

*Answers
To Prayer
For Our Family*

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Contents

Introduction.....	3
My Parents' Prayers.....	5
Prayers for Lost Things.....	11
Prayers for Things.....	13
Prayers for Guidance.....	15
Children's Prayers.....	20
Prayers for Healing.....	24
Prayers for a Baby.....	30
Prayers for Sleep.....	32
Prayers for Boldness.....	34
Prayers for Power to Witness.....	35
Prayer to Stop the Rain.....	38
Prayer to Fix the Car.....	39
Prayers for the Marriage.....	41
Vicki's Prayers.....	42
Guidance by Casting Lots.....	46
When I Did Not Get What I Wanted.....	51
Bible Verse Prayers.....	52
The Prayer of Jabez.....	63
Oil Multiplied.....	66
When I Have Failed to Pray.....	68
When Others Have Been Encouraged.....	70
Why don't we get more blessings?	74
What do I pray for most?	76
Praying for Others.....	78
The Biggest Answer to Prayer	79

INTRODUCTION

When I have heard others tell of answers to their prayers, it has encouraged my faith. So let me tell how God has answered our prayers.

Four times the Spirit of God says in Psalm 107, when God had answered the prayers of those in trouble, “Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!” (Ps. 107:8,15,21,31). So let me praise Him for what He has done for us in answer to prayer!

When Paul and Barnabas returned from their missionary journey, “They rehearsed all that God did with them” (Acts 14:27). Let me rehearse some things God has done for us in answer to prayer.

When Paul returned from his second missionary journey, “He declared particularly what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry” (Acts 21:19). So let me declare particularly what God has done in answer to prayer in our ministry.

Jesus said, “Go... and tell... how great things the Lord hath done for thee...” (Mark 5:19). So I’ll tell what great things the Lord has done for us in answer to prayer.

My Parents' Prayers

One of the ways I learned that God answers prayers is from my parents. They prayed, and God answered. One prayer very important to me was on the day I was born. Mom was having a hard time. Dad was in the next room and heard the doctor counting to four. Was Mom having quadruplets? Actually, the umbilical cord was wound around my neck four times. That is dangerous and can be fatal.

Dad prayed, but he had doubts: “What right do I have to pray that this little child will live?” Then he began to reason with God. (Moses reasoned with God in praying and got what he asked for.) “Please, let this child live so he can preach and bring thousands into the kingdom of God!”

The baby lived. (Maybe you figured that out already! ☺) In 38 years of preaching, I have seen many thousands make a public profession of repentance and faith in Christ. You see, I had an advantage: the prayers of my father, extra fervent prayers, because it was an emergency!

I can give others an advantage, too, by praying for them!

My parents bought an old 1934 Plymouth for \$90 and sold it years later for \$95! As our family grew we needed a larger and more dependable car. I saw an old letter that Dad wrote then, that said we had a total of ten cents! But they prayed. God provided a nearly new panel truck (it looked like a modern PT Cruiser, but larger) through a man we had not heard from for a long time.

Even before God answered that prayer, He kept the old car going in answer to prayer. One day the wheels seemed to be out of alignment and squealed as Dad drove. He took it to a mechanic. The mechanic said the part needed could not come for days, because of World War II. Besides, he said Dad should just junk that old car! But Dad had to have the car for his preaching.

He drove the noisy car out of the garage and prayed. Then about a mile or two down the road he hit a bad bump. The squealing

stopped. What the mechanic could not do, God did in answer to prayer. That car served us for years after that.

Dad and Mom were independent missionaries preaching the Gospel in many public school assemblies (mostly black) from the 1940's to the 1970's. They believed, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things [food and clothes] shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33). When they had financial needs, they prayed. Dad told me that on several occasions he prayed for \$1000 to come on the day he prayed for it! That was a lot of money back then, especially for us! The money did come *on the day he prayed for it!* Once it was \$5000 he prayed for and got!

As a young man, Dad was a pastor near Rochester, New Hampshire. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Beverly and their son were in the church but left the area for mission work in Arizona. Mrs. Beverly wrote back and asked for prayer for their son, Paul, whom they called Buddy. He was away from the Lord and had two

serious illnesses. The doctors did not know if he would live or die.

Dad prayed, and on that occasion I think he fasted. He wrote back that he believed God would not only heal Buddy, but that Buddy would also get right with the Lord and grow up to be a foreign missionary. Dad showed the letter to a fellow pastor. The pastor told him he should not send the letter, “What if God does not heal the boy? What will that do to the mother’s faith?”

Dad did send the letter, and God did heal Buddy. Buddy got right with the Lord and served many years as a missionary in East Africa. He recently told my sisters what a great influence my dad was on him.

My grandfather was heavy and had several heart attacks. My mother told me he was declared dead by the doctor four times. My dad (his son) prayed, not only that he would live, but that he would live fifteen more years. That is how much longer my grandfather did live.

I think I know why Dad prayed for *fifteen* years. The prophet Isaiah told good King Hezekiah to get his affairs in order because he was about to die. Hezekiah began to cry and pray. God told Isaiah to go back and tell the king, “I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; I will add fifteen years to your life.” So God added fifteen years to the life of King Hezekiah and fifteen years to my grandfather, both in answer to prayer.

Dad prayed for the salvation of two of his brothers for about 50 years. Both had been raised in a Christian home but had lived a sinful life. His older brother finally came to the Lord a few years before he died. The younger came to the Lord a few months before he died of cancer.

It is important that our children see the works of God. Twice the Lord tells us that the Israelites served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, *who had seen all the great works of the Lord, that He did for Israel*” (Judges 2:7; see also Joshua 24:31.) Then a new generation arose who did not know the

works of the Lord; they turned away from following God.

It has been easier for me to believe God and follow Him, because I heard and saw the works of God in answer to prayer. My children have also heard and seen a good many of the works of God in answer to prayer.

