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Prayer Changes Everything! I Believe in the Power of Prayer!

July 1, 2018 Volume 32

am striving every day to live a life in ways that please God. Through my works, I want others to see that Christ lives in me.

Because I know that God will judge me for everything I do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad, I will fear God and keep His commandments; for the fear of the Lord prolongs life, but the years of the wicked will be shortened. I want my lineage to be fruitful, therefore I will ask of God, to fill me with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that I may live a life worthy of the Lord, to please him in every way and bearing fruit in every good work. Lord, I will continually fix my thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Clear my mind of anything that is not excellent and worthy of praise. I want all that I do and say, to bring you honor and glory and praise. Therefore, fill me with the fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, and let them be multiplied, touching everyone I meet; because, if I am living by the Spirit, I should follow the Spirit's lead in every part of my life; for scripture reminds me, that, whoever serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men. I do not want to continually tell others that I am living for God, but, through my works, let them see that Christ lives in me. Heavenly Father, I have been reborn into your family, and I have put off the old man with his deeds, I am a child of the most high God, and I want to always walk in your truth; remove from within me the hidden things of shame and let me boldly confess them in Jesus name; remove from within me anything that will hinder my walk with you as I strive to please you; for he who walks in integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will be found out. I don't want to be found out Lord and face your wrath. Help me, Lord!

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lesson or a blessing during difficult times — What have you learned?

We need to stop questioning God when we are faced with difficult situations, and instead, learn to look for the blessing or the lesson. Are you a goliath or a Samson when trouble times come? What do have that you could use a weapon? Will you trust God to see you through? Goliath boasted in his own strength, and lost, but Samson prayed to the Lord, and won. He said, "Sovereign Lord, remember me again. O God, please strengthen me just one more time. With one blow let me pay back the Philistines for the loss of my two eyes," and God heard and answered his prayer. Samson had faith in God, he trusted him and did not allow his troubled heart to cause him to lose focus, he understood the goodness of the Lord, that he was able to strengthen him, that he was a Stronghold in the day of trouble; he was fully aware that God knows that those who take refuge and trust in Him would be exalted. So too, when we are faced with danger or trouble, be reminded, that, God did not give us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, and of love, and a well-balanced mind, discipline, and self-control; so that when we pray, that we pray aright, and with boldness, and by faith, believe, that God will gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! Then, the blessing or the lesson will be realized, and we could use the situation as a testimony to help others. But, too many of us are ashamed to share the lessons that we have learned through difficult times, but, know that until we share the lesson, the blessing will never be truly realized. Everything that we go through is for our learning and not just for ourselves, but to help others; and know that when the struggle is real, the story has more meaning, for others who are experiencing the same situation will be able to relate.

hat has God delivered you from? When God delivers you from something, don't look back.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, too many times when we are going through difficult times, we sometimes make promises to God that we have failed to keep. When we are so down and out; when we have been brought to our knees, and God gives us the strength to arise, as soon as we are able to stand, we forget the promises we made. Let me remind you of this, God did not give you and I the strength to get back on our feet, so that we could run back to the very thing that knocked us down in the first place. But, too many of us become victims to the devil and his schemes; we push God aside and give the devil opportunity. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer. My brothers and sisters in Christ, we must learn to trust God, especially through difficult times, and when he delivers us, when he blesses us with his peace, know that his joy comes with it, and that the joy of the Lord will always be our strength. We must learn to embrace this joy and allow it to see us through difficult times, let us learn to praise God when things are good, and praise him when things are not so good, because if we forget God, the devil will never give up on his efforts to entice us, and the very thing that God delivered us from, will once again confront us. When we are faced with trouble, let us handle it with prayer, and when God delivers us, let us to God draw near. Don't look back! "The joy that the Lord gives you will make you strong. REJOICE in the Lord always; again I will say, REJOICE."

hen I fall, let me remind myself, that I will be lifted up. I just need to have the faith to believe, that, with God, all things are possible.

