

Prayer Changes Everything!

I Believe in the Power of Prayer!

October 1, 2018 Volume 33

A biding in God's presence.

How important is it to abide in God's presence? This is a question you will not know how to answer until you begin your walk with God. Only then will you know true intimacy; for the relationship that you have with God will be deep and fulfilling. You will find yourself craving more time in his presence; and as we are reminded in Matthew chapter 5 and verse 6, those who hunger and thirst after righteousness will be filled. I find that the best times spent with God, is when I am alone, when the day is new, or when the night is dark. During these times, it is so peaceful that I am able to focus on God, to be still in his presence. Psalm 46 and verse 10 reminds us, to be still and know who God is. Many times, the noises around us are so distracting, they are so loud, that we try to pray, but our minds go astray. I have a room in my house that I very rarely invite anyone into because I find solace in that room, it is my quiet place. I could sit quietly and just hear the birds chirping in the trees outside, I could distinctly hear the wind chimes serenading me in the breeze, and it is in those moments, that I am most at peace with my God. Abiding in God's presence means to be connected with him and following his examples through his teachings. Many times as we read in the Bible, Jesus went away alone to pray, and he needed that, and many would say that he may have been selfish or that he was getting tired of being around so many people, or that he was running away, but, before, I too did not understand this, until I began spreading Gods word. After I deliver a message, I need time alone with God for renewal, because I am weakened and in need of God's sustaining power; so I would retreat to my quiet place and be in God's presence. It is important to abide in God's presence, because he talks to us in these moments, we get directions, we get encouragement, we are refreshed; and as one songwriter said, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of his glory and grace." Try it sometimes. It could be a time of reflection, a time where you could refocus, a time where you could come to God and draw near to him, and I could assure you, that the closer we draw to God, the closer he draws to us. An intimate relationship with God is like no other; it fills us with joy, hope, peace, and love. When you find God, continually abide in his presence and grow in his grace. Praise the Lord!

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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING!

I want to know God – where do I begin? We could begin by seeking God through his word, then, we will not only know about God, but come to know God.

Scripture tells us, “Let the wicked man forsake his own way and the unrighteous man his own thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that He may have compassion, and to our God, for He will freely pardon. Wash yourselves and be clean! Get your sins out of my sight, give up your evil ways, says the Lord.” Too many of us have walked for too long in our own willful way, we have followed too much the desires of our own hearts, instead of seeking God while he may be found, forgetting that he has promised, that, he will never abandon those who seek him, therefore, my brothers and sisters in Christ, seek the Lord while you can find him. Call on him now while he is near to begin a relationship with him. Many of us find God in times of trouble, in times of sickness, in times of despair, but, that’s ok, because, the poor man called out, and the Lord heard him; He saved him from all his troubles. What is the trouble that you are facing, what is the situation that is forcing you to seek God? “Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded; do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your feet away from evil. Turn now, each of you, from your wicked ways, and correct your actions. Do not go after other gods to serve them and you will find grace in your time of need. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit!” My brothers and sisters in Christ, I sought the Lord, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears; you too, could seek out the Lord and His strength; seek His face always. Seek the Lord while you can find him. Call on him now while he is near, for those who seek and find God, find mercy and grace. When you come to know God, your life has a different meaning. You will not only know about God, but come to truly know God, and learn to walk in his ways. Praise the Lord!

When God calls you, there should be no turning back.

Could you remember when you got saved? All of us who have been saved could vividly recall when it happened, and it is a mind-blowing experience that should be shared; because, when God calls us, he does so in a dramatic fashion, because he wants and deserve the praise. We are all saved not because of anything good that we have done, but by God’s mercy and grace. It’s a process, and looking back now, I could see where God began the change in me. I was still walking in my own willful way, but God was walking right beside me; and for each wrong step I took, he slowly, patiently, walked right before me. My brothers and sisters in Christ, I am so thankful that God did not give up on me, but continued to show me his way in simple, careful ways, and in the fullness of time, his time, he said to me ‘Come home’. It was a moment that was like no other I had ever experienced, my life was no longer my own, God took control of my life and began to lead me in his way. When God calls us, there should be no turning back, and that is why, “I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back; the cross before me the world behind me, no turning back, no turning back”. Thank you, Lord!

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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING!

Are you trapped in a comfortable situation? God can deliver you! God can bring much needed changes to your life and mine.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, there are things that we tolerate and as a result see no need for change, that is, until the situation that we tolerate becomes so much that we are forced to reach out for help; to call on God for deliverance, but, by this time the situation seems desperate and to the uninformed desperate times calls for desperate measures and instead of waiting on God, many find themselves accepting help from any and every source which most often times is the wrong help. But, why wait until things get so dire to seek a new direction? It's a human thing, we will never change what we are comfortable with until we are forced to. But, we get trapped in these comfortable situations when we do not know how to say no, to the things that entice us. We must learn to say no to the things that could have us spell bound; those things that seem so right unto us, but are all wrong for us; but, we never realize this until it is too late. But how late is too late? It may be too late to change things on your own, but, never too late for God to effect a change in your life and mine; but, we must submit totally to God, spend quality time with God in prayer, asking him for guidance and direction, learning to depend on God for the things that we need and wait, and not be enticed by those things that we lust after that will only satisfy us for a moment. My brothers and sisters in Christ, whatever you are going through, allow it to draw you closer to God, allow him to satisfy your every need, for when God blesses us he brings no trouble with it.