Prayers for Lost Things

Often when I've lost something and looked everywhere I could think of, I'd remember, "You didn't even pray!" (That's what Dad taught us to do.) After I prayed I'd find it in a matter of seconds.

Just a few minutes ago my wife, Vicki, came home from shopping and excitedly told me how she had been looking for buttons for two sewing projects. At a fabric shop there is a huge fish tank with many thousands of assorted buttons that are about one fifteenth the regular price (if you can find what you want!) She had looked before (with several helpers) and found seven of the eight buttons she wanted. She had also been to three other stores! She was frustrated.

Today she went back to the fish tank. In quiet desperation she said, "Lord, if You will please help me find them quickly, I'll really feel loved!" Boom, there were both buttons!

Sometimes the lost thing is *ourselves!* We spend a lot of time hunting for the locations where I am to speak. We sometimes pray/sing “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah,” and the Lord has guided us right to the door where we needed to be. Vicki often sings this prayer as she’s doing errands.

Recently we went to visit friends, knowing the community they were in, but not the street or many other details. As we drove around, singing/praying we noticed a house with beads hanging in the doorway. Vicki remembered that the wife had said she wanted beads like that to keep the flies out, so we stopped to see if it was the right house! It was! We feel so delighted when the Lord helps us in these “little” things.

Prayers for Things

In 1988 I asked God for a car. Until then, I had just used my dad's cars since I worked in the family evangelistic ministry. Now I needed a car, as God was leading me into an independent evangelistic ministry on the road. I had almost no money; I did not get a salary. I did not need a salary before; I had food, clothes, and a place to stay. Now I needed a car. In February I prayed for a car. That spring God gave me one.

A man who had two cars said I could have either one I wanted. I chose one and drove it until it wore out. Then God gave me a nicer, larger, newer one. I drove it until it wore out. Now, the last several cars we've owned, we've bought just like anyone else, but I couldn't buy one at first: I had no money. That's all right. I had something better than money! I had a heavenly Father who likes to give good things to His children. "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him?" (Matt. 7:11).

I said that now we buy cars like anyone else. Well, not completely, most people buy on credit; God has supplied us the money when we have needed it, so that we pay in cash.

Actually, we have not prayed for *things* very often; God usually has provided them without our asking. The promise is that if we seek first His kingdom and righteousness all these things will be added to us.

Prayers for Guidance

One day I took my car to have it serviced, and the mechanic said I needed two jobs done costing several hundred dollars. As usual, I was far from home, so I didn't know the mechanic or whether he might be trying to cheat me. I asked God to guide me. I'm not a mechanic, but "the Lord preserves the simple," and He promised if I'd trust Him with all my heart and not lean on my own understanding (I didn't have much to lean on!) that He would direct my path (Prov. 3:5,6). I was busy that day so I took the car to another mechanic later. I told the mechanic to do both jobs. He agreed and told me to come back that evening. That evening he told me he did not do either job because neither job was necessary. God guided me! He preserved the simple and saved me hundreds of dollars.

Now, how do I know he was right, since I'm not a mechanic? (Actually, he could have done both jobs and charged me, and I would not have known the difference. In fact, he could have done *nothing* and still charged me, and I still would not have known the

difference!) Even though I'm not a mechanic, I know now that neither of those things needed to be fixed, because I drove that car about two hundred thousand more miles and did not have a problem with either thing!

Several years ago our friend, Cecilia, from Peru, got a scholarship to Bob Jones University. We met her at the airport when she flew to the USA, and she traveled with us for a few weeks and practiced her English before she started at the university.

At Christmas we picked her up so she could stay with us. I asked God to guide our conversation as we rode home. Almost immediately the subject of homesickness came up. She was far away from her family, in a strange country, and struggling at the university! I shared something that had helped me. When I started traveling fulltime, I saw a little plaque in a pastor's house that said, "Home is where God leads me." When we arrived at the house, Cecilia picked up a book at random and read, "Home is where God leads me."

A few days later someone was teasing her about being homesick. Cecilia said, "Home is where God leads me." God had guided that conversation in answer to prayer, and God had guided her to the exact place in all those books to the thing she needed.

When my wife, Vicki, was still a teenager, she realized the boy she was going out with was not really helping her, but she did not want to hurt his feelings by breaking up with him, so she asked God to take care of it. Almost immediately, the guy started avoiding Vicki. It broke her heart... until she remembered, "Oh, that's right, I asked God to take care of this!" What she did not feel up to doing, God did for her, in answer to prayer. Besides, God was saving that girl for me!

About the same time, I liked a young lady that I was hoping to marry. But I had some doubts. I asked God to guide me. There's a wonderful prayer for guidance in Psalm 27:11 we can pray: "Lead me in a plain path." If we need clear guidance in anything, it's marriage; marriage is for keeps! God hates divorce (Mal. 2:16). "Whosoever shall put away his wife,

and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery” (Mark 10:11,12).

So I needed plain guidance. God gave specific guidance for Isaac to get the right wife. I asked God to let me know if this young lady was the one for me *by what my dad said about it*, but I did not tell my dad I had prayed that prayer, and I did not ask him any questions about it. He liked her and had spoken favorably of her in the past. But about an hour or two after I had prayed that prayer, Dad definitely said something unfavorable about her. I was disappointed, but I knew God had answered my prayer.

If I had just followed God’s leading, I could have saved us both a lot of pain! A few weeks later, I conveniently forgot God’s guidance (I liked her so much.) We started going together. God guided again, this time more plainly and more painfully!

Many times before I preach I ask God to guide me to exactly the right message. Since I’m an evangelist, I continually preach to

different groups that I don't know well. That means I don't know their particular needs. Many times God clearly shows me what to preach on, though I may not prefer to preach about it. Sometimes someone will say to me, "That's just what we needed!" or "How did you know to preach about that?"