God's blessings always follows our disappointments, and, if we are patient enough, strong enough, determined enough, and above all, faithful enough, we will experience these blessings. Too many of us give up after we have been disappointed; when things do not go our way, we are in such a weakened state that we forget, that when we are weak that God is strong, that God has promised to take our yoke upon him and give us rest. Therefore my brothers and sisters in Christ, let us remember the lame man who begged for years, but, when Peter came by he believed that Peter was able to help him, it was as if he knew that Peter had received the gift of the Holy Spirit, he felt something was different about Peter, so when Peter told him to fix his eyes on him, he did, and Peter said to him, "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I thee, in the name of Jesus Christ, rise up and walk". So, when Peter took him by the right hand and lifted him up, immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength, and he got up, and started leaping and praising God, and many were astonished. My brothers and sisters in Christ, God can strengthen feeble knees and cause them to stand, God can strengthen your feet and ankle bones, so that you could walk, God can loosen your lips, so that you could give him glory and praise when he lifts you up, but, you must believe! I want to encourage you, to let you know, that, God is able, so, after you are weakened and have fallen, petition God to take your weakness and give you his strength and he will. If we trust God enough, we will believe that he could do the impossible, we will not worry about our situations, but believe, that, God has already gone before us to prepare the way, to smooth the path before us. When your situation seems out of control, know that God is in control. Learn to trust God, especially when you cannot see what lies ahead, and may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, so that you too could understand, that, when you petition God to help you, just do so expectantly, you may be seeking silver and gold, but God may have something different in mind; so be ready, for he may say to you, "In the name of Jesus Christ, rise up, and walk." Amen!

reater is He that is in me, than he that is in the world!1 John 4:4

Children of God, whatever you and I go through in this world should never define us, but, we should allow them to prepare us for the new season that will come; God's season of peaceful change; for greater is He that is in us, that he that is in the world. My brothers and sisters in Christ, I am born of God, I am living by faith and through faith, I have overcome the world, I am daily overcoming the world, and you too, by faith, as children of God, could overcome the world by faith. The problems that we face may bring us to our knees, but, let that be the defining moment, that will bring about a season of change, when we could say with confidence, "Greater is He that is in me, than he that is in the world!" Blessed be the name of the Lord!

ou are so much stronger that you think. You will never know how strong you are, until your strength is required.

Philippians chapter four and verse thirteen reminds us, that, we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us, and Isaiah chapter forty one, and verses ten through thirteen, issues this strong command, "Fear not for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." But, these are only words until our strength is required, until we are tasked with walking the walk, and we do so by faith in the living God. We do not know what the future holds, but, God does, and the tests that we go through are not to punish us, but to test our total dependence on God, to see if in times of distress, hardship, calamities, sickness, and adversity, that we would still trust God, to sustain us and see us through. He promised, that, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you go through the rivers, they will not overwhelm you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, and the flames will not set you ablaze." Should we doubt him? Absolutely not! You and I are so much stronger than we think; God will never place anything on us that he did not know we could not bear, and he promised to never leave us nor forsake us. So, the next time you are faced with a situation, cast your burden upon the Lord, pray without ceasing, and be comforted by his words which encourages us, to cast our burdens upon him, because his yoke is easy and his burden is light. When God takes our burden upon himself he will enlighten us, so that we could carry the burden of someone else. You will never know how strong you are, until your strength is required. "He gives power to the faint and increases the strength of the weak."

od has replaced my problem with his peace.! Hallelujah!

