

# Prayer Changes Everything!

## I Believe in the Power of Prayer!

April 1, 2018 Volume 31

**A**lleluia, Christ Arose! He is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! This is our Easter Message. The message of the cross, what it means to me.

The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction. But, we who are being saved know it is the very power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18 The message of the cross for me means Hope in Resurrected Lord! Too many times we have tried to convince unbelievers, that, Jesus died and rose from the grave and that he is coming again; and their response would be, that, they have been hearing this from since they were born. Where is the Christ? Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God. The other reason is this, people who aren't spiritual does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them, because they are discerned only through the Spirit. But, thanks be to God, that, we who are being saved daily, understand this, that, Jesus will come again, we understand the message of the cross through spiritual discernment. Over the past forty days of Lent, we have been praying and fasting, meditated and preparing, for the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; and Easter Sunday is the day of resurrection, when we tell it all abroad, the Passover of Gladness, the Passover of God. From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky, our Christ has brought us over, with hymns of victory. I just love these Easter hymns! But, when Jesus was preaching, he told a parable that was not readily understood. He said, I will destroy the temple and in three days raise it up, but, many were skeptical and said, this temple has been under construction for forty six years, and you will destroy it and rebuild it in three days! So, they had their AHA moment; when Jesus was raised after being dead three days, then they remembered what Jesus had said, that he was going to destroy the temple and raise it up after three days. Jesus was talking about the temple of his body. Praise the Lord!



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# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING!

**H**as your veil been lifted? I was blind but now I can see and I thank God for saving me.

“If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. But whenever someone believes and turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away”. My brothers and sisters in Christ, when the Lord showed us the light of his countenance, we were changed, we became a new creation, we were born again. But, it was a process, we too were also veiled, we did not understand with fear, our responsibility to the Lord, we were walking in darkness, but, now we are persuaded, we believe in the risen and ascended Lord, and our veil has been lifted. Now, our responsibility is to persuade others, that, anyone who claims Jesus Christ as Lord, and believes that he will come again, and repents, will become a new person. That old life will be removed; a new life in Christ will begin. The veil will be removed to reveal and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord who is the Spirit, makes us more and more like him, as we are changed into his glorious image. 2 Corinthians 3:18 Praise the Lord!

**G**od will take life's pieces and give us unbroken peace. Are you ready to be healed?

What have you been through that has crushed you, and all you now see are broken pieces of yourself? Life throws us curveballs. Sometimes we experience hardships because of the decisions that we have made, and other times, they are God's way of getting our attention, and sometimes it's because we are under attack from the enemy. In my life experiences, whenever things are going well, I am happy, but cautiously happy; and the reason is not because I am not trusting of the source of my happiness, but I know all too well, that the enemy is lurking around me, to cause me unhappiness, because his job is to rob and steal our joy. My brothers and sisters in Christ, where you see yourself now as broken, believe that our God is a master potter, who could make everything new and whole again. God is able to take the broken pieces of your life and give you unbroken peace; but, you have to trust him, you have to believe; for God wants us to be happy, he wants us to live the abundant life in him. His will is not for us to suffer, but for us to have happy hearts to praise him. Too many of us get discouraged, we lose hope in God when we are going through crushing situations, we feel broken beyond repair, and we get trapped in despair, because sometimes, the situations have imprisoned us, we shut everyone out especially God, who is able to help us. But, I am encouraging you, to never allow yourself to become so hopelessly discouraged, because you then give the devil opportunity. When we are too wrapped up in our situation, we lock out the comforter and block our healing. But, understand this, the situation that you are going through is not bigger or stronger than God, he brought you through storms before and he could do it again. When you are faced with a situation that seems broken beyond repair, take courage in Psalm 43: 4. The Psalmist David was troubled, he believed that God had rejected him, but, he also knew deep down, that, God was the only one who could help him, so he prayed this prayer: “Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I trust you, Lord! And I will praise you again, because you help me, and you are my God. Then, I will go to the altar of God, to God, the source of all my joy. I will praise you with my harp, O God, my God”.