My nephew James and his wife Gloria live with us and help us a lot in the work here. Jonathan Clayton invited them to a church where he was presenting his prison ministry. But James did not have the directions or even the address. He started off into Cape Town (with over two and a half million people and many hundreds of churches) praying he would find the church and not even having the phone number! James drove almost directly to the church! Jonathan Clayton realized James did not have the directions yet and was shocked to see James and Gloria already at church when he arrived!

Recently James prayed he could learn Afrikaans, and either that day or the next a lady who works for Hope Prison Ministry walked up and offered to teach him!

Children's Prayers

One of James' favorite answers to prayer was when he was about fourteen. He prayed continually for a remote controlled car. Good ones were far too expensive. One day at a yard sale he saw a really nice one. It was only five dollars, but he only had two dollars and some change. They let him get it for what he had, and he felt loved by the Lord!

When our daughter, Evangel, was three her grandmother gave her a little backpack that looked like Snoopy. She loved it! Shortly after, we went to Kenya, and she impulsively gave it to her friend, Daniel, also a missionary kid. (She had just learned about tithing and wanted to give something to God.) Then she wanted it back. Daniel's mother offered to give it back, but I said, "No, she needs to learn to live with her choices." Evangel cried.

My wife Vicki reminded Evangel of God's promise, "Give and it shall be given you" and suggested that Evangel pray that

God would give her another backpack. But in Mulango, Kenya, you cannot just go to the store and buy a backpack!

About a month later when we were flying to South Africa, a flight attendant gave Evangel a nice, colorful backpack filled with interesting things for a child! I told her, “You gave God an empty backpack, and He gave you a full one!” A month later, we were flying to the USA and another flight attendant gave Evangel another backpack! I said, “You gave God an empty backpack, and God gave you TWO full ones. “Give, and it shall be given you, good measure...” (Luke 6:38). God answered the little child’s prayer for a backpack.

When Evangel was about four we were driving from Wisconsin to Ohio, about a nine hour trip. I thought a break in the middle would be good, especially for Evangel and Timothy, so we planned to stop at the big, free zoo in Chicago. But when we got there, the parking lot was full. I thought, “We’ll just park along the street.” But we could not find a parking place. We drove and drove.

Evangel said, “I’m praying we’ll find a parking place.” By this time we were too far away from the zoo, anyway, but I was embarrassed to stop looking now, since she said she was praying. We circled around heading back. We couldn’t find a parking place. But really we needed several parking places in a row, because we were traveling (and living) in a motor home and towing a car behind it. Finally, just as we got back to the zoo, they were reopening the parking lot because some cars had left. If we had returned a little sooner, it would have still been closed. If we had come just a little later, it may have been full again. God gave Evangel what she asked. “Ask, and receive, that your joy may be full” (John 16:24).

We were driving through heavy rain to our motor home parked at Watermelon Creek Baptist Church in Georgia. Evangel said she was praying the rain would stop so we would not all get wet. Sure enough, the rain stopped, and we all got indoors dry. Then it started to rain “cats and dogs” again!

One night when Evangel was four, she came to our bedroom crying because her legs were hurting, and she could not sleep. I asked her if there was any sin she needed to confess. “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me” (Psalm 66:18). She confessed two sins, disobeying her mom and doing something naughty with another child a few weeks before. We prayed. In a few minutes her little legs were fine, and she was able to go to sleep.

Our three year old prays that he will not have bad dreams and that he will not wet his bed! 😊 Practical.

Prayers for Healing

As far as I know, I do not have the gift of healing. Normally, it is right to use a doctor if you're sick. I know it is, because Jesus said, "They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick" (Mark 2:17). So sick people need a physician. But I also know that Jesus healed lots of people when He was here without doctors or medicine, and He hasn't changed a bit. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever" (Heb. 13:8). He had compassion then; He has compassion now.

A deaf boy named James Moore used to come to our church. He dropped out in his teens. One day I got a call to visit him in the hospital. A chicken bone was stuck in his throat, and the doctors had not been able to get it out.

When I arrived I could see from the verses he was marking in the Gideon Bible,

there that he was convicted about his sinful life. I asked him (writing notes) if he wanted to turn from his sin and ask forgiveness. He said he did. Then I prayed (with only a little faith) for God to heal his throat. I left. Later, I was told he got all excited and was pointing out the window. They found a nurse who knew sign language. (His grandmother, who took care of him, did not know sign language nor could she read or write!) The nurse said James said he saw Jesus! No one else saw Jesus, but they could not deny that Jesus healed his throat!

A lady in our church, Alice Cully, asked me to pray for a friend she worked with. Her friend, Mr. Martin, was diagnosed with leukemia. My sister Grace and I went to see him. He was very feeble and looked near death, though he was only in his 40's, I think. I told him how he could be saved. He asked the Lord to save him. I was about to leave when I remembered I had not prayed for him.

I prayed something like this, "Lord, I don't know if it's Your will to heal this man or not. I know You could, and I wish You would!"

Grace and I left. About two and a half weeks later I returned. Immediately, I could see a change in Mr. Martin. He was more energetic and had already gained weight. He went back to work on a strenuous job. Before, he had been so feeble he would take a few steps and have to stop, get his breath, and recuperate!

God does not always wait until we have perfect faith before He answers our prayers! God likes to do good things for His children. He delights in mercy (Micah 7:18)! God answered the prayer of Zacharias for a son, though his faith was not perfect. When the angel announced to him that God had heard his prayer to give him a son, Zacharias did not even believe it, so God struck him dumb. But he got his request. Their son, John the Baptist, was the greatest man who ever lived until Christ! So Zacharias did not have perfect faith—he was struck dumb for his unbelief—but he had prayed long before, and he got what he asked for!