What are you willing to give up in exchange for a life with God?

My brothers and sisters in Christ, God made a sacrifice for you and for me, but, are we willing to make a sacrifice for him? God has a plan and a purpose for your life and mine, but, until we begin to align ourselves with God, his purpose for us will not be revealed and we will continue to stumble in the dark. Too many of us refuse to give up the things we hold dear to our hearts but keeps us farther away from God. But, I could tell you from experience, that, those things that are keeping us from having a closer relationship with God, were gifts from the enemy who seeks to entice us, to hold us captive, to prevent us from living the abundant life in Christ Jesus. If we are willing to make sacrifice for God, he will be willing to create a change in us, to help us to begin walking with him. My brothers and sisters in Christ, we must begin walking purposely for God, it will not be easy, as the enemy will try to make us fall, but know that God will break every fall that the enemy attempts, he will foil every plan he has to attack our soul, but understand, that, when you sacrifice all the vain things that charm you most, God will provide all that you need to walk a careful and purposeful life in Him. I have sacrificed so much for the glory of God, but it could never be enough to repay him for the sacrifice he made for me at Calvary, but, I will strive every day to live a life of contentment, a life that is blameless before the Lord; after all, I have received a gift that I could never repay, the free gift of Salvation. Praise the Lord!

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Ye must be born again! Have you yet been born again?

Jesus replied, "Truly, truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." What a powerful proclamation! Unless you are born again, you cannot see the kingdom of God! My brothers and sisters in Christ, some of us are no longer ignorant of this fact, as we have heard this repeated through the mouths of many messengers, 'you must be born again, to inherit the kingdom of God'. But, there are still so many who have never heard this message, and it is up to you and to me, to spread the Good News, to tell those who have not heard, those who do not understand what it means to be born again. God has promised that, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit in you and will see to it that you follow my laws and keep all the commands I have given you." Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord! There are many who do not keep God's covenant and refuse to live by his law, but as for me, Gods word has become a light unto my feet and a lamp unto my path. I am striving every day to behave wisely in a perfect way, I set nothing wicked before my eyes, I hate the works of darkness, I daily ask of God, to remove from me a proud heart, lies, and deceit, and to continually use me in his service. I want to be beacon of light for those who are walking in darkness, for those who have not yet come to know God, to show them through my works, that, God walks with me and will walk with them too, when they begin to walk in the law of the Lord. Amen!

I've been changed! Hallelujah! What are some the things that you used to do but don't do anymore?

I am amazed at the changes that God has created in me. The things I used to do, I do them no more, the places, people and things I used to go, see, and lust after, don't entice me anymore. Oh, glory be to God! One song-writer has said it so true, "Lord I'm struggling with my past. Can't forget the things I've done, too unworthy to even ask for forgiveness from Your Son, I've been down so many roads that have led me into sin, nobody even really knows just where it is that I had been; but, God has made a change in me, I'm no longer what I used to be, I don't talk the same old talk, I don't walk the same old walk, I'm on the road to Calvary. God has made a change in me, took my sins and set me free, broke the chains of misery, God has made a change in me. Lord, you struggled up that hill and You carried that old cross, bled and died for all my sins, so that my soul would not be lost, Lord, I give my life to You, all my faults and failures too, I have been redeemed. I know You have made a change in me." Thank You, Lord! I have been repeatedly thanking God for creating this change in me and for the past 15 years, I have been walking in His way. It is sometimes a struggle as my faith is being tested, but with every struggle I overcome, God lifts me higher and I give him all the glory and praise.

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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:

Since I found the Savior!

Eliza E. Hewitt — 1851-1920

Life wears a different face to me, since I found my Savior,
Rich mercy at the cross I see, my dying, living Savior.

Chorus

Golden sunbeams 'round me play, Jesus turns my night to day,
Heaven seems not far away, since I found my Savior.

He sought me in His wondrous love, so I found my Savior,
He brought salvation from above, my dear, almighty Savior.

The passing clouds may intervene, since I found my Savior,
But, He is with me though unseen, my ever present Savior.

A strong hand kindly holds my own, since I found my Savior,
It leads me onward to the throne, oh there, I'll see my Savior.

I'VE BEEN CHANGED!



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INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES FROM THE DESK OF JEWELLYN GREER

Until we begin to align ourselves with God, his purpose for us will not be revealed.

I will strive every day to live a life of contentment, a life that is blameless before the Lord.

We get trapped in comfortable situations when we do not know how to say no, to the things that entice us.

When God called me, my life was no longer my own, God took control of my life and began to lead me.

Many times the noises around us are so distracting, that we try to pray, but our minds go astray.

