

Prayer Changes Everything!

I Believe in the Power of Prayer!

January 1, 2021 Volume 42

The dryer has stopped but we are still spinning, hopefully we will all come out wrinkle-free.

Throughout this Pandemic, many of us have been through what seems like a laundry process that is never ending. We have been through a cycle in the washing machine, and even after going through the dryer cycle, we are still on wrinkle mode, where we just keep tumbling, waiting for someone to open the door and let us out. Sounds familiar?

2020 has changed us. It has changed the way we live, the way we eat, the way we shop, the way we worship, and hopefully, our hearts have been changed towards the way we will go forward; because the world as we know it has changed, our lives have been rearranged. But, are we ready to handle the changes? None of us envisioned that we would have been in the situations we now find ourselves. We certainly were not prepared for this, but we will get through this, together.

Over the past year, I have seen the kindness and the compassion of others, in my own life and those around me, and the media stories that capture the goodness of people all around the world. It has been encouraging to say the least. It would be so wonderful, if this spirit will continue to live on within us.

But what would it take for that spirit of kindness and compassion to continue to be played out in our lives? The Spirit of God living on the inside of all of us. God has given all of us a Spirit of love, hope, peace and joy, that could be activated at any time. Those gifts, that if activated at the right time, in the right places, and in the right situations, could reveal the goodness in us, and the kindness towards others. If we have love, it covers a multitude of sins, if we have hope, we have something to look forward to, if we have peace, we will make the right decisions, because we will be of sound mind, and if we have joy, it would spread around the world like wild fire. What a wonderful world it could be if we operate in this manner post Covid-19.

Jewellyn Greer, Editor in Chief



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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING!

If we are to survive, we must be a people united, promoting love at every turn.

“And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand.” Matthew chapter twelve verse twenty-five.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, when I see how this Pandemic has brought desolation around the world, when I see the divisions among some factors, I am humble; because I see Bible prophecies being fulfilled. Some may be quick to point out, that when Jesus said these words, that he was speaking about someone who was demon possessed, dumb, deaf and blind. We must apply scripture readings to our own lives, not to change the narrative, but to liken them to our everyday lives and allow for change. We are a people who in these times act as though we are demon-possessed, deaf, dumb and blind.

I have seen and heard statements from persons who should know better, but act ignorant, and are able to influence others with their madness. Where do you stand on this side of the fence? Are you demon-possessed, dumb, deaf, or blind? Well, if you could be classed in any one of those categories, then you need healing, return to Jesus and be cleansed, because he is our great physician.

We know that this Pandemic was not of God, but I know that he is in the midst of it all. I firmly believe that God will use this situation to bring about much needed changes in our lives. Many who did not know God before this Pandemic, have come to know him in an intimate way and I say, ‘To God be the glory!’ I have seen numerous stories on the news, where people who were struck with COVID-19 -19 and survived, came out of the hospitals praising God; saying that they now believe. God is working his purpose out!

But, why should it have to be this way? Why is it so hard for us to heed the voice of God and love one another, to live peaceably with all men, to be our brother’s keeper, to be kind, one to another; unless there is a crisis? My brothers and sisters in Christ, “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand.”



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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.
Romans 8:37

We have just enjoyed two wonderful Seasons, Advent and Christmas. Despite what was going on all around us, one could feel the outpouring of love. And so, it should be always. We all have received help in one form or the other from friends and strangers alike, and we are grateful.

When we think of all those who have lost loved-ones because of the Covid-19 virus, when we think of those who did not get to say goodbye, the many who were not able to see their family members for months and then having them die alone; no matter, how hard-hearted we have been, we were touched.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, the year 2020 has been tough, but, we are more than conquerors, because we believe in a risen and ascended Lord, and we will overcome. We are confident, that, no matter what we have been through, that we were never alone. God has given us that assurance, that he will always be with us.

We are reminded in Romans chapter eight, "Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." Therefore, take comfort in this, be embolden, put your faith totally in God, cast all of your cares on him, knowing that he loves you and has good things in store for you; but, you cannot give up, you cannot lose heart, or you will lose everything.



