

Prayer Changes Everything!

I Believe in the Power of Prayer!

April 1, 2019 Volume 35

The Lord is risen indeed! Hallelujah! He is risen, alive, and victorious. Have a joyous and blessed Easter! Let us bask in the joy of His resurrection.

The Lord is risen indeed! Hallelujah! Luke chapter twenty-four tells the story like this: "But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them; but God kept them from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?" They looked at him sadly and asked him if He was the only one who did not know the things that had happened. He asked them, "What things?" "The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth," they said. "He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people. But our leading priests and other religious leaders, handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago! Furthermore, some of our women astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, they said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them that Jesus is alive! Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said." Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?" Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself." My brothers and sisters in Christ, in this way, God fulfilled what he had predicted through all the prophets, that, his Messiah would suffer and be the first to rise from the dead, to proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles. Death could not hold him, the tomb could not hold, the Lord is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Hallelujah!



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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING!

My God is awesome! When you have been dealing with an issue for a long time, you get accustomed to it and learn to accept it; but, is this right? I don't think so!

For many, many, years I have experienced severe joint and muscle pains, and I have been to all kinds of specialist, and they have all said the same thing, that I have arthritis (inflammations of the joints). For many years I too got accustomed to my pains and accepted it. I awoke with pain and went to bed with pain, until one day after yet another visit with my orthopedic surgeon, who again confirmed that I did not need any joint replacement but therapy for my joint pains, I took charge of my situation. I prayed and I ask God for healing without medication or surgery, and as I read my Bible, it reminded me of spices and salves and aloe for healing, and rest to restore my body, and I began to incorporate these into my daily life in addition to exercise. I had been to so much physical therapy that I knew how important stretching was for joint pains, and I knew all the stretches by heart, and I rigorously started my own program. Today, I am telling out my soul the glory of the Lord, because I have never felt better than I am feeling today. I awake without pain and I go to bed without pain. All glory and praise to God! My brothers and sisters in Christ, Scripture reminds us, that we should be always be content, and I have interpreted this to mean that we must go through our situations joyfully; we do not have to get accustomed to, or accept most of the situations in our lives, especially those that we could learn how to deal with and overcome with God's help. My favorite verse in the Bible is from Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." This verse is my confidence booster. I am not afraid of a challenge because of my confidence in God, and that he is with me through every trial that I face, and that because I know this, I can go through every situation with a prayer and praise; because I am never alone. God walks with me through all of the dark hills and dark valleys of my life, and I know my God is able. My God is awesome! I am thankful that I am not where I used to be physically!

When we are not ashamed of and share our struggles, it helps to strengthen someone else who is going through the same struggle.

- What is the struggle in your life?
- Is the struggle real enough to encourage someone?
- How comfortable are you in sharing your story?
- Do you think that by sharing your story someone could be helped?
- Do you know what caused your situation?
- Do you feel like God is with you or that you are alone?
- Are you angry or joyful as you deal with the situation?
- What have you learned going through the struggle?
- Do you now have a testimony to share with others?
- Are you now convinced that God is able to do the impossible?



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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

My struggle strengthened me!

Some people are broken by their struggle while others are being strengthened by the struggle. What is the defining factor here? I could speak with authority because I have been on either side and the difference is UNWAVERING FAITH. You see, as I grew in my walk with God, my struggles got easier to bear, the same struggle that threatened to cripple me, strengthened me, because I realized that I kept facing the same situation and failing because I was depending my own strength instead of relying on God; placing the struggle in God's hands who was capable of fighting and winning all of my struggles. My brothers and sisters in Christ, we who have been born again are overcomers, we are clothed with the full armor of God to help us stand against the wiles of the devil; and for each struggle we overcome, another is before us. It is not God's way of punishing us, but his way of deepening our faith in him, allowing us to go through each struggle trusting him to see us through. I no longer question the struggle, but go through each struggle with a prayer and a praise. So too, when you begin to walk with God, your struggle will become easier to bear, you will go through each struggle with a song and when you come through, give God a praise. Keep the faith, and the struggles you and I go through will not break us, but strengthen us; because we are overcomers, we are more than conquerors, we are born again and we are reminded in first John chapter five and verse four, "For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world, and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith." But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

I laid it all on the altar and I got peace in return.

Have you ever had to carry a heavy bag a long way, and on reaching your destination and laying it down how relieved you felt? The same is true for many of us who carry around a lot of weight – grudges, jealousies, hatred, anger, strife, evil schemes, and so much more; and the longer we carry them the more burdensome they become, yet, we soldier on. But, when we decide to heed God's word and lay aside every weight that so easily ensnares us, come to Jesus, and allow him to refresh us, what a wonderful feeling! My brothers and sisters in Christ, one songwriter asked this question – "Is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid, does your heart the spirit control? He said, one can only be blessed and have peace and sweet rest, when their all on the altar is laid. I can honestly tell you, that, I laid it all on the altar and got peace in return, I have been blessed and I have sweet rest, because the spirit fully controls my heart. Daily I am soldiering on for God, telling out my soul the greatness of the Lord. I want others to come to Jesus, to lay their all on the altar, and get the peace of the Lord in return. Help me, Lord!

