

PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING



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Out of adversity comes great opportunity. Adversity brings out the best in us. God has his way in the whirlwind and the storm.

We never know how good we are until God to work his purpose out, so that we are able to make something out of when the adversity is past and we have nothing. Adversity is a great teacher. seized the opportunity, we will understand then, that God really has his way in the whirlwind and the storm. Many times we limit ourselves because things are too easy for us, but when we are forced to step out of our comfort zones we are able to see what we can and cannot do well. Many of us as Christians never experienced great opportunities until we gave our lives to Christ, because when we are not walking in God's way, the devil entices us with the things that keeps us under his control, he makes everything seems so much easier; but, when we are walking in God's way, he gives us good gifts, but we receive the best gifts when we are most faithful, and faithfulness to God demands us to trust him completely, especially in times of adversity. You may think that your trouble is so severe that you cannot take anymore, but we are assured through scripture, that our weeping may endure for a night or two, but that joy will come in the morning, and therefore, we struggle on, faithfully trusting in God. We find then that we are more than able, that we have become like palm trees, for the more weight is on the tree, the more it flourishes, so too are the children of God, for the heavier the affliction, God gives more strength. When we encounter various trials, it's for our good, God is preparing us for greater opportunities, but we have to endure, we must trust

A LOOK INSIDE

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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

Do you ever get tired of doing something good while you continue to do something bad?

It is easier for us to continue to do something bad, than to consistently do something good; but, we are reminded in Galatians 6:9 that we should not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. How many of us have started out doing good and got tired, while continuing to do something bad because it seems so easy? Scripture reminds us, that the road to hell and destruction is wide, and those who follow it are many. My brothers and sisters in Christ, the road that leads to eternal life, is narrow, but you could begin the journey now. The good works that you do along the pilgrim highway will lead you to heaven's door. Doing good requires effort, it requires us to be willing, it demands of us to do all to the glory of God. As we complete good works here on earth, we grow in grace, we are knowledgeable of God's plan for us, and if we are working to bring God honor and glory and not vain glory, we are fulfilled. When I am able to help someone, to offer comfort to someone who is hurting, it adds bounce to my step. There are times when I get tired physically, but spiritually I am motivated, I am encouraged when I see that even though I may be hurting, I could put a smile on someone else's face, and that is because, God takes my yoke upon himself in these times, and sustains me for the good of others. No matter how tired we are, if we are faced with a flight or fight situation, we get strength, so too, we should be when we are doing the work of the Lord. I am sure that you have seen a fruit tree with so much fruit on the branch that you think it will break, and amazingly, it will never break until you try to separate them when they are ripen. So too, we should be united for the work of God, sustaining each other until the proper time when we will reap a harvest. We should take courage in knowing that God gives strength to the weary and to those who have no might he increases strength. We must never get tired of doing good, for even when it seems like we can't go on, God is working to increase our strength so that we could accomplish the good work he has begun in us. If we are doing God's work he will enable us to run and not grow weary, to walk and not be faint.

When we get comfortable with the way of the world it becomes harder for us to show the difference between right and wrong.

Are we so comfortable with the ways of the world that we are losing sight of the reality of God? Are we not able to show the difference between right and wrong? When we read the story about Eli, scripture tell us that he was a good man, but "his eyesight had begun to grow dim and he could not see well." He had become so accustomed to the ways of his children that he couldn't differentiate between right and wrong. Are we behaving in the same way? Are we afraid to tell our children that what they are doing is not right? If we are becoming modern day Eli's we must be careful. Eli lost out on God's blessings because he failed to tell his children that they were doing wrong in the sight of God and as a result, he failed to chastise them even though he knew what they were doing, how they were making a mockery of God and causing the people to sin against God. There are blessings from God for obedience and there are curses from God for disobedience. Adam and Eve brought sin into this world because they disobeyed God. Moses disobeyed God's word and did not enter into the promise land as did Joshua. Lot's wife was turned into a pillar of salt because she did not obey God. Pharaoh brought pestilence to Egypt because he refused to obey God. Jonah was swallowed by a whale because he too refused to obey God. There are countless of examples for us in the Bible which clearly shows us that disobedience to God not only provokes his anger, but causes us to lose out on his promised blessings to us. The choice is yours, choose obedience to God and prosper or choose to disobey God and perish.