My problem did not destroy me, it changed me! Praise the Lord! Have you ever been dealing with a problem for so long that you begin to experience a sweet peace? That is because, when we place our problems in God's hands he replaces our problems with his peace; which changes us; and when we are changed, we begin anew, with God's refreshing peace; for God is and will always be bigger than any or all of our troubles. Our problems are never greater than God, there is nothing that you and I will go through that God cannot deliver us from and replace it with his peace. My brothers and sisters in Christ, when we are at peace with God, and the troubles of life assails us, we handle them differently, instead of worrying, we pray. The world cannot understand this, those who are living without God, will never experience this; instead, they will try to handle their troubles in their own strength where there is no might. They will continually face the same situations until they come to know God in an intimate way. The world tries to break us, the devil intends to enslave us, but God wants to give us his peace. No matter how great the problem is that you and I are facing, God can replace it with his peace. Cast all your cares on the Lord.

ith God, all things are possible, if we believe! Learn to let go and let God work his purpose out.

For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future - Jeremiah chapter twenty nine and verse eleven. My brothers and sisters in Christ, You don't need to devise your own plan, you just need to follow God's plan. God's plans for you are greater than you could ever imagine. So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. Don't you worry about the job that did not work out, the relationship that is not going anywhere, the marriage that is falling apart, or the doors that keep closing on you; because, it is in these situations that we must replace fear and doubt with faith and hope; confident, that, God is working his purpose out, so that we could experience new opportunities, new relationships, better chances of success, to remove every stumbling block from our paths, and position us for his favor. The hotter the battle the sweeter the victory will be. Every one of our setbacks will become a setup for our future. Some of us get trouble, then favor, others get favor, then trouble, but, no matter how and when God begins to works his purpose out, know that he will always work them out for our good, if we love and trust him. God could use us at any point in our lives, but, many times, our use is realized after we have been broken. Psalm thirty four and verse eighteen reminds us, that, "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed." God will not use us until we are broken, so that he could rescue us. When God finally got my full attention, I was bound by sin, I was broken and bruised, and I came to Jesus with a contrite spirit, and he began to heal me, and then to use me. "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil, for thou art with me, they rod and thy staff will comfort me. You prepare a table before me, in the presence of mine enemies, you anoint my head with oil, and my cup runs over. Surely, goodness, and mercy, shall follow me, all the days of my life." Thank you, Lord, for my setbacks which prepared me for plans you had for me, and for the faith to believe, that, you were always with me!

hen we fail to keep our focus on Jesus we lose our way. Let us keep our eyes fixed on God who is the author and finisher of our faith.

Many times we set out on a mission, but lose our way, because, when we stop listening to God and begin taking our directions from him, we allow others to distract and discourage us. Scripture reminds us in Hebrews chapter twelve and verse one, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off every encumbrance and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with endurance the race set out for us." There is so much that could become stumbling blocks as we walk with God, and these stumbling blocks could become brick walls, unless we learn to stay focused on God and the path that he has chosen for us to walk, and to never grow weary; but trust him every step of the way. Man plans but God directs. We can do nothing in our own strength, for God is the author and finisher of our faith. Therefore, let us keep our eyes on Jesus, the champion, who initiates and perfects our faith, that should be rooted and grounded in him and him alone.

ongs have a way of lifting me up when I am feeling down. Here is one of my favorites as our featured adult song: A powerful reminder.

There is a balm in Gilead!

Washington Glass—(1846) and John Newton — (1779)

There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole, there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain, but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul, you can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all."

There is balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole; There's power enough in heaven, to cure a sin-sick soul.

How lost was my condition, 'till Jesus made me whole! There is but one Physician who can cure a sin—sick soul.



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You will never know how strong you are, until your strength is required.

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God could use us at any point in our lives, but many times our use is realized after we have been broken.

The tests that we go through are not to punish us, but to test our total dependence on God.

No matter how great the problem is that you and I are facing, God can replace it with his peace.

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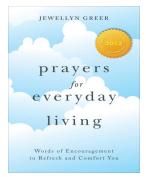
When we are faced with difficult situations, let us learn to look for the blessing or the lesson.

God's blessings always follows our disappointments if we are patient enough and above all faithful enough.