If I'd have had my way, God would have healed my mother. He did not. She died of

colon cancer. But for a Christian, death is not entirely bad! Imagine, you've been sick for months. Life is miserable. You are in pain night and day! You cannot sleep much. You cannot get relief. You feel like you're a burden to everyone! Then, suddenly, you're out of pain. You feel great! You're welcomed by everyone into a beautiful city! You are filled with excitement to see old friends again. You are safe in Heaven! Now, is that good or bad?

I read that Evangelist John R. Rice (he was a big help to me) was kidnapped by the liquor crowd once when he was preaching against drinking liquor, making it, and selling it. They drove him out into the country, stuck a gun into his stomach, and threatened to shoot him if he did not stop preaching against liquor!

He said, "You can't scare me with heaven!"

For a Christian, dying is not altogether bad! But I don't like the pain! Mother asked me to pray that God would take the pain away. I had a little faith since I had been reading in the Gospels about how Jesus was moved with

compassion and healed people. So I prayed. Mom told me later that after I left, the pain also left.

But it returned. So she asked me to pray again. I did. It left. But it came back. So I prayed again. Several times she asked Dad or me to pray that the pain would leave. It did. But it would return.

Finally, she asked me to pray that the pain would leave and not come back. I did not have a lot of confidence, but Mom said pray, so I prayed. She said the pain never did come back in the six or seven weeks she lived. I know she is free of pain now!

One night I could not sleep because of a toothache. We were on the road as usual, so it would be a long time before I could be back home to get to our dentist. I asked God to please help! Immediately, the pain stopped! I never did need dental work on that problem.

Recently, when I was preaching in India, after almost every service, many people would

come up and ask for prayer. (I never announced it or asked them to come for prayer, but they would come.) Later, some came up, and the translator told me that they were not asking for prayer, but were telling how they were now healed! One lady's arm was healed, another could see in her right eye now, another's back was healed, also her digestion was better! Another old couple followed us (walking) about a mile to our next service to tell how God had just healed one of them in the first service!

I certainly did not plan to have healing services, but I did pray when people asked, and God was merciful. He gives good things to those who ask Him (Matt. 7:11).

Prayers for a Baby

My sister Joy and I went to see a lady who wanted to have a baby. She was about thirty, and she seemed to be saved. I reminded her that God gave a baby in answer to prayer to Isaac and Rebecca, also to Elizabeth and Zacharias, and to Hannah and Elkanah. We prayed she'd have a baby. About a year later we saw a big pink ribbon on her door! "It's a girl!"

Years ago I told this story when I started preaching on answers to prayer. I was aware that Vicki and I wanted a baby and had been disappointed month after month after month! But I knew God had done it for others, and so I continued to tell the story. That very month, January, 1995, God gave Vicki conception. That October, Evangel ("Good News") was born!

My nephew James and I stayed with Eunice and Bradley Joemat, a Christian couple in Knysna, South Africa. They asked prayer for a child. We prayed they'd have one. A few months later we heard she was pregnant. James reminded me I had prayed for them. I had forgotten.

Prayers for Sleep

Many times I have been awake at night and have been frustrated because I knew I needed sleep, so I have prayed, and God has given me sleep. “It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so He giveth His beloved sleep” (Psalm 127:2).

Often I pray that I will go to sleep if I should and wake up when I should.

One day my sister told me that a certain man who was very angry at me was coming to see me later that afternoon. My stomach was tied in a knot! I remembered the Bible promised something about peace that passes understanding, so I looked up the verses.

Be careful [anxious] for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:6,7).

So I decided I would try not to worry: “Be careful for nothing.” Then I made a few requests about the situation: “Let your requests be made known.” Then I thanked the Lord for a few things: “with thanksgiving.” Then I went back to work.

In a few minutes I realized I was calm! I was tired so I went to bed and took a nap. Now God has helped me sleep many times, but that seemed like a very unlikely time!

As it turned out, there was a bad scene when the man came. But God had given me peace, even though I did not know how things would turn out, “peace that passeth all understanding.” My peace did not come from knowing how things would turn out.

Less than an hour ago our nine year old daughter, Evangel, asked me to pray she’d go to sleep. She had some fears (after seeing a video about a war.) Also I sent her to bed earlier than usual because she has a little cough. A few minutes later my wife, Vicki, told me Evangel was already asleep!

Prayer for Boldness

As a teenager I knew I should tell others the good news of salvation, and I wanted to do so, but over and over again I was overcome by fear. It's not that I was afraid to talk to people; I was the president of the high school Debating Club. But when it came to talking about Jesus and salvation, I was a first class chicken.

I found a prayer in Acts 4:29 and prayed it: "And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto Thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak Thy word." God answered that prayer gradually with me.

Prayers for Power to Witness

If you're going to obey the Great Commission and preach the good news, a good way to start is with children. They won't bite your head off! We had a Bible club of 20 or 30 kids. I was continually praying that more would come, and within a few months the clubs multiplied to three with a total of about 300 children a week. But as the clubs grew I found I did not have what it takes to keep order and get the message across. The Bible says that if there are fights and contentions in the meetings, "ye come together, not for the better, but for the worse" (1 Cor. 11:17).

As the Bible club grew from 20 or 30 to 40 or 50, they were too disorderly. I needed the power to keep order and hold their attention well enough to get the message across. Jesus said, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me..." (Acts 1:8). I asked God to fill me with His

Spirit. Jesus said, “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?” (Luke 11:13). The Lord helped and gave me what I needed.

But the Bible clubs kept growing (as I was praying they would.) As we would have 70 or 80 crammed into one room of a small house, again I found I did not have what it took to keep order and get the message across. What was good enough for 50 was not enough for 80! So I asked God to fill me with His Spirit again. Jesus said, “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?” (Luke 11:13). Again the Lord answered and gave me the help I needed. I was “anointed with fresh oil” (Psalm 92:10).

