoming a weight on you, you may be sitting in the same place for too long; it's time to get up and begin to exercise your faith.



**God will take your load when you wait patiently on him.**

# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

**I**s there any time left for God in your busy schedule? Are you engaged in activities that will bring honor and glory to his name?

Everything has its time, to everything, there is a time and season, but, we fuss at the end of every day about what we did not get accomplished, because time seem to elude us. I remember a recitation my daughter did many years ago, and it has stuck with me all through the years. "I got up early one morning and rushed right into the day, I had so much to accomplish, I did not have time to pray, problems just tumbled about me and heavier came each task, I asked, "God, why didn't you help me? He said, "You did not ask." So, I woke up early this morning and paused before entering my day, I had so much to accomplish, that I had to take time and pray." I can assure you that your calendar may be chocked full of appoint-

ments, but the most important one need not be on the calendar, it should be the first thing you do when you open your eyes each day – PRAYING. We invest so much time in activities which bring no honor and glory to God, we don't care if what we are doing is what God wants us to do, or where we are is where God wants us to be, we plan ahead of time for events months away, but to pause for a moment to pray, is not a good use of our time. My brothers and sisters in Christ, God will not allow you to use his time for your own purpose forever. When that time is spent, and he calls you home, will you leave behind an unfinished task? It will be too late, for God will require an account of your stewardship.



**Make time for God, he makes time for you.**

**G**od will never promote you where he has not equipped you. If he appoints you, he will uphold you.

God called on me many years ago to begin a prayer and healing team at my church. I kept asking myself, why me? I found every excuse why I was not able to do this. I battled with this for a while before I discussed it with my mother. She said to me, "God will never promote you where he has not equipped you. If he calls you to do something he will uphold you." I could not fully understand this as I was not walking faithfully in the light of the Lord, and all I was experiencing was doubt and fear; I was reminded of how incompetent I was. "You cannot pray. How could you lead a prayer group, when you cannot pray? You are not saved, no one will listen to you." These voices were

holding me hostage, but after my mother assured me that God will lead me, I sat at the computer and I started writing a prayer, and I was overwhelmed with emotions, I could not believe the words that I was reading on the screen, even though I was the one typing them. God was instructing me, and that was only the beginning, for from that moment on, God carried me, he has been leading me, giving me the words to speak in season to those who are hurting and I give him the glory. So, if you have received the call, make no excuse, this is your time, step out in faith and allow God to carry you where he will. If he appoints you, he will equip you and uphold you.



**God will provide all the tools and instructions you need to carry out the task he sets before you.**

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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:

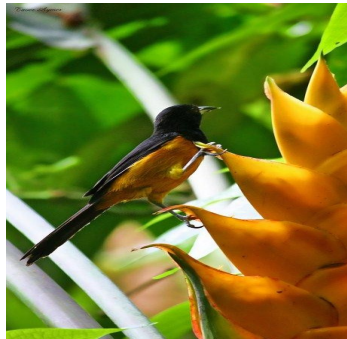
## ALL THE WAY MY SAVIOR LEADS ME

Written by: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

All the way my Savior leads me, what have I to ask beside? Can I doubt His tender mercy, who through life has been my guide? Heav'nly peace, divinest comfort, here by faith in Him to dwell! For I know, whate'er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well;  
For I know, whate'er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well.

All the way my Savior leads me, cheers each winding path I tread, gives me grace for every trial, feeds me with the living Bread. Though my weary steps may falter, and my soul athirst may be, gushing from the Rock before me, Lo! A spring of joy I see; gushing from the Rock before me, Lo! A spring of joy I see.

All the way my Savior leads me, oh, the fullness of His love! Perfect rest to me is promised, in my Father's house above. When my spirit, clothed immortal, wings its flight to realms of day. This my song through endless ages: Jesus led me all the way;



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# INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES FROM THE DESK OF JEWELLYN GREER

Whenever you hit snag along life's pathway, don't fall victim to it, don't let it keep you down, just continue on one step at a time until you are able to run again.

Every day will be different, every second will be fleeting, every hour will be beckoning; how you use each passing moment will set the tone for the how you go through every second, every minute and every hour of the next day.

If you have already identified the problem, document it, and then take the necessary steps to correct it, by going the extra mile to implement it.

Whatever you think you are missing, you already have. You just need to look deep within yourself to find it.



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# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

**C**hoose to be happy. Live every day as if it was your last. Begin it with prayer and end it with praise.

If you know for sure that tomorrow will be your last day on this earth, how would you spend it? But, we do not know, and therefore, every day when we awake, we should shout it out, "This is the day that the Lord has made, I will rejoice and be glad in it." But, if your heart is heavy at the start of every day, if your mind is set on how many barns you need to fill, if your path is blocked with debris, if you worry about tomorrow which is not promised to you, there is no way you could rejoice and be glad in each new day. If you go to bed worrying about all that you have to take care of tomorrow, the problems you were not able to solve yesterday; remind yourself that today has its own share of troubles and tomorrow will have its own, for sufficient for today is its own trouble. Pledge that you will not allow your yesterday to take up more than your share of today. Give the troubles of yesterday to God and ask him for guidance to go through tomorrow. Make it your aim to begin every day with rejoicing, to go through every day expecting, and to end every day thankful, and you will begin to experience true happiness. The choice is yours, you could begin your day with worry and end it weary, or you could begin your day with prayer and end it with praise.



**How will you begin and end each day?**

**C**hildren's Corner: Train up a child in the way he should go, for even when he is old he will not depart from it. We should teach our children how to pray.

Prayer is a word from my lips to God's ears  
Prayer is my song that God will be near  
Prayer is a thought, a dream, a care  
That I know my heavenly Father will hear.  
So as I prepare to go to sleep  
I pray to God for my sleep to be deep  
Filled with sweet dreams and butterflies  
That will make me smile when I open my eyes  
*(Another Jewel Greer Original)*

Lord, I want to thank you  
For all the little things you do  
For food on my table and clothes on my back  
For my loving parents, my dog and my cat  
If I forget to thank you today  
For all the many blessings you sent my way  
Gently remind me by whispering in my ear  
Only the things you need me to hear  
*(Another Jewel Greer Original)*



# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING



**Match the correct answers to the questions**

<b>QUESTIONS</b>	<b>ANSWERS</b>
Jesus arrived in Jerusalem riding this animal. Which was this?	Two
How many times did Peter denied Jesus before the rooster crowed?	Faith
Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of What?	Disobedience
Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with What?	Things not seen
Some criminals were hung along-side Jesus the day he was crucified. How many were they?	A donkey
God provided an animal for Abraham to sacrifice instead of his son. Which animal was this?	Good
The just shall live by this. What is it?	A ram
Jonah was swallowed by the whale because of What?	Three



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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:

## ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

Written by William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings, he made their glowing colors, he made their tiny wings.

The rich man in his castle, the poor man at his gate, God made them, high or lowly, and ordered their estate.

The purple-headed mountain, the river running by, the sunset, and the morning, that brightens up the sky.

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun, the ripe fruits in the garden, he made them every one.

The tall trees in the greenwood, the meadows where we play, the rushes by the water, we gather every day.

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.



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