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**H**as the Lord changed your name? Genesis 17:1

When Abram was 99 years old, the Lord appeared to him, saying, "I am God Almighty. Live in My presence and be blameless, that I may make My covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham". When I read this passage of scripture, it fills me with hope, and trust in God. It reminds me that no matter how old I am, that God could still use me. It encourages me to live in his presence, and to trust God faithfully, because there are great benefits to serving the Lord blamelessly, and it also reassures me, that no matter what others call me, that God can change my name to suit his purpose. My brothers and sisters in Christ, how old are you? What is your name? Are you willing to live in God's presence and be blameless before him? Are you ready for God to multiply you greatly? If you are willing, God will prepare you and make you fit for his purpose. But, you must be faithful, you must walk blamelessly before him, you must acknowledge him as your God and live daily in his presence. I cannot begin to tell you just how awesome my life has been since Jesus changed my name. I don't worry about what others call me, because I know my Master's voice and when he calls I answer. God has a plan and a purpose for all of us. And, in the right time, he will change our name and reveal his plans for us. So, let us learn to live in God's presence. "What's more, I am changing your name. It will no longer be Abram. Instead, you will be called Abraham, for you will be the father of many nations".

**G**od is faithful! Whatever he says he will do, he will.

"For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness, and rivers in the desert". You may have read this before but find it hard to believe, as you may have been waiting and watching, yet, can't seem to realize just what God is about to do for you, because you keep looking back at where you had been and not able to see any progress. You keep expecting God to move you to the mountain top, when his plan for you will begin at the mole hill. You get frustrated waiting, because you don't trust God enough. My brothers and sisters in Christ, God is faithful, whereas we are not. God is a promise keeper. God works with us on levels that only he deems best for us. But, we must never believe that God has not kept his promises to us. You may have asked God for a car and he may send you a cab, enjoy the ride! Keep on being faithful to God. Keep on believing that what he says he will do that he will. God wants our glory, so he will continue to make a pathway through the wilderness and rivers in the desert for you and I, so let us not fail the test, let us not become too impatient and lose our way in the wilderness, and fail to find water in the desert. Look around you and within you, and see what God has already done for you and give him the glory. God is just getting started.

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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 Easter song:

He is risen, He is risen!

**Cecil Francis Alexander — (1846)**

Christ is risen, Christ is risen,  
Tell it out with joyful voice;  
Christ has burst his three days' prison,  
Let the whole wide earth rejoice!  
Death is conquered, we are free,  
Christ has won the victory.

Come, ye sad and fearful-hearted,  
with glad smile and radiant brow;  
Lent's long shadows have departed,  
All his woes are over now,  
And the Passion that he bore;  
Sin and pain can vex no more.

Christ is risen, Christ is risen;  
He hath opened heaven's gate:  
We are free from sin's dark prison,  
Risen to a holier state;  
And a brighter Easter beam,  
On our longing eyes shall stream.



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# INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES FROM THE DESK OF JEWELLYN GREER

God wants us to be happy, he wants us to live the abundant life in him, so let us walk blamelessly before him

No matter what others call me, God can change my name to suit his purpose

We were persuaded, we believed in the risen and ascended Lord, and our veil has been lifted

Whenever things are going well, I am happy, but cautiously happy

When we are too wrapped up in our situation, we lock out the comforter

If we are willing, God will prepare us and make us fit for his purpose

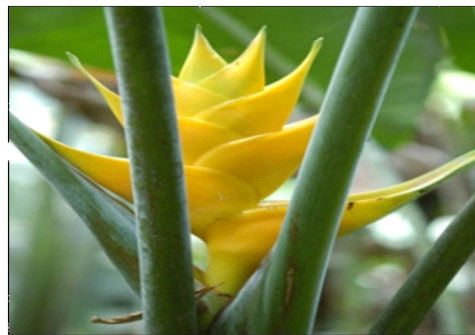
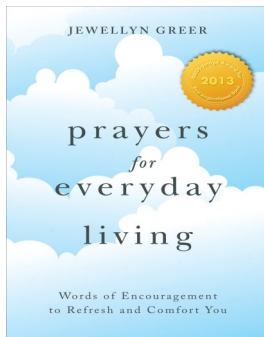
When you are faced with a situation that seems broken beyond repair, take courage in prayer