Then we had over 100 in our home at once! So we got permission to use the public school in the afternoons. But with 120 children, many of them wild kids off the street, I did not have what it took to keep order and hold their attention well enough to teach them properly! The only adults in charge

were 5 or 6 from our family. But Jesus said, “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?” (Luke 11:13). God gave me the gift and the power I needed, again!

I have seen children’s workers with microphones trying to shout down the bedlam in the children’s meeting! What they need is not more volume; they need the power of the Holy Spirit!

Prayer to Stop the Rain

Sometimes we would take the Bible clubbers on horse rides. It was a special treat for them! Once it began to rain just when they were hoping to ride. They were disappointed! I was, too. I was able to talk to a lot of the kids individually as I led the horse around the pasture. Some of the young people made a profession of faith during these rides. So I asked God to stop the rain. He did. He did not stop the rain for as long as He did for Elijah, but I was not going to give rides for three and a half years anyway!

Prayer to Fix the Car

Just last week we were driving from Durban to Cape Town, South Africa. The car started to lose power a little. Finally, it could not even *move* up the hill at all. I prayed we would get it fixed well, inexpensively, and in good time. We were able to turn it around, and we drove/coasted it back down to the city in the valley. Several mechanics would not even touch it since it is a French made Renault. My sister Grace called me from America while we were stranded, and I told her the situation. She got others to pray.

A man walked up to where we were parked at the service station and tried to help. I noticed he was racing the engine. It would not even do that before. I decided to try it out. It worked! We got to Port Elizabeth that night on schedule and to Cape Town the next day, about 1000 kilometers, altogether, doing the speed limit of 120 km/h (74 mph) quite easily! I still don't know what happened. God answered prayer and got it "fixed well,

inexpensively, and on good time.” The family also got a nice break, a little walk, and a relaxing meal during the two or three hour delay!

Prayers for the Marriage

Dad had only one bit of advice when Vicki and I got engaged: “Cover everything in prayer. Don’t take things for granted.” I’ve tried to obey Dad’s instruction, and God has given us a very happy time together as we have been serving Him together in various countries and raising our four children.

Vicki's Prayers

Before we moved to Africa, we were continually on the road in the USA. We had to do a lot of telephoning to schedule me to preach an average of over 12 times a week! One day Vicki prayed that people would *call us* instead. People did start to call us for appointments! What a relief! As well as saving us a lot of time and money!

Once when I was preaching in Tiftonia, TN, Vicki prayed that she could lead someone to the Lord herself. She had been so busy helping me in lots of ways that it had been a while since she had personally led anyone to the Lord. That night when I gave the invitation, many responded, especially among the young people. She led several to a profession of faith in Jesus. She was excited.

When Vicki found she was pregnant with our first child, she looked at our calendar and found we were to be in Arizona or New Mexico when the baby was due. We had never been there. The baby was due on

October 20, but that was right before we were scheduled to start the 1800 mile trip back east. Vicki wanted a little more time to recuperate before that trip so she prayed the baby would come on October 9 (11 days before the due date). Also I was not scheduled to preach anywhere on the ninth. She told only one other person, Carol Lewis.

When October 9 came, I suggested we go see the Grand Canyon, since I had the day off from preaching. She said ok. As we drove, Vicki started having contractions! I asked if she wanted to go back. She said no. As we toured the Grand Canyon the contractions got worse, so we hurried to a midwife a few hours away whom we'd heard about. The baby came about two and a half hours after we arrived. (Then I found out Vicki had prayed the baby would come on that day!)

When our second child, Timothy, was born, the midwife that Vicki called immediately began to hassle her over the phone. As usual, we were on a preaching trip. Vicki had lined up two midwives ahead of time for the two areas we might in be depending on when the baby came. But

Timmy came even earlier, while we were in New York State, which is less tolerant of home births. (Home births in America are said to be statistically safer than hospital births).¹ I quickly asked God if we should use the services of this midwife. I immediately got an answer, “No.” Vicki politely hung up the phone.

Now it was just the Lord and Vicki and me! I really prayed that God would help Vicki, and the baby, and me, as I had to deliver the child! (I had helped the midwife with the delivery of our first child, and I had studied some books about home delivery in case of an emergency. But we had planned to have a midwife.)

We fixed up the bed with padding and plastic sheets that we had ready, and Vicki went to bed. The baby came in about 20 minutes!

After I cut the cord and bathed him, I went into another room, got down with my

¹ Robert S. Mendelsohn, M.D., *How to Raise a Healthy Child... in Spite of Your Doctor*, Ballantine Books, NY, 1984, p. 39.

face on the floor, and thanked God for keeping my sweet wife and the little one safe. He gave such a smooth, quick delivery! After a while it occurred to me that God had also saved us a lot of money, maybe thousands of dollars!

Vicki was also praying that our two year old, Evangel, would sleep through the delivery. A curious two year old could be a problem! Usually she slept an hour or so. This time she slept three hours! By the time she awoke, mommy and the baby were presentable.

Vicki said that throughout the delivery, when fear would well up because we were alone, she would remember that God knew and that He had showed clearly that He did not want the midwife there. Peace would come over her.

The people at the church where I was preaching, Faith Bible Baptist Church of Eden, NY, were happy and excited that the baby was born in their guesthouse. A pediatrician from the church checked Timmy and said he was perfect!

Guidance by Casting Lots

Many, many times I have gotten clear guidance through lots, sometimes for BIG decisions, many rather important decisions, and many minor decisions.

Of course, the Bible is the main way we find the will of God. His commands tell us what to do. And it is from the Bible that we know other ways God has guided His people: by His Spirit, by circumstances, by wise counsel, by dreams and visions, by angels, by fleeces, and by lots. The apostles in Acts 1:24 asked God to show them who should take the place of Judas. They had two men who seemed to qualify, but they realized only God knew the hearts of the two men, so they cast lots and trusted God to guide the outcome, because “the lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord” (Prov. 16:33).

