

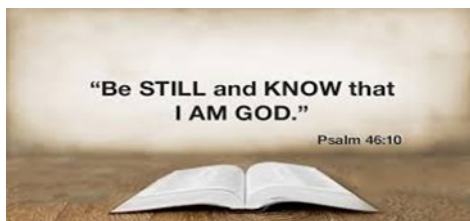
Prayer Changes Everything!

I Believe in the Power of Prayer!

January 1, 2020 Volume 38

Be still, and know that I am God! Many of us read this verse in Psalm Forty-six, but are we ever still, long enough, to see the goodness of our God?

For two consecutive mornings this month, and very early in the New Year, I opened my Bible to begin my reflection, and it brought me to Psalm Forty-six and verse ten, “Be still and know that I am God! I will be honored by every nation. I will be honored throughout the world.” My brothers and sisters in Christ, I know who my God is, I know how to be still in his presence, but am I honoring him enough? I mulled over this, trying to understand what it could mean for me. Whenever I encounter a passage in the Bible that is as profound as this, I always try to determine, if the message is for me or for someone else. “Be still and know that I am God! I will be honored by every nation.” The more I study this verse, the clearer it seems to me like God is giving me a direct message, “Be still and see what I will do!” I don’t know what God has in store for me, but I am confident that his plans for me are for good. I am confident that his plans for me will bring him honor and great glory. In Psalm Forty-six, God is telling us to be still and know that he is God. Many of us find it hard to be still in God’s presence. When we come before him, most times it’s to complain, or to make our requests known to him. But how often do we sit quietly in his presence? I know that this is not an easy thing to do; because I could speak for myself when I say, that many times I am willing to be still in God’s presence, and await his directions, but I lose focus, all kinds of things come to mind, things that leave me confused. So, I am trying my best to be still in God’s presence and await his assignment, because whatever he has in mind for me this year, is not for vain glory, but to bring God glory and praise. Lord, you speak and we listen, you order our steps when we are willing, and I am asking you, begging you, to give me a willing heart, for if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable. Lord, use me, to bring you honor and glory.



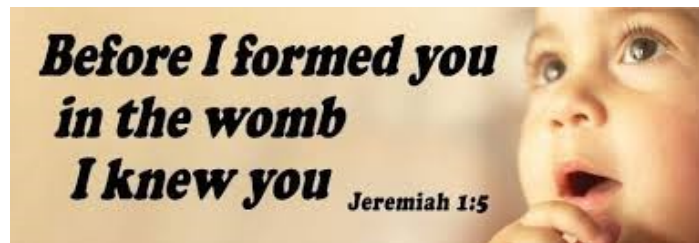
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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING!

I am fearfully and wonderfully made. How about you?

I will praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are your works, and that my soul knows very well. Psalm One thirty – nine, verse eight. How many of us believe, that, we are fearfully and wonderfully made? Whether we are short or tall, skinny or fat, I need you to understand, that, God made us fearfully and wonderfully for his purpose. Others may look at us, and judge us by the way we look; but what is not seen through our eyes, is the heart, which God sees and knows, and judges all things. Therefore, no matter your stature, know that you were created in God's image and likeness. Others by their actions and by what they say, will try to make you feel inadequate, they will try to make you doubt yourself; but don't give in to this nonsense. You are beautiful in God's eyes. Before you were born he knew you, and set you apart for good things. You are fearfully and wonderfully made for God's purpose. My only resolutions for the New Year, is for a closer relationship with God, and to allow no one by their thoughts and actions, to cause me to change from the person I know that I am, or should be; the person God created me to be. If I did not know it then, I know it now; I am confident, that I am fearfully and wonderfully made, by a God who reminds me, that I should fear him only, and wonderfully made to do his will. Therefore, I will praise God, for this awesome work, that my soul knows very well.



Are you set apart for God's service? `

- Do you ever wonder why God chose you for a specific assignment?
- Did you accept the task willingly?
- Was the assignment easy?
- Did you stop to ask God for guidance?
- What were some of the obstacles you faced in carrying out your task?
- Did you complete the assignment?
- How did you feel after you completed the assignment?
- Did the assignment result in honor for God?
- Do you now have a testimony to share with others?
- Are you now convinced, that God set you apart for his service?



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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

Blessed be God, who has not given us as prey for their teeth. Psalm One twenty-four, verse six.

We are under attack from the enemy every single day, and who is disguised in various forms. It could be in the form of family, friends, co-workers, or attacks on our children, our health and finances, and so much more. I am sure, that in the past, we have had occasion to say, "If it had not been for the Lord on our sides, what would have become of us!" But, because of what we have faced before, and experienced God's goodness, in that he did not allow the situations to destroy us, we are now more convinced, that God is our helper, our very present help in times of trouble. We are now convinced, that, there is nothing greater than God, no situation, or circumstance, nothing, that he is not able to deliver us from. We are reminded in Psalm One hundred and twenty- four and verse seven, that, "Our soul escaped as a bird from the fowler; the snare is broken, and we have escaped, for our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth." My friends, our God, will not allow us to become prey for the teeth of the enemy. Our God, will not allow the enemy to triumph over us, but, we must trust him, we must believe and never doubt, that our God, is able, that our God, has his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, that he has promised to never leave us nor forsake us, and that is why, we should praise God in the midst of our troubles, and as one son-writer says; "Through all the changing scenes of life, in trouble and in joy, the praises of our God shall sing, my heart and tongue shall employ." Help us Lord, to trust you more, to believe, that greater is he that is me, than he that is in the world, and that whatever we go through, let us go through praising you.