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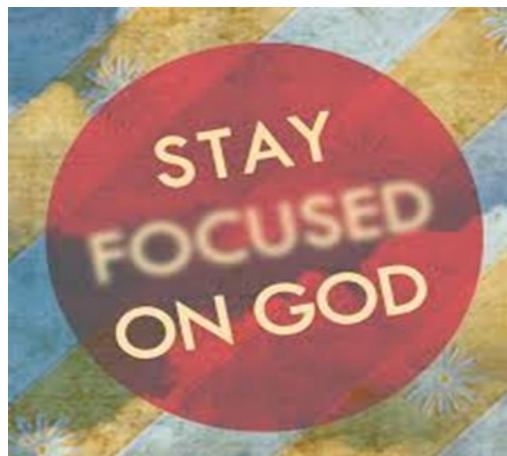
Where are you in your walk with God? Have you lost your focus because of the Pandemic?

Over the past year, I am sure that most of you like myself have been tested, have been pushed beyond your limits, and have no doubt matured as a result. We gain strength from the things we survive, and that is why we should not allow the temptations and trials we go through to break us, but mold us and encourage us to go higher.

With many of our churches closed due the Pandemic, sad to say, many may have grown closer to God, or farther away from God. And the reason is this; while the church is only a building, we are indeed the church, and while some of us could conduct our own meditations, many depend of the assembling of church for motivation. That is why Scripture reminds us, that, “We should not neglect meeting together, as some have made a habit, but let us encourage one another, and all the more, as you see the Day approaching.”

How would you describe your Christian life during the Pandemic? Have you been daily reading your Bible and praying? Do you have prayer partners you connect with? Do you attend services on line? What about those sick and shut-ins who cannot have visitors or get Holy Communion? Do you reach out to those who live alone to offer a word of encouragement or just for a chitchat? Have you offered your services to run errands for those who do not get around that easily? Do you continually pray for others?

As Christians, these are some of the things that we should be doing during the Pandemic, because if we do this to the least of them, we are doing it unto God. And, I don't know about you, but when I practice these habits, it brings me peace, no matter what I am going through personally. But some of us are so wrapped up in what we are going through, our focus is dimmed, we cannot see beyond our situations. But know that when you give your troubles to God, he frees you up to offer help to someone else.



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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.

God Moves In A Mysterious Way

Written by William Cowper (1773)

God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform,
He plants His footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm.

Deep in unsearchable mines, of never-failing skill,
He treasures up His bright design, and works His sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take, the clouds you so much dread,
Are big with mercy and shall break, in blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, but trust Him for His grace,
Behind a frowning providence, He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast, unfolding every hour,
The bud may have a bitter taste, but sweet will be the flower.

GOD IS ABLE! TRUST HIM!

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INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES FROM THE DESK OF JEWELLYN GREER

God will use our situations to bring about much needed changes in our lives.

We experience growth in our lives when we are challenged.

We should not allow the temptations and trials we go through to break us, but mold us.

God will do a little song and dance in your life to get you where he needs you to be.

We must apply Scripture readings to our everyday lives and allow for change.

If we have joy in our hearts, it would spread around the world like wild fire.

God has given us that assurance, that he will always be with us.

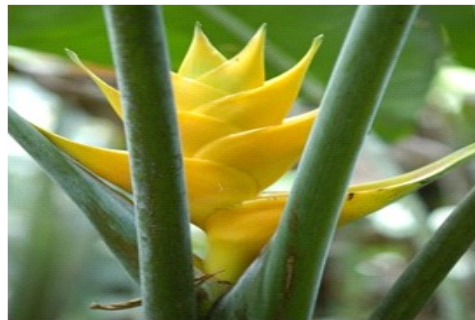
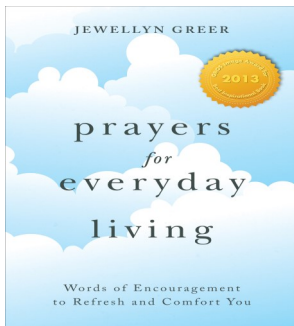
God has a way of moving us out of our comfort zones so that he could elevate us.

When we are too wrapped up in what we are going through, our focus is dimmed.

We gain strength from the things we survive.

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! If we get too comfortable where we are, we will cease to grow.

Have you ever felt like you have lost your drive? When we find ourselves repeating the same task and doing it well from memory, it should be a signal that we need a new challenge. Yet, some people become complacent. It may have taken them a while to master the task, and may no longer have the drive to attempt something else.

But know this, if we are not challenging ourselves or being challenged, we will not grow. The same goes for our Christian lives. I have said this before and it needs repeating, too many of us got saved and stayed saved.