When Joshua cast lots to determine the inheritance of the tribes of Israel, it was not just an ancient custom of choosing, but it was *God* who was determining where everyone should live, according to Acts 13:19.

Even the pagan sailors in the book of Jonah were guided by lots. They correctly suspected that the dangerous storm was the result of someone's sin. They cast lots to find the person. The lot fell on Jonah (Jonah 1:7). It was indeed his sin, and when they got rid of him, the storm stopped.

So we can be sure that God guides through lots: "The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord (Prov. 16:33).

Of course lots can be abused (as many good things can be). Here are several principles or rules I follow:

1. I pray for God to guide me, as the apostles did in Acts 1.

2. *I do not use lots if God has already shown His will* (such as through the Bible or through an authority, such as a parent, or through a previous lot). You don't cast lots to see if it would be all right to commit adultery this time! God has already said.

3. I give God space not to answer if He does not choose to. I usually use three coins. I ask that if the answer is “yes” then let there be three heads. If the answer is “no” then let there be three tails. Any other combination of heads and tails would be “no answer.” Using three coins, the probability of all three coins landing on heads would be one in eight. The probability of three tails would also be one in eight. The probability of any other combination would be 6 chances out of 8. If you use two coins, the probability of both coins being heads is 1 in 4. Using 4 coins the chances of all being heads or tails are 1 in 16.

If I used only one coin I would be forcing an answer, for example, “Heads I marry Susan; tails I marry Ann.” Maybe God does not want me to marry either of those, or even marry.

4. If God answers by lot, then I do what He has said. I no longer have the liberty to choose. God has chosen. I don’t say, “Wait, let’s try that again.” Balaam almost got himself killed when he asked for guidance after God had already spoken (Numbers 22:12-33).

When we ask God to guide us (with the understanding that we will obey) we are surrendering ourselves to God. A number of times I have asked God to guide me using lots, and later seen that He did.

Here's an example: In June, 2000, God led us to plan to move to South Africa. A short time later, I asked God when we should move. (We had commitments to preach in the United States for about one more year.) The answer I got was to move in October of 2001. As it turned out, that was the best time possible, financially, before or since for us to come. A few months before that, and a few months after that, until now, one dollar buys six or seven South African Rand (the currency here.) But that December one dollar bought up to fourteen rand! So it was in November and December of 2001 that we were buying our car and house and furnishings. We were, in effect, getting these major purchases at about one half price, since we came when God guided us to!

Of course, when God showed us when to move, back in mid 2000, I had no idea that the dollar would temporarily go up so high or that

it would come back down again. God blessed us by guiding us through lots.

There are several reasons (which I'll not list) why I'm glad God led us to minister here in South Africa. I could not foresee most of them.

When we were shopping for a house, I liked the third house we looked at and prayed and got guidance (by lots) to buy it. I have been very happy with the house, the price, and the location ever since!

On the other hand, I have had troubles recently about two things, and then realized I had inadvertently failed to follow the guidance I had gotten through lots! No wonder I've been having trouble!

When I Did Not Get What I Wanted

Jesus said we have a Father in heaven who gives good things to those who ask Him. But we do not always know what is good! A child may want five pounds of chocolate, but it would not be good for him. It looks good, though!

Many years ago I loved a certain young lady. She looked good! She came from a wonderful Christian family. God would not give her to me. Then there was another young lady. God could have let me have her. He would not. Then there was another. Ditto.

I'm glad now He did not give me any of them. I'm glad He made me wait for Vicki! She's better than any of them! God clearly guided me to Vicki, and I have never regretted marrying her. Sometimes we don't know what is really good. "For we know not what we should pray for as we ought" (Rom. 8:26). But when we pray Bible prayers, inspired prayers, we know our prayers are good; they are in the will of God.

Bible Verse Prayers

“O satisfy us early with Thy mercy, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.” (Psalm 90:14) It was a happy day when I discovered I could pray *in the will of God* to be satisfied and happy every day! I know this prayer is the will of God because *He wrote the prayer!* And since we are not coming on the basis of our righteousness but on His mercy, we can always qualify!

I'm in a season of life when I'm surrounded by blessings and happy circumstances, but when I discovered this verse, some of those things were definitely missing and there were some serious trials! God proved to me that *even then* I could be satisfied by His mercy and rejoicing and glad *all* my days!

“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalm 139:23,24). When I first remember praying this prayer I was discouraged and disappointed

because God showed me a certain wicked way in me – hypocrisy. Then I was encouraged because God had *answered my prayer!* Now I was able to begin dealing with the sin, and He helped me with that, too.

As I write this I am praying this prayer again. I do not want some sin that I am unaware of to block the river of blessings to me, my family, and many, many others! If I had a cancer (that would bring suffering and death to me, as well as trouble to my family) I hope I would have the sense to have it removed, regardless of the cost or pain or inconvenience. Sin is worse than cancer!

“Teach me Thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies” (Psalm 27:11). A missionary told me once that he had never been sure of the Lord’s guidance. But we can have *plain* guidance when we need it!

Our enemy, the accuser, will plant doubts or make us feel guilty about choices we have made. It certainly is good to be confident that we have had *plain* guidance and that we know we are where we ought to be! We can pray,

“Lead me in a plain path,” and know we are praying *in the will of God*.

“Open Thou mine eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy Law” (Ps. 119:18). I have prayed this kind of prayer for specific areas and have gotten guidance, and I pray it almost every day for myself and our family as we read God’s Word together. I also pray that God will open people’s minds and hearts before I preach. Elisha prayed that God would open the eyes of his servant when the servant was afraid of the army that had come against them. God opened the servant’s eyes so that he saw the armies of heaven, horses and chariots of fire protecting God’s men (2 Kings 6:17). The Lord opened the heart of Lydia so that she responded to the things Paul spoke (Acts 16:14).