Was there ever a time that you could remember escaping from the enemy? Share with us your experience.

- What was the situation you escaped from?
- Did you feel like you would never be free?
- How did you escape?
- Was the attack on you personally or professionally?
- How would you describe the attack?
- Did you trust God to bring you out safely?
- Are you grateful, that God did not allow the situation to destroy you?
- Did the situation weaken you or strengthen you?
- Would you now go through a similar situation praising God?
- Do you have a testimony to share as a result?



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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in, from this time forth and even forever more. Psalm One twenty-one, verse eighteen.

Every day we go out into this dark world. There is so much going on around us, the evils that unknowingly surrounds us, but we take comfort in knowing, that, our God, has promised to preserve us in our going out, and in our coming in. But does this mean that we should not still pray for God's protection? Certainly not! I have a short prayer attached to my rear view mirror in my car, and my daughter's car that says, 'Guardian Angel, protect us on our journey', and I say this prayer every time I get behind the wheel, and I encourage my daughter, to always remember to do the same. I take the highway to work every day, and as I approach the on-ramp, I say this prayer also, 'Lord, please protect me from accidents and incidents and fender benders, from mechanical failures and angry drivers, in Jesus name, amen!' For many people, their day begin before they get out of bed, and instead of giving God their first thoughts, asking for his guidance and protection, their minds are filled with all the things that they will need to get done for the day. My brothers and sisters in Christ, let us who are of the faith never be counted with those who fail to give God their first thoughts. Scripture reminds us, that, we do not know what the day will bring forth, therefore, when we awake, we should lift up our eyes to the hills, meaning God, from whence comes our help, to get through the day; ask God for his continued guidance and protection, pray for our family and friends, co-workers, for those who live alone, for prisoners, for the poor and the sick, pray for the armed forces, and secret service men and women, and in general pray for the whole world. Lord, we may not know what the day will bring forth, but our awakening and uprising proves your goodness and your mercy, in blessing us with a new day; therefore, let us begin each day, prayerfully, thankfully and expectantly. Lord, help us to trust you who cannot lie, who said that you will preserve us in our going out and in our coming in, from this time forth, and even forever more. Amen!

Let's discuss and share with others our experiences. Was there ever a time that you needed God's protection and felt like you were alone?

- Has God ever reneged on his promise to protect you?
- What caused you to feel this way?
- Did you cry out to God for protection and did not get an answer?
- Because God has promised to protect you, do you blame him when something bad happens?
- Do you believe God's promise, that he will never leave you nor forsake you?
- Should you pray continually for God's protection?
- Would you trust God to comfort you, even in your darkest valley?
- Do you now have a testimony to share with others?
- Are you able to share with us, your experience in trusting God, in the midst of a storm?

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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.

Through all the changing scenes of life!

Nahum Tate and Nicholas Brady —(1696)

Through all the changing scenes of life, in trouble and in joy,
The praises of my God shall still, my heart and tongue employ.

Oh, magnify the Lord with me, with me exalt His name;
When in distress to Him I called, He to my rescue came.

The hosts of God encamp around, the dwellings of the just;
Deliverance He affords to all, who on His succor trust.

Oh, make but trial of His love,, experience will decide,
How blest they are, and only they, who in His truth confide.

Fear Him, ye saints, and you will then, have nothing else to fear;
Make you His service your delight, your wants shall be His care.

Our God is always near!

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INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES FROM THE DESK OF JEWELLYN GREER

Use me Lord, to bring you honor and glory, each and every day.

Lord, our awakening and uprising proves your goodness and mercy, in blessing us with a new day.

God is telling us to be still, and know that he is God.

We are now more convinced, that, there is nothing greater than God.

Let us who are of the faith never be counted, with those who fail to give God their first thoughts.

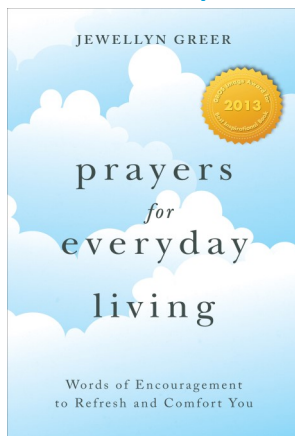
We need to understand, that, God made us fearfully and wonderfully for his purpose.

Let us begin each day, prayerfully, thankfully, and expectantly.

Others may judge us by the way we look; but what is seen through God's eyes is the heart.