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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

You did not cause me to lose my way, it was God's plan.

Many of us before making a commitment to follow God had been misled by others or so it seemed, had been walking out of God's way with not a care but for self-gratification, we were easily swayed in one direction or the other, but, at the appointed time, God's plan kicked into high gear and nothing could have prepared us for what was to come. Amen! But, let me tell you this, if you have blamed others for where you have been, or what you have done, it's time to stand up and let the world know that they did not cause you to lose your way, that it was God's plan. I could remember as young girl how my grandmother would pray for me to get saved, and she would constantly tell me that I was on a long rope and that when God was ready for me that he would rope me in, and he sure did. I am so thankful for my grandmother who never stopped praying for me, who never gave up on me no matter what I did, and it paved the way for me to believe even more now, that, if my grandmother loved and cared for me so much, how much more my heavenly father, who too never gave up on me. God already knew my beginning and my end, he knew when it was time to bring to pass the plans he had prepared for me. Every day, I am more confident, that God is working his purpose out for my life. When I read the story of Joseph and how his brothers believed that they were getting him out of the way and sold him into slavery, I smile, because little did they know that this was part of God's plan. So too my brothers and sisters in Christ, don't you worry about the situations that you go through, the disappointments that you faced, the setbacks that crippled you, the heartaches that crushed you, keep pressing on, keep holding on to God's unchanging hand until you come to the other side, because there is always another side, and when you come through on the other side and you realize why you had to go through to come through, tell someone else, because there is a testimony in there somewhere. You did not lose your way, it was God's plan.

Let's discuss and share with others our experiences. We need to be comfortable in talking to others about where we have been and how God brought us out.

- Have you ever felt like you have lost your way?
- Do you know what caused you to lose your way?
- Did you ever or how did you find your way?
- Did you view your situation as God abandoning you, or God putting his plan into action?
- Did you blame others for the situation you are in or did you blame God?
- Did you have someone praying for you or with you as you go through your troubles?
- Were you angry or joyful as you dealt with the situation
- Do you now have a testimony to share with others?

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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

Songs have a way of lifting me up when I am feeling down. Here is one of my favorites as our featured adult song.

Lord who throughout these forty days !

Claudia Frances Hernaman —(1873)

Lord, who throughout these forty days, for us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.

As you with Satan did contend, and did the victory win,
O give us strength in you to fight, in you to conquer sin.

As you did hunger and did thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self, and so to live, by your most holy Word.

And through these days of penitence, and through your Passiontide,
Forevermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us, that through this life, of doubts and hope and pain,
An Easter of unending joy, we may at last attain!

THE STRIFE IS O'RE, THE BATTLE WON!

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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

The stone that was intended to block my way, God crushed it to create a walkway.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, I want to encourage you to look at the stone that was placed in your path to block your progress in a new light. You do not have to stand on the other side of it, because God can show you how to get over it, to move beyond it, if only you trust him. Many times, stones that were meant to be stumbling blocks have been placed in my path, and at first, they seemed insurmountable, because at first glance I was seeing them through my eyes, but, when I started praying, the stone was rolled away. Prayer changes everything, I know! There are times that we have allowed the stumbling blocks in our lives to completely block our vision, to fill us with doubt and fear, and as a result, we have failed to trust God who is able to crush the stone to create a walkway, we forget that God can turn around for our good what was meant to hurt us who love and trust him. But, know that there is no problem, situation, or circumstance greater than God, he made all things, and if we are walking with him, greater is he that is in us, than he that is in the world. Let us not fear what man can do to us, but trust in God, who never fails us, whose circle of love surrounds us. So then, will you allow the stone that was placed in your path to block your progress, or will you wait patiently for God to crush the stone to create a walkway? "They that wait upon the Lord, shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, walk and not faint, so teach us Lord to wait."

No weapon formed against God's chosen will ever prosper. We just need to wait and believe, that we will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

"No weapon formed against you will succeed, you will silence every voice raised up to accuse you." We all know this verse by heart from Isaiah 54:17; but, many of us expect, that without any effort on our path, that the weapons formed against us will go away, or the raised voices will be silenced. My brothers and sisters in Christ, our security for all this is our righteousness. We cannot be doing wrong things, or walking out of God's way, and expect his covering from the weapons formed against us. Faithfulness in our service to God is our security, our victory over evil. God is saying to us, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. See, all your angry enemies lie there, confused and humiliated, those who contend with you will be reduced to nothing and will perish." My brothers and sisters in Christ, you must trust God, believe that his hedge of love surrounds you, and that no weapon formed against God's chosen will ever prosper. We just need to wait on the Lord and believe, that we will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

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INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES FROM THE DESK OF JEWELLYN GREER

When you ignore a direction from God you will find yourself right back where God intended.

God is able to crush the stumbling blocks in our pathway to create a walkway.

We cannot be walking out of God's way, and expect his covering from the weapons formed against us.

You will keep facing the same situation and fail, if you are depending on your own strength.

When God's plan kicks into high gear, nothing could prepare us for what's to come.

