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Prayer is Powerful, Exciting

By Carol Dee Meeks

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I'm finding late in life that prayer is a journey. We have to learn to pray, because prayer is essential for a daily work with Jesus. In Mark 11:23, it states that we "shall not doubt in our heart that what we are praying for will come to pass, and we shall receive it." The key is to believe we will receive that which we ask for, if we keep our eyes on Him. So, our attitude targets the goal. The goal is met in His timing and in His way. This matures our faith.

I recently attended a workshop on prayer. The speaker looked like the son of Billy Graham, and he showcased vim and vigor for our Lord as Mr. Graham does. He made a statement that startled me.

He said, "we should pray our children and grandchildren to heaven."

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I'm sure I sat straighter in my chair. I had not heard an expression like that.

Then, he added, "we should be as passionate to pray for the souls of our children and grandchildren as we are to pay our monthly mortgage."

"Wow," that made sense to me, and since the room was filled with Senior Citizens, there were lots of heads nodding in agreement.

I left the workshop with a fresh, renewed excitement. The speaker suggested that we keep a journal. When we are met with a petition, we should write the prayer request in the journal and date it. He also told us to pick a time of day, a certain place to meditate and pray, and start our time with Him with a sincere and genuine heart. This brought to my mind Psalms 51:10–11. It asks God "to cleanse our hearts, and release a new attitude (there's that word again) within us. To not take away the Holy Spirit from us nor take His presence away from us." When we feel that our petitions have been answered, then date the journal as such. Compare how long some prayers take and how short some prayers take to be answered.

In this new prayer life, I've learned that God does always
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answer. He may not answer the way we have prayed or as soon as

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we want, but He always answers. Sometimes, this process of waiting and God showing His sovereignty, brings us blessings.

Blessings, because we are the one that can be changed. The situation we are praying for may not change, but we do, and that is the blessing. For to be drawn closer to our Savior, and to grow into His image, (which a powerful prayer life can do) is His heart's desire.

In a study by Beth Moore, I've also learned that He wants us to ask Him for blessings to be bestowed upon us. If we do not ask Him, we do not receive. "Jesus desires us to be happy and full of joy," Beth harps on this over and over.

What a joy to have completed this study for it came on the rim of the workshop I attended. In John 14:12–16, it offers additional insight into the success of our prayer life. This verse tells us we are to pray believing we will receive so that God will be glorified. And then when we receive what we have been praying for, we are to give Jesus all the glory. We are not to brag and exalt ourselves. I believe this is the real lesson on prayer. We give Jesus all the glory, and we thank Him, on our knees, that He is a God that we are allowed to serve and trust. We praise His name because He takes care of those who trust in Him, and those who bow their heads and pray to Him.

I am a native New Mexican recently retired, but my writing days are young. I have three honorable

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mentions at Bylines Magazine for two short stories and a poem. I also was awarded a SPECIAL HONORABLE MENTION for a poem from the same magazine. I feel like the honorable mention kid since I own one at Hodgepodge as well. Retirement allows me time to hone my craft of which I so love to do and spend time with my family.

Continue in Prayer

By Angelique Watkins

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Something that I wanted to share on Prayer that I once read especially after reading this "God's Heart is aching."

Prayer lifts heavy loads from our hearts. Prayer gives us courage to go on when the way looks dark. Prayer opens doors and melts hard hearts. Prayer changes lives and wins souls. Prayer brings response from God.

Prayer is not a duty to be performed; it is a privilege to be used and enjoyed. It is the talking over of life's problems with one who has power to solve those problems.

Prayer is an obedience of confidence in God. Prayer is an expression of our conscious need of God. Prayer is an act of obedience. Satan will keep us from praying if he can.

Psalms 34:10 "They that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing."

James 4:3 "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may spend it in your pleasures."

Jesus went aside to pray. If HE felt a need for talking to God, how much more do we need that strengthening fellowship!

Matthew 7:7, 8 "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you; For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

Independent Home Based Researcher, Writer and Life Enrichment Advocate. Israel, Messianic, News From PacRim and Arab Ministries Fellowship.

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