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I know that whatever God does it shall be forever, nothing could be added to it, or taken away from it.

I am sure you have heard it said many a time that what is for you no one could take it away. But, do you realize that you still have not yet claimed what God predestined for you? The reason why you are walking around dejected and forlorn is not because you do not have as much as the other person, but that you have not exercised your blessing. My brothers and sisters in Christ, the gifts that God predestined for us, are there for the taking, many of us have the gifts and are not using them, but, some of us are like the steward who got his share of talents and buried them, instead of using them to their fullest potential. Whatever the gift that God has given to us, we need to understand, that it was already measured to our ability. God already knows his plans for your gift and mine and nothing could be added to it or taken away from it. Many times, you will hear of someone complaining that this person prevented him from getting a job, or discouraged him from pursuing his goals, but understand this, no one could block your blessing from God, no one could take your blessing from God; the only person who could stop or block your blessing from God is yourself. If you find yourself in a poor me situation, you need to get up and get moving. God has already given you all that you need to fully exercise your gift, you are able to complete it, but you must begin. Stop allowing your negative thoughts to hinder your progress. God has already equipped you for every good work, stop procrastinating and get on with the task at hand. Your gift was not meant to be beneficial to you alone, maybe your gift was attached to another that God will use to bring him honor and glory. Don't be punished for not using your gift. If you are not sure of your gift or you do not know what to do with the gift you were given, ask of God and he will direct you in the way you should go. God's plan for you and for me is sure.

For all this his anger is not turned away, but his arm is outstretched still.

Do you ever wonder why God still blesses you even though you continually walk out of his way? Time and time again we turn away from God, and even though he is angry with us, he still provides what we need. How many of you would be willing to help someone who continually hurt you, or go out of their way to misuse you, or speak badly of you? Not many. We may forgive such a person one time, maybe even two times but after that, we say, "I am done!" What if God was the same as us and after forgiving us once or twice, said he was done with us? What would become of us? There are many people who are not walking in God's way and they seem to have everything, they are convinced that all that they have that their hands gave to them, they forget that God does all these things so that one day they could admit that they could do nothing in their own strength, and confess that the hand of Lord did this. Therefore, my brothers and sisters in Christ, God wants all the glory and praise, and when we fail to give him the honor and glory due his name, he has ways to get our attention. We may flourish for a while as we continue to walk in disobedience, we may forget to thank the giver who gives us so much despite our rebelliousness, but know that his hand will continue to be stretched out to you, he will give you hundreds of opportunities to acknowledge him, but when you continually refuse to willingly turn to him, he will turn you to him. God is a jealous God, all that we are, all that we ever hope to be, we owe it to his glory, and in his own time, he will reassign all that he has given to you until you humbly acknowledge him. Do not allow God's anger to turn against you, but turn to him willingly, thankfully, and give him the honor and glory due his name for all that he has done and continue to do for you.

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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:

He Giveth More Grace

Written by: **Annie Johnson Flint—1866**

He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater,

He sendeth more strength when the labors increase,

To added affliction He addeth His mercy,

To multiplied trials, His multiplied peace.

When we have exhausted our store of endurance,

When our strength has failed ere the day is half-done,

When we reach the end of our hoarded resources,

Our Father's full giving is only begun.

His love has no limit, His grace has no measure,

His power no boundary known unto men,

For out of His infinite riches in Jesus,

He giveth, and giveth, and he giveth again.



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INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES FROM THE DESK OF JEWELLYN GREER

No matter what you are going through know that God is in the midst.

There are times when I get tired physically, but spiritually I am motivated.

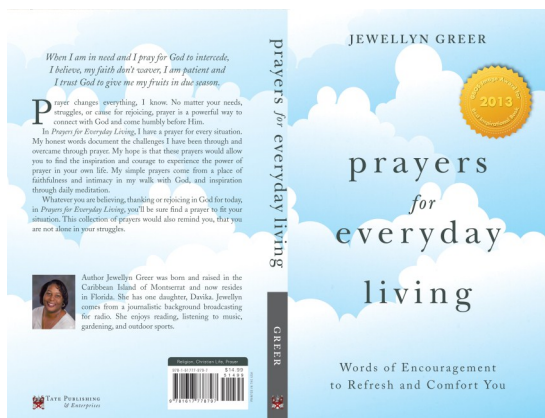
When we encounter various trial, it's for our good; God is preparing us for greater opportunities.

