

Prayer Changes Everything!

I Believe in the Power of Prayer!

January 1, 2019 Volume 34

I am so thankful to be able to lift God up in praise for the New Year. May 2019 be the year you and I determine, that Jesus is all that we need. Happy New Year!

My brothers and sisters in Christ, may we come to trust God more and as a result, depend on Him to see us through any and every obstacle that we will face this year, and remember to ask his guidance in all we do and say. I do not know what you have had to endure last year, but I could proudly say, "If it had not been for the Lord on my side, I don't know what would have become of me." Therefore, I give God the glory! What I faced in 2018 bend me at times but did not break me, because the Lord was with me. God has given me the strength of an ox and because of this no weapon formed against me ever prospers. If God is for you, who can be against you? My friends, no matter what we go through in life, let us learn something from it. I know without a doubt, that, God never gives us more than we can bear, but we must learn to go through it with prayer. My struggles are not isolated to me, but if I did not tell you what I have been through you never would know; and it is not because that I am ashamed to speak about my troubles, heavens no! But, as I have grown in my walk with God, I have learned to handle things with prayer. God did not give me a spirit of fear but one of love and sound mind, so that I could discern good from evil, love from hate, joy from sorrow and peace from turmoil. I am so thankful to God that He has given me the ability to pray. He has shown me, that, by carefully walking with Him, I have nothing to fear. I make prayer an integral part of every day, sometimes I would admit that the meditations take different forms, but all through the day I am finding reasons to say, "Thank you, Lord!" My prayer is for Him to continually help me in my walk with Him, so that I don't only talk about Him, but consistently do His will.



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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING!

Looking to Jesus, he is all we need.

Too many times, we try to find joy and peace everywhere else but with God. But, where did it lead us? Are we now more happy and fulfilled? Or are we still drinking from these wells that cannot satisfy us? My brothers and sisters in Christ, understand this, "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things and at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." Do you trust him? Will you allow him to fulfill your every need? For too long we have been seeking fulfillment in all the wrong places. It is time for us to stop looking at people, places, things, or ideas to complete us, and fix our eyes and thoughts on God alone, who is our provider, who is the author and finisher of our faith. My friends, when God provides for us out of the abundance of his storehouse, he brings no trouble with it. Amen! Have you ever wanted something so badly that you went out of God's way to achieve it? I am sure you have just as I have, and if you are honest to admit it, it brought you and I nothing but trouble and shame. I have also seen friends and family members who went out of God's way to get something that their deceitful heart told them that it was going to be good for them, something that they forgot to go to God in prayer for and put their needs before him, then sit back and wait for his answer and the end result was disaster. We must learn to put God first in every decision that we have to make, big or small. I will share with you something that happened to me recently where God intervened in a big way, and I knew when it happened that the hand of the Lord had done this. Without boring you with too much specifics, I had an unexpected situation that came up and I had to make a decision fast. I put my situation before God and while I was waiting, action was needed, so I started to do what I thought best in the moment, all the while still asking God for direction, asking him if I was doing the right thing, and in the midst of it all, God's answer came very clearly. He caused a friend to stand in the gap for me and what God did was nothing short of his best and I give him the glory. It goes to show that even when you cannot see the way ahead keep praying, keep trusting God, understanding that he has already made a way where there seems to be no way, that he will always work things out for your good. If we learn to be still in God's presence we will learn to hear and listen to him, for when we pray he always answers. Sometimes it's yes, sometimes it's no, sometimes it's wait, sometimes he is swift, and most times to us, he is very slow, but we need to understand, that, God's hand is sure and whatever he does is well done. Therefore, let us look continually to Jesus, trusting him, because he is all we will ever need.



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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

What are you anxious about? Peace be still!

Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, but a good word makes the heart glad. Proverbs 12:25

Have you ever had to deal with a situation where you were so anxious that it caused you to worry so much that you experienced a panic attack? In these times, who do you need around you? Do you need someone who is going to exacerbate the situation or someone who will bring calm to the situation? My brothers and sisters in Christ, be careful with whom you share your troubling situations. Some people even though they mean good, most times say and do the very things that cause more harm than good. Some people instead of throwing in some kind words or a prayer or just listen, just add fuel to the fire. Scripture reminds us, that, anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, but a good word makes the heart glad. Do you ever stop to think that the health problems that many of us have could be attributed to anxiety? We worry unnecessarily even though we know it does no good, and it is always a good thing to have someone to confide in, someone who will keep it real. My daughter many times have been my confidant and I dub her my dose of reality, and because of this I have found myself also having to applaud her for having the strength and courage to tell me that what I am saying makes no sense, that I could have handled a situation differently, or that I need to just let it go; she knows when to cheer me on and also when to put me in my place. And, surprisingly, I find myself listening more to her, and seeking her advice in situations because I know she keeps it real. So too we have to learn to depend on God, because he loves us so much that he will not lead us wrong, but we need to ask and humble ourselves, go to him in prayer, pour out our hearts to him and he will comfort us. My friends, as we grow older, peace should become our best friend. It has become my best friend. I experience conflict mostly in my family, it is a battle that I cannot and will not win alone, but I have placed it in God's hands. There is no problem, situation, or circumstance greater than God, and in the fulness of time, he will work things out in the best way, therefore, I will be still in God's presence, continue being vigilant in prayer, embrace God's perfect peace and keep the faith. Jesus alone is our peace.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33

"Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can anyone of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, that not even Solomon in all his splendor was not dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, oh ye of little faith? So, do not worry! (Matthew 6:25-31)

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Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God.
Matthew 3:8

Are you proud of the life that you are living? What are the people around you saying about you? Mind you, there will be those who never have anything good to say about you, and that you cannot control, but there must be someone in your circle who should have something good to say about you. If that is not the case then you need to take a deep look within yourself, stand in front of the mirror and see if the person staring back at you is someone you are proud of, someone who has won God's approval, because at the end of the day that is what matter most. Too many of us are living our lives through the eyes of our friends and family. We put on a good show when we are in the company of others, but, we need to understand, that, man looks at our behavior but God looks at and judges the heart. From the time I was a child, I was afraid of licks, but that did not stop me from doing what I know I should not do and would result in a beating. And I could clearly remember my mother saying, 'if you did not like the licks you would do what is right'. But as I grew older, I could remember her saying to us that if we thought about her and our brothers and sisters before we did anything that would bring them shame, we would keep from trouble, and that has always been at play in my adult life. Whenever I am now tempted to do something wrong, I do not only ask myself what would Jesus do, or how I would grieve him, but I think of my daughter, my family, friends, my followers on my Facebook and Twitter, or the people I minister to, and how I would disappoint them and myself if I carried out the deed. I am only human and I would admit that I have been angry, and have voiced words that I wished that I could have taken back, and even though I am alone when this happens, I am ashamed of my behavior and would humbly confess before God that I have sinned, and ask his forgiveness. My brothers and sisters in Christ, I don't need to boast except to boast in the Lord, for the changes he has brought to my life. I know that I have been changed, because the life I now live is no longer my own, but Christ who lives in me. So, when I am attacked or ridiculed, I am learning now, how to respond in positive ways, I am learning to shake off the dust off of my feet and move on. I have learned, that, when God creates a change in you, that the atmosphere around you changes. Amen! And sometimes it hurts, because you may have close family and friends who do not support you, and they will try to bring you down in cunning ways; but do not be discouraged, know that they are not acting of their own free will, but the enemy through them. Sometimes you will need to completely step away from them, scripture says to come out from among them before you adopt their ways and they bring you down. The enemy does not love the idea that you were once walking in sin and now you are walking on the winning side, that you are no longer engaging in idle babble, wrangling, strife, debauchery, drunkenness, lies, adultery, fornication, back-biting and putting stumbling blocks in the paths of others, and therefore, will use whatever means necessary to cause you to lose your way. But, prove to them by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God, and are now walking in his way, and be confident, that, your reward will be greater in heaven. Too many Christians have turned away from God because they lost their way and were not humble enough to repent and return to God; but know that no matter how long you may have strayed, that God will forgive you and welcome you back. YOU JUST NEED TO ASK!

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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.

It is well with my soul!

Horatio Spafford —(1871)

When peace like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea-billows roll,
Whatever my lot, thou has taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.

My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought, my sin not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more, praise the Lord, praise the Lord, oh my soul.

For me be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live, if Jordan above me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life, thou wilt whisper thy peace to my soul.

Bur Lord, 'tis for thee, for thy coming we wait, the sky not the grave is our goal,
Oh trump of the angles, oh voice of the Lord, blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul.

It is well, it is well, with my soul, with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul!

PEACE BE WITH YOU!

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INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES FROM THE DESK OF JEWELLYN GREER

As I grow in my walk with God, I am learning to discern good from evil, love from hate, joy from sorrow, and peace from turmoil.

We must learn how to walk away from situations that cause us stress.

Too many times we lose the fight because we did not know when to hold our peace.

As we grow older, peace should become our best friend. It has become my best friend.

When God provides for us out of the abundance of his storehouse, he brings no trouble with it.

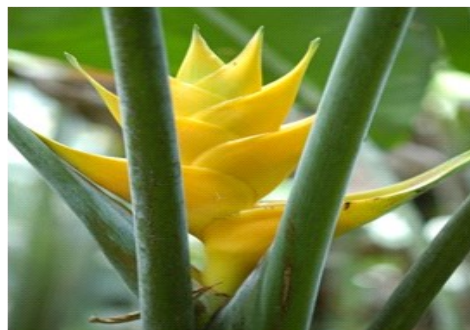
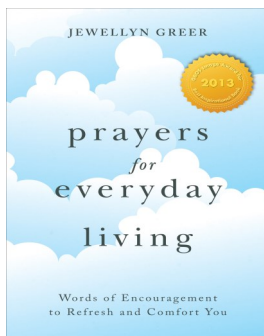
When God creates a change in you the atmosphere around you changes.