We experience growth in our lives when we are challenged when our faith has been tested. Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord, so did Abraham, so did Jeremiah and so many others, because they were challenged and they arose to the task.

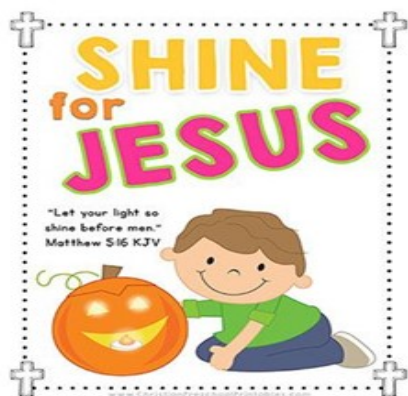
God has a way of moving us out of our comfort zones so that he could elevate us, but many of us will miss out on that blessing because we are afraid, or we do not have enough faith in God. Will you allow God to do a little song and dance in your life to get you where he needs you to be? It will be worth it; because when we get too comfortable where we are, we will cease to grow.

Children's Corner: We may be still be confined to our homes, but there is so much that we could do to encourage one another. We have to learn to shine wherever we are. Our children are watching us, therefore, we should lead by example.

We must learn to shine not only for others to see us, but for others to see the light of Christ through us.

Children closely watch what we do and say.

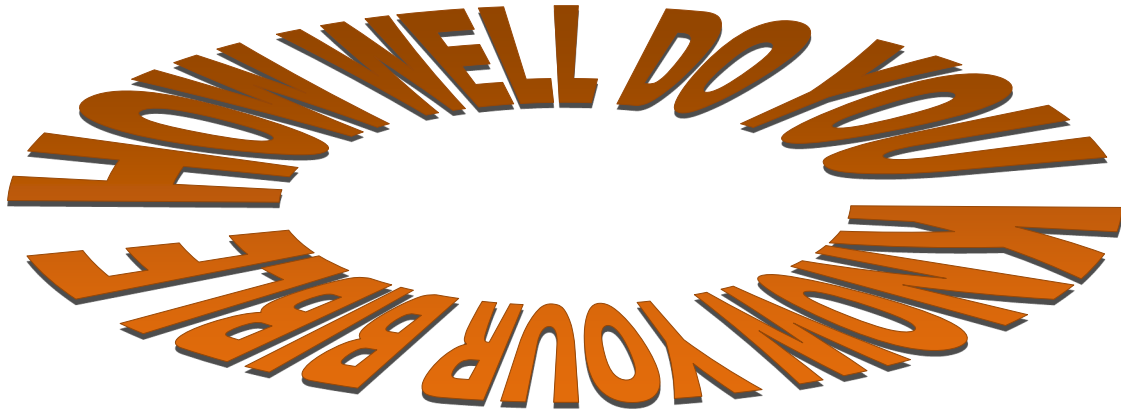
In the box below write in the many ways that you could shine for Jesus.



I can shine my light for Jesus by...

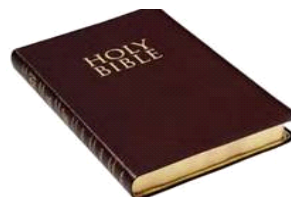
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Finish the sentences with the answers provided

INCOMPLETE SENTENCES/QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
Jesus bids us shine with a pure clear —	Pandemic
We will cease to grow if we become too —	Sins
Every City or house divided against itself will not —	Challenged
Have you lost your focus due to the —	Elevate Us
God will move us our of our comfort zones to —	Survive
God has given all of us a spirit of Hope, Joy, Peace, and —	Everything
We experience growth in our lives when we are —	Love
We gain strength from the things we —	Comfortable
You cannot lose heart or you will lose —	Light
If we have love it covers a multitude of —	Stand



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Songs have a way of lifting us up. This month we are featuring this children's hymn, especially for all those who are striving to shine for Jesus, by being a beacon for others, so that the light of Christ could shine through them.

Jesus Bids us Shine!

Susan Bogert Warner (1819-1885)

Jesus bids us shine, first of all for Him
Well He sees and knows it if our light grows 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 the world abound;
Sin and want and sorrow, so we must shine,
You in your small corner
And I in mine.

Jesus bids us shine as we work for Him,
Bringing those that wander
from the paths of sin;
He will ever help us if we shine,
You in your small corner,
And I in mine.

WE MUST LEARN TO SHINE WHERE WE ARE.

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