Stop allowing your negative thoughts to hinder your progress. God has already equipped you for every good work.

We never know how good we are until we are able to make something out of nothing.

The only person who could stop or block your blessing from God is yourself.

If we are working to bring God honor and glory and not vain glory, we are fulfilled.



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Our Spotlight is on you. Do you feel like you are you buried under the weight of your affliction? Do not lose heart, God is in control.

The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord. Proverbs 16:32—When we encounter trials and tribulations, it’s hard to see them as anything temporary, we try to blame everyone around us and at times we question God’s presence and his ability to help us. But, do you realize that no matter what you are going through that God is in the midst? God allows us to be afflicted, not to hurt us but to allow us to be strengthened. We are reminded in 2 Corinthians 4:15 that all things are for our sakes, so that grace which is spreading through many people will cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God. For all who have been afflicted, and have persevered, and were delivered by God, cannot keep it to themselves, they are telling the whole world what they went through and how God delivered them. My brothers and sisters in Christ, we too have such testimonies of our own, we too have been bowed down under the weight of our afflictions, but we did not lose heart, even though it appeared at the time that we were perishing, that we were at death’s door, we believed that God was working on the inside of us, renewing our strength as we called upon him, and he enabled us to continue on through his grace and therefore, were able to see his goodness and that he was with us through the trial. God gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak, but, you will not reap these benefits, if you give up when you are afflicted. God has in store for us who persevere, an eternal weight of glory, far beyond comparison. We have so many examples in the Bible of persons who experienced various trials and they did not give up, because they believed that God was able, that God could not lie, that he would keep his promises, and they were rewarded for being faithful. I am encouraging you to dare to be a Daniel, dare to be a Job, dare to be a Noah, dare to be that woman with the issue of blood, dare to be an Abraham, and you too will see that the lot was cast in your lap, but the decision came from God, who knew the beginning and the end. Do not lose heart, God is in control.

Children’s Corner: Summer is now over it’s time to settle back into your school routine. Find some of what you will need in this puzzle.

Coat
Glove
Hat
Pants
Shoe
Vest

C	D	T	L	N	V	G	X
P	A	N	T	S	E	C	W
L	V	T	T	K	S	O	J
R	H	M	V	V	T	A	R
K	A	X	X	K	H	T	M
R	T	N	N	G	N	L	Z
R	S	H	O	E	V	L	K
Z	Z	D	G	L	O	V	E

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Match the correct answers to the questions

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
He was swallowed by a Whale because he refused to obey God. Who was he?	Perish
Why did God inflict plagues on Egypt?	Strike the Rock
Noah believe God that there would be a flood. What God tell him to build?	The Storm
God prevented Abraham from sacrificing his son, by providing instead this animal. What was it?	Jonah
We could choose God to obey God and prosper or disobey him and what?	Because of Pharaoh's disobedience
This woman had an issue of blood for how many years.	A Ram
God told Moses to speak to the Rock and he did what instead?	An Ark
God is all powerful. He has his way even in these elements. One is the whirlwind. What is the other?	12



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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. Here is one of my favorites as our featured children's song:

Jesus Wants Me For A Sunbeam

Written by *Nellie Talbot - 1851*

Jesus wants me for a sunbeam, to shine for Him each day;
In every way try to please Him, at home, at school, at play.

A sunbeam, a sunbeam, Jesus wants me for a sunbeam;
A sunbeam, a sunbeam, I'll be a sunbeam for Him.

Jesus wants me to be loving, and kind to all I see;
Showing how pleasant and happy, His little one can be.

I will ask Jesus to help me, to keep my heart from sin,
Ever reflecting His goodness, and always shine for Him.

I'll be a sunbeam for Jesus; I can if I but try;
Serving Him moment by moment, then live with Him on high.



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