Learn to trust in God, who never fails us, whose circle of love surrounds us.

Some people are broken by their struggle, while others are being strengthened by the struggle.

When you have been dealing with an issue for a long time, you get accustomed to it and learn to accept it.

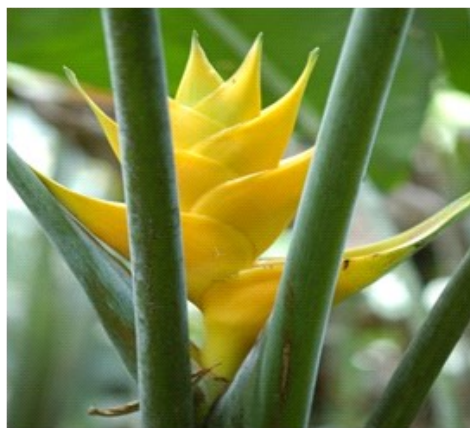
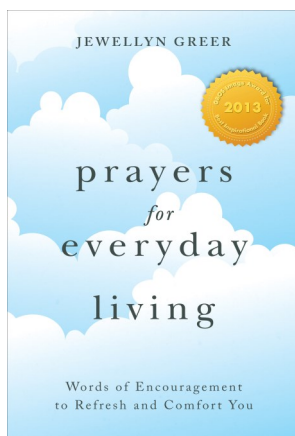
But, is this right?

I laid it all on the altar and got peace in return.

Every day, I am more confident that God is working his purpose out for my life.

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

Order a copy of my books today and be blessed and encouraged.



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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

Our Spotlight is on you! I am going where Jesus leads me because his compass for my life is on point.

Have you ever ignored a direction from God, went your own way, only to find yourself right back where God intended? My brothers and sisters in Christ, where God leads us, we should follow, especially when the directions seems confusing to us. God makes no mistakes. Sometimes, it may seem to us that his direction takes winding roads and steep inclines, but, I now see these as faith exercises, you would too, as your faith in God increases. Some of us have received a direction from God that is straight forward, and some of us have experienced all kinds of troubles before we reach our destination. But, I am sure, that after you have arrived and you look back at where you have been, that you are full of praise to God, that you are shouting from the rooftop; 'Thank God that I am not where I used to be!' You could then clearly see the reasons why you had to go through the struggles, and as a result, the next time the directions comes and you are going through it, you will go through it rejoicing in confident hope, patient in trouble, and keep on praying. Amen!

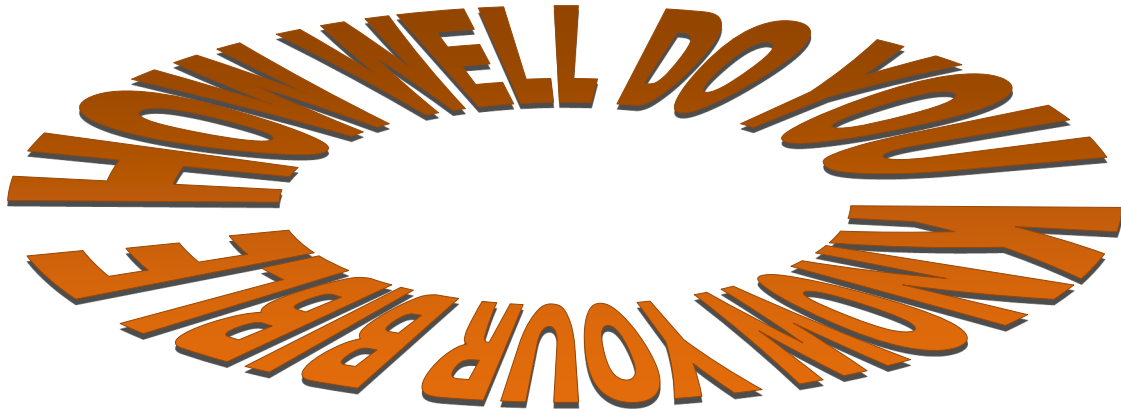
Children's Corner: Happy Easter — Let us help the children to spread the word at their Easter egg hunts and parties, that Jesus is the reason for the Easter Season.



SPREAD THE WORD!

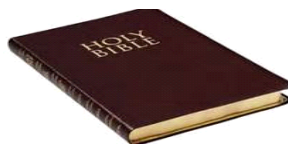
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Match the correct answers to the questions

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
Who told the women who came to the tomb after the third day that Jesus was alive?	Peter
Jesus was comforted by the care of these two on the road to Calvary.	His garments
On the way to Calvary Jesus recognized the look of sadness on this woman's face?	Jesus prayed
This man was forced to help Jesus carry his cross .	His cross
Jesus was betrayed by his friend, what was his name?	Angels
This woman stepped out from among the crowd to wipe the face of Jesus.	Veronica and Simon
As a final act of humiliation, they stripped these from Jesus's body .	His mother
As Jesus was nailed to the cross, he did this for his persecutors.	Simon
Jesus was forced to carry this all the way to Calvary.	Veronica



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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

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.

The Day of Resurrection!

St. John of Damascus - Before 749

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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