A “Mountain” Moved

One night I was overcome by the sin of lust. No one else was with me. I did not have any pornographic books or videos. (It was before the internet.) But just because everything is all right on the outside, it does

not mean everything is all right on the inside. I had allowed a temptation into my heart. It seemed bigger than I was. I thought of the promise that if we have just a tiny bit of faith, we can move a mountain. I asked Jesus to move this lust out of my heart.

A few minutes later I realized the lust was gone. I was not drawn to the thing I had been lusting after. Was it my great will power? No. If I had had so much will power, I would not have had to pray. Jesus had answered my prayer! Why? Because of my holiness? If I had been so holy, I would not have had that problem! Jesus had mercy on me and kept His promise.

“If Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean” (Mark 1:40). Other times when I have allowed various kinds of sin into my heart, I have prayed this prayer that the leper said to Jesus. Leprosy is a picture of sin. Cleansing is more than just forgiveness. The sin (it may have been unforgiveness, or lust, or inordinate affection for someone) that infected my heart was cleaned out. The overpowering temptation was taken away.

A similar prayer I have needed and used is found in Hosea 14:2. The first thirteen chapters of Hosea show how weak Israel was in backsliding. Then God gave them a prayer they could pray:

O Israel, return unto the Lord thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. Take with you words, and turn to the Lord; say unto Him, "Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously... for in Thee the fatherless findeth mercy."

Then God tells the answer to that prayer, "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for Mine anger is turned away from him...." To be forgiven is wonderful, but to be *healed* of backsliding in some area is a step better!

"Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered!" (Psalm 68:1). I was laying carpet in our church when my sister asked me to come and pray for a very troubled woman who was at our house. She was crying and tormented. Two or three Christian ladies were there trying to help her. Now, I don't claim to know much about demon possession, but I

know that in this case, the enemy was present! I prayed, “Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered!”

There was no sudden change. I went back to finish the job my dad had given me to do. Later, my sister told me that shortly after I left, the woman calmed down and was able to sleep. I was reminded of the time the Apostle Paul commanded the demon to leave the fortune telling girl. The demon left “the same hour” (Acts 16:18).

When we have the Word of God, we stand on it, we rest on it, regardless of how things look.

Often I pray that Satan will be bound, whether I’m locked in a cell with 50 prisoners as I’m preaching to them, or preaching in a public school, or preaching in a church or in the open air, or preaching to a small group with three witch doctors present (as happened the other day). Jesus said you cannot enter into a strong man’s house and take his stuff unless you first bind the strong man (Matt. 12:29).

Satan is not happy when we enter his territory and lead his people to Jesus! He has many ways of fighting us. *But he can be bound!* “Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world” (1 John 4:4). The demons are so afraid of the Lord who is in us that they tremble (James 2:19).

There are numerous prayers, especially in Psalms, calling for a curse on the enemies of God. “Plead my cause, O Lord, with them that strive with me: fight against them that fight against me.... Let them be confounded and put to shame that seek after my soul.... Let them be as chaff before the wind: and let the angel of the Lord chase them” (Psalm 35:1,4,5).

Who are our enemies? “We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Ephesians 6:12). Our warfare is not primarily against people but the unseen powers in the spirit world.

We have clues from Scripture of Satan’s activities against us. He is the accuser. He is

the destroyer. He afflicts people with sickness. He is a liar. He may have a hand in the weather (Job 1:12,19). As we see these effects we can pray that the enemy will be put to shame and confusion!

**“By terrible things in righteousness
wilt Thou answer us, O God...”
(Psalm 65:5).²**

A **good** many children used to come to one of our Bible clubs from a housing project called Bethlehem Gardens. The man in charge of the housing projects questioned us about what we taught the children. He did not like the children to come. We could smell liquor on his breath. Finally he told me not to come

² This type of prayer seems strange to many today, but there are a number of examples in the Bible. When Hezekiah and his kingdom were threatened, he called on God for help. “Then the angel of the Lord went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses” (Isaiah 37:36). This event is so important that it is found three times in the Bible (Isaiah 37, 2 Kings 19, and 2 Chronicles 32).

back. I had a legal right to go there, and I did. He was angry and threatened me.

My dad told me not to go back (for the sake of peace), but to pray that God would remove the man in charge. I wanted to go back and preach the Gospel to those lost children! My dad said not to, so I didn't. But I did pray that God would remove that enemy of the Gospel.

Shortly after that, the Bible clubbers told me that he was hospitalized because of a car wreck. Then he was run out of town by his own church for *cursing in the pulpit!* He was a pastor!

Later, another pastor, Rev. Means, was put in charge of Bethlehem Gardens, a very gracious man. He would encourage the children to come to the Bible club. He let us use the community center for an adult Bible study, and he would come himself. His own son, Edward Means, who was very talented musically, came to the Bible clubs and asked the Lord to save him.

My brother's wife in Guatemala asked God to remove the witch doctor who was opposing their missionary work. God did. He removed him completely out of the world! Shortly after she prayed, the witch doctor fell off his horse and died!

Prayer is not just an empty exercise! Prayer is not just a religious rigmarole! The Apostle Paul called for a man to be blinded who was trying to turn someone away from the faith. God blinded that enemy of the Gospel!

My Uncle John Young had a Christian school in New Jersey for a good many years. A neighbor boy repeatedly vandalized Uncle John's car, maybe 50 times, letting air out of the tires, sometimes ruining them. He even broke the windshield! Uncle John would not do anything. Finally, he asked God to keep the boy from doing any more damage. The boy broke his back in a diving accident. Now he is paralyzed from the chest down.

The vandalism stopped, for a while. The boy had a younger brother who started to do the same thing. He did not catch on. Uncle

John did not do anything to him either, until finally, he asked God to stop this boy from doing any more damage. This boy was in an auto accident and broke his neck. He is paralyzed from the neck down! “‘Vengeance is Mine; I will repay,’ saith the Lord” (Rom. 12:19). “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Hebrews 10:31).