Too many times, we try to find joy and peace everywhere else but with God.

When I am attacked or ridiculed, I am learning now, how to respond in positive ways.

I don't need to boast except to boast in the Lord, for the changes he has brought to my life.

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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

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

The country singer Kenny Rogers notes in one of his most loved songs, that, we've got to know when to hold them, know when to fold them, know when to walk away and know when to run, you never count your money when your sitting at the table, for there will be time enough for counting, when the deal is done. Songs like these makes us really think and to check our actions. Too many times we lose the fight either because we did not know when to hold our peace, when to give a situation over to God, when to walk away when God shows us a better way and better yet when to run. We need to understand that the peace that God give us is so much more valuable that the winnings that we may walk away from the table with, because most times the winnings comes with baggage. Amen! Learn to hold your peace, learn when to let go and let God, learn how to walk away from situations that cause you stress and run like the devil is behind you away from anything that will entice you and cause you to sin. The Lord will fight your battle for you and you will hold your peace. How many times have we lost a fight because we spoke out of time? Let us learn from our mistakes, because most times we are fighting battles that are not our own, we are engaging in conflicts that should have ceased long ago, we are still speaking long after the conversations has ended. When are we going to learn to keep quiet and let God fight our battles for us? My brothers and sisters in Christ, the battle is not yours or mine, the battle is the Lords', and when he fights our battles he cannot lose. Amen!

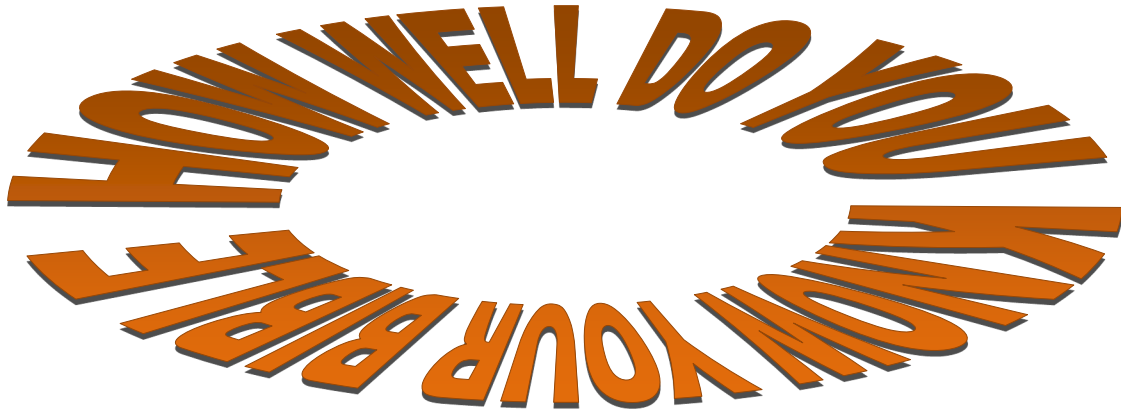
Children's Corner: Happy New Year — Let us not make promises that we don't plan to keep, but those that will bring God honor and glory.

Every year we make promises that we know we will not keep. Let this year be different, let us set goals that are reasonable and try to make goals that will benefit others more than ourselves. The world is moving so fast it seems, and we get so caught up in our own affairs that we find less time for others; for really lending a hand when we could have, for making a hospital visit to see someone, to run an errand for someone who is laid up in bed, or to stop and help someone carrying a heavy load. All that we could ever accomplish in this world, if it's not done to bring God honor and glory we are doing it all in vain. Strive to walk closer with God and he will help you



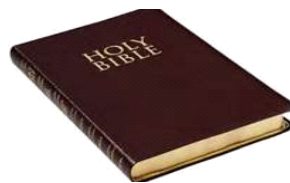
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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING



Match the correct answers to the questions

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
Do all things to bring God honor and ...	Righteousness
The battle is not mine but the ...	Your life
And God is able to make all grace...	In me
Whatever was meant to hurt you, God will turn it around for...	Glory
The life I now live is no longer my own, but Christ who lives ...	Abound
Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his ...	Lord's
God did not give us a spirit of fear but one of love and ...	Your good
Can anyone of you by worrying add a single hour to...	Heart
Trust in the Lord with all your...	Sound mind



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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.

Jesus bids us shine!

Susan Bogert - 1819-1885

Jesus bids us shine with a pure, clear light,
Like a little candle burning in the night,
In this world of darkness, we must shine,
You in your small corner and I in mine.

Jesus bids us shine first of all for him,
Well, he sees and knows it, if our light is dim,
He looks down from heaven to see us shine,
You in your small corner and I in mine.

Jesus bids us shine then for all around,
Many kinds of darkness in this world are abound,
Sin and want and sorrow, so we must shine,
You in your small corner and I in mine.

LET ME SHINE FOR YOU LORD, ALWAYS

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