Do not allow anyone by their thoughts and actions, to impact you negatively.

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



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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

Our Spotlight is on you! Do not allow the thorn in your flesh, to cause you to miss out on God's blessings. Be strong in the Lord!

Who or what is the thorn in your flesh? All of us, will at some point experience a thorn in the flesh, but especially those of us who are of the faith, that thorn will and could be for us a good thing. We are weakened, then strengthened by it. But, where do these thorns come from, why are we targeted in such a way? Scripture reminds us in second Corinthians twelve, and verse seven, "I have received such wonderful revelations from God; so, to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me, and keep me from becoming proud." Sometimes, we deserve the thorns in our flesh, we deserve to be knocked down a notch, because we get so high-minded, we so get full of self-praise; so to keep us from becoming conceited, we encounter thorns in the flesh. My brothers and sisters in Christ, we must be encouraged by the writings of the apostle Paul to the Corinthians, in that he said, "Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong", strong in the Lord! God resists the proud, therefore, in all things, let us be humble, let us submit ourselves to God, resisting the devil, so that that neither him, nor his messengers, will be able to buffet us.

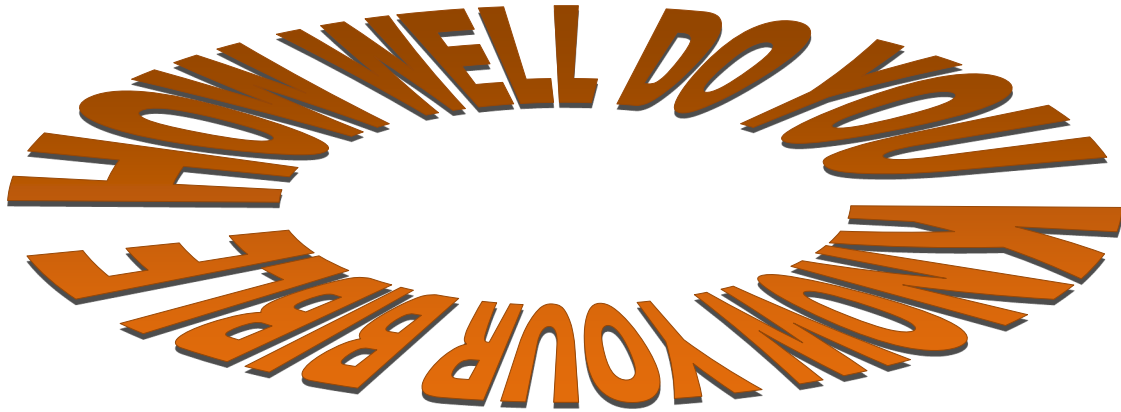
Children's Corner: Raising humble children in a pressured world. It takes a village.

How do we raise humble children in a pressured world? Our children are faced with peer-pressure every day, they know the right thing to do, but are pressured into doing what is wrong. So many of them lose their way and most importantly, their self-esteem. Today, so many children are suffering with depression, they have not yet begun to live, yet they are saying they have nothing to live for. Could we reverse this? Absolutely. Children, need a reason to believe, we need to raise more God-fearing children, we need to constantly show them love—genuine love. In my experience with mentoring teenagers especially, I have seen big changes in them, by just showing them that I care, and not by just paying them lip service, but getting involved in their daily lives. There is such a break down in our society, and single parents especially, need to embrace the village, to raise humble children in a pressured world. Without the extended family environment that we grew up in, single parents cannot do this alone. Extra eyes and ears are needed, and we must always remember, that, when our kids won't talk to us, they will confide in someone else. Our youths need to be heard, our youths need to be nurtured, our youths are depending on us more than we are there for them, and we need to change that. It takes a village.



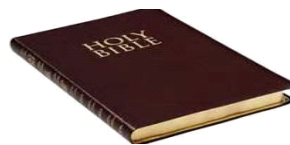
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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING



Finish the questions with the answers provided

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
Resist the devil and he will...	God
We should always pray to God for his...	Glory
A thorn in the flesh is given to us lest we become...	Flee
Be still and know that I am...	Escaped
God resist the...	Protection
God is our very present help in times of...	Teeth
The snare is broken and we have...	Trouble
Blessed be God who has not given us as prey for their...	Proud
Do all things to bring God honor and...	Conceited



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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.

We are but little children weak!

Cecil Frances Alexander - 1818-1895

We are but little children weak, nor born in any high estate;
What can we do for Jesus' sake, who is so high, and good, and great!
When deep within our swelling heart, the thoughts of pride and anger rise,
When bitter words are on our tongues, and tears of passion in our eyes
Then we may stay the angry blow, then we may check the hasty word,
Give gentle answers back again, and fight a battle for our Lord.
With smiles of peace and looks of love, light in our dwellings we may make,
Bid kind good humor brighten there, and still do all for Jesus' sake.
There's not a child so small and weak, but has his little cross to take,
His little work of love and praise, that he may do for Jesus' sake.



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