We lose our way, because stop listening to God, and instead, allow others to distract and discourage us.

God will judge me for everything I do, therefore, I will fear God and keep His commandments.

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ur Spotlight is on you! What was meant to hurt you, God will turn it around for your good. Keep the faith!

We are living in a sin-sick world; a world lacking in true love, and as a result, every day we are faced with situations that forces us to our knees. We go out of our way to cause each other harm; we lie, and steal, we put stumbling blocks in the paths of others, we are not sowing the fruit of the spirit, which is, love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, humility, patience, goodness, gentleness, and above all, self-control; we are instead, engaged in evil acts, hatred, envy, idolatry, discord, jealousy, strife, division, rivalry, drunkenness and carousing; but, know that by our fruit we will be recognized. My brothers and sisters in Christ, you and I, because we have chosen to follow God, are constantly being attacked by the enemy, but, let us remain faithful, because God always keeps his promises. There is a balm in Gilead, there is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole, there is a balm in Gilead, to heal this sin-sick world, and whatever was meant to hurt you and I, God will turn it around for our good. Let us keep the faith! There's power enough in heaven, to cure a sin-sick soul.

hildren's Corner: Summer is finally here! I am so excited, my cousins are coming to stay with us this summer and mom is asking me, what we would like to do.

I love Summer! It is my favorite holiday season and every year our family does something fun. My dad is a carpenter, and the summer months are usually his busiest season, and most times he is not able to come on vacations with my mom, my sister Rachel and I. But, this year, oh boy, I am so excited, because not only will our dad be joining us but my three cousins, Rhona, Petalie, and Garret are coming to visit for the summer, and I am feeling so very important, because mom has asked me to help with the plans, and I sure know where we would have the most fun. Mom, I am so glad you have asked for my help, because my cousins have been asking me about our plans. Well, here is my list of fun things that we could do: Topping the list is Disney World, I have dreamt about this for so long, Lego Land, my cousin and I share our Lego projects all the time, Butterfly World, I have been there before, but would love for Rhona and Petallie especially to see this, it is so beautiful, the butterflies and the flowers are breathtaking, Cape Coral Sunsplash Water Park, oh, what fun we would have there, with all the rides and the fun foods, The Florida Aquarium, it would be fun to see all the creatures that live under the sea, Movies under the stars, I think my cousins would love this, The National Aviation Museum, it is the largest aviation museum in the world, Garrett wants to be a pilot when he grows up, and we would see the Blue Angels perform, The swap shop, we love Uncle Bernie's Amusement Park, Dave and Busters, we would get to have so much fun in the arcade, and of course the beaches. But, I know that the final decisions will be made by my parents, but, I have given her enough to consider and I will surely tell you what we did for Summer. Have fun! I sure plan to have lots of fun with my cousins. Maybe you will share with me what you did for summer.





Match the correct answers to the questions

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
Jesse had many sons, but God chose this one to be the leader.	Fathers
These as an heritage from the Lord and their offspring their reward.	David
Children should do this to their parents because it pleases the Lord.	Discipline
At twelve years he was already teaching in the temple.	Samuel
His mother hid him in the river where pharaoh's daughter found him.	Children
They are instructed to bring up their children in the ways of the Lord.	Josiah
If we fail to enforce this we will spoil our children.	Obey
God called his name three times in his sleep, what was his name?	Moses
He was eight years old when he became King.	Jesus



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.

Jesus Loves Me This I Know!

William B Bradbury - 1862

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so;

Little ones to Him belong; they are weak, but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know, as He loved so long ago,

Taking children on His knee, saying, "Let them come to Me."

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me still today! Walking with me on my way,

Wanting as a friend to give, light and love to all who live.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! He who died, Heaven's gate to open wide;

He will wash away my sin, let His little child come in.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! He will stay, close beside me all the way;

Thou hast bled and died for me, I will henceforth live for Thee.



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