You may have asked God for a car and he may send you a cab, enjoy the ride! Keep on being faithful to God

I will live in God's presence and trust him faithfully, because there are great benefits to serving the Lord

We must never allow ourselves to become so hopelessly discouraged, because then, we give the devil opportunity

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



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# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

**O**ur Spotlight is on you! For God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body. 1 Corinthians 6:20

Are you honoring God with your body? Are you cognizant of the price of your freedom? Especially at Easter time we would find that most people tend to be more aware of just how high a price Jesus paid for our liberty. But when Easter is past, do we forget about the price he paid for us at Calvary and dishonor him with our bodies? Many of us were broken, our temples were destroyed, but because of his great love for us, because of the sacrifice he paid for us at Calvary, he was able to rebuild and restore our broken temples. Should we go back to our old ways, destroying God's temple that he went through so much to restore? My brothers and sisters in Christ, Jesus paid a high price for you and I, so we should not be enslaved by the world. Scripture reminds us in Titus chapter 1 and verse 12, to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures, that, we should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day, when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed.

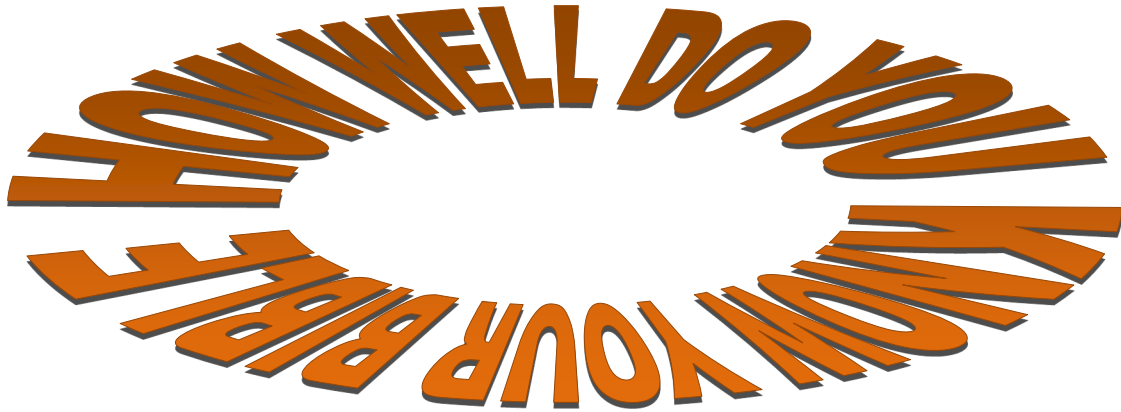
**C**hildren's Corner: Happy Easter! Find as many objects in the picture below that identify with Easter. I counted 15. How many can you find?



**HAPPY, HAPPY, EASTER!**

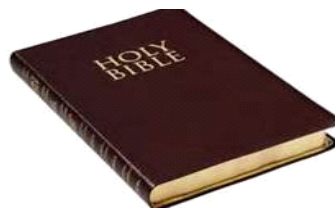
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**Match the correct answers to the questions**

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
She went and announced to the disciples, I have seen the Lord!	Sour Wine
These flowers are a symbol of Easter.	Joseph of Arimathea
He said, unless I see the nail marks in His hands, I will not believe.	Mary Magdalene
After Jesus drank this he said, "It is finished".	Three
Jesus told Simon that if he loved him he should do this.	Three Times
He asked Pilate for the body of Jesus.	Thomas
How many times did Jesus ask Peter if he loved him?	Lilies
Jesus arose after being dead how many days?	Feed My Lambs



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**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.

The Day of Resurrection!

**John Walter - 1863**

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;  
The Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,  
Our Christ hath brought us over, with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright  
The Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light;  
And listening to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,  
His own "All hail!" and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful! Let earth the song begin!  
Let the round world keep triumph, and all that is therein!  
Let all things seen and unseen their notes in gladness blend,  
For Christ the Lord hath risen, our joy that hath no end.



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