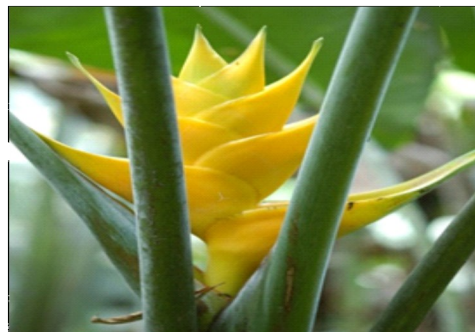
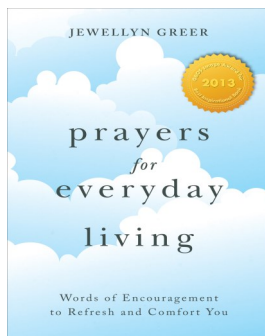
When you come to know God your life has a different meaning.

God made a sacrifice for you and for me, but, are we willing to make a sacrifice for him?

Too many of us refuse to give up the things we hold dear to our hearts but keep us farther away from God.

The enemy seeks to entice us, to hold us captive, to prevent us from living the abundant life in Christ Jesus.

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



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Our Spotlight is on you! I need you Jesus! I want to be a child of the light.

Lord, for too long I have walked in my own willful way refusing to yield to you, forgetting that it is you who directs my steps; and because of this, I have stumbled and strayed, and I keep repeating the same mistakes. Lord, I need you, I need new direction, create a change in me Lord, so that I may walk and not stumble, that I may learn your ways and yield to them. Lord, I want to be a child of the light, walking in your way, because the way I have been walking has led me down dark roads and I am tired of stumbling. Lord, I am facing a situation that is forcing me to seek you out, and I want to submit totally to you, to spend quality time with you in prayer, understanding what your will is for my life, and learn to walk as a child of the light, who will no longer stumble in darkness. "I need thee, oh I need, thee, every hour I need thee, oh bless me now my Savior, I come to thee."

Are you too young to begin shining for Jesus? All of us could shine for Jesus as we have opportunity, but, it begins with little acts of kindness added with a little bit of love. Parents, let us encourage our children to shine for Jesus, leading by example.



I can be a friend



Saying good morning to someone | Saying please and thank you and mean it

When you get a new item of clothing, give something away | visit someone who is sick

Share your snacks with a friend | Be kind when you are playing

Say a prayer for someone | Help out when you can

Hug a friend who is sad | Choose to be kind

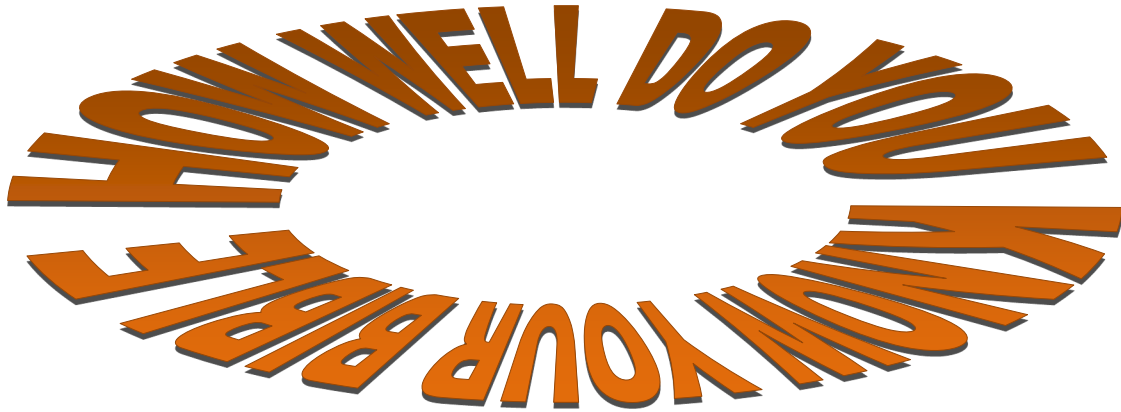
You never know when your little act of kindness impact a life.

I'M A SUNBEAM FOR JESUS!

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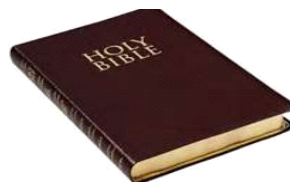
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Match the correct answers to the questions

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
A woman touched this part of Jesus' clothes and he felt it.	Little Children
Who turned water into wine at a wedding?	Disciples
Jesus was at this place when he asked a woman for a drink of water.	Carpentry
He asked Jesus to remember him when he came into his kingdom.	The Hem
Jesus showed this for us by dying on the cross.	Jesus
Jesus share the Last Supper with his disciples in this room.	A Thief
Unless we become like these we cannot enter the kingdom of heaven.	The Well
Jesus washed the feet of these people.	The Upper Room
Jesus helped his father in this trade	His love



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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.

I'll be a Sunbeam!

Nellie Talbot - 1900

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.

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

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

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

I'LL BE A SUNBEAM FOR HIM!

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