The Prayer of Jabez

Many years ago I was challenged to pray this prayer. God saw fit to answer it for Jabez, and He saw fit to record it for our learning. So I prayed it.

“Oh that Thou wouldst bless me indeed....” Since I began praying this prayer, God has indeed blessed me with:

- Peace
- Joy and happiness
- A fruitful ministry
- A lovely, helpful wife
- Many more good friends
- Much more money, property, equipment, and other things, than I had before
- Four healthy children who love me
- Continued energy and good health at the age of 57 (38 years of preaching so far)
- Many churches that support our missionary work

“...And enlarge my coast....” God has enlarged my ministry from the time I prayed this prayer from preaching to about three hundred children a week in my home town to

preaching in several hundred schools and churches across the United States to even more fruitful ministry in public schools, prisons, and churches in South Africa and other countries, as well as publishing booklets, books, and Video CD's that are having an international outreach.

I am still praying this prayer, and there is no telling how God will still enlarge this ministry for His glory! It glorifies God if we bear *much* fruit: "Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit" (John 15:8).

"...And that Thine hand might be with me..." We have seen the hand of God in our ministry accomplishing what we could not have done ourselves!

"...And that Thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me" (1 Chronicles 4:9,10). God has protected me from any major catastrophe or sin that would ruin me or my family or the ministry.

This prayer of Jabez is a tremendous prayer that many others should take advantage of. "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that

we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope” (Rom. 15:4).

Oil Multiplied

After hearing me tell some of these answers to prayer, my brother told me of an answer to prayer that he had. He was driving all night with his family, and the fuel gage was down to empty. They came to a service station at 4 a.m., but it was closed. Someone told him there was another station 10 miles ahead. He decided to risk it. They prayed they would not run out of fuel. After a while they saw the gage go up, and up. They drove until 10 a.m. before they refueled!

I went behind his back to ask his wife about the story. She said that, yes, that's what had happened!

I suppose that should not seem too fantastic. God multiplied the oil for Elijah and the widow and her son. If God did it then, don't be surprised if He does it now. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). God also multiplied the oil for Elisha when another widow was about to lose her two sons because of a debt. Elisha told her to borrow a lot of containers and to pour from the little oil they had into all

those vessels. As many vessels as they borrowed they filled. “According to your faith be it unto you” (Matthew 9:29).

When I Have Failed to Pray

Dad taught us to pray about everything, especially about cars and driving. If something went wrong, he'd say, "Did you pray about it? Cover everything in prayer!"

We typically had several cars and vans (that we used to bus in several hundred children to Bible clubs and church each week). Each vehicle was several years old, and they got heavy wear, but we had remarkably few breakdowns or flat tires as we used them for many years.

Now, when something has broken down, I automatically check if I had prayed about it.

I'm sorry to say that just today, our three year old Joshua fell and bit his lip badly and a tooth is now loose. I immediately thought back, and I don't think I prayed for the family's safety today, as I usually do. "Ye have not, because ye ask not" (James 4:2).

I have learned by experience to pray for unity in the home each day and in whatever ministry I'm preaching in. Divisions and disunity are two of the devil's favorite tools!

When Others Have Been Encouraged by Answered Prayers

Sometimes others have told me they were encouraged to pray after they heard some of these answers to prayer. Here are some of their answers to prayer.

The pianist in a church at Lancaster, SC, told me she could not sleep because some neighbor's dog kept barking. She was sick and needed the sleep. She thought about how Bro. Paul told about all those answers to prayer, so she asked God to hush up the dogs! Suddenly the barking stopped.

A lady in Semmes, AL, told the church how God had just healed her stomach. It had been hurting for months. She told how I had been telling them that if they wanted or needed something, to ask. "God gives good things to those that ask Him." So she asked and God quietly healed her stomach.

A lady in Hannibal, WI, told me that after I had preached on answers to prayer, her young daughter asked her how her stomach felt. (She had a pregnancy hernia.) “It still hurts!” she told her daughter. “Well, I prayed for you,” her daughter said. The next morning her stomach was well. Was it because of her faith? No, her daughter prayed for her. In the Gospels people sometimes brought their sick friends to Jesus. We can pray for ourselves, and we can pray for others.

God blessed Job twice as much as He had ever blessed him before, when Job prayed for his friends (Job 42:10).

The pastor’s wife, Mrs. Greg Stein, in that same church in Hannibal, WI, after hearing the same sermon, was encouraged to pray to adopt—*twins!* It’s considered next to impossible to adopt twins. Just a few days after she prayed, she was notified by the social worker that she could adopt. They told her there was a problem, though. The lady giving up her baby for adoption found she was expecting *twins!*

A man in Anderson, SC, told me two answers to prayer he had after he had heard me preach on answers to prayer.

His job was changing oil in a lube shop. We'd had an unusually hot spell, over 100 degrees F, I think. He had it worse because he was under these hot engines just off the highway. He said, "Lord, would You just cool it off?" By the next day it had dropped about 35 or 40 degrees and gotten windy besides!

He also asked God to help him find where he could get chalk supplies, like he saw me use in my chalk art sermons, for his daughter. That night at church, as soon as I saw him at the door, I hurried back and gave him an order form for chalk art supplies. He was amazed. He thought, "This guy sure is in touch with the Lord!"

Actually, what happened was another man had called up that very afternoon, asking how he could get the chalk stuff. He said he could not stay for church because he had to go to work, so he'd meet me in his work clothes at the church door. So when I saw the first

man (in work clothes, and he looked somewhat like the man who had called) I rushed back to give him the things he'd prayed for. God used my ignorance to answer his prayer!

Why don't we get more blessings?

What is there to hinder us from getting great blessings in answer to prayer? Often sin. “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me” (Psalm 66:18). So Jesus instructed us to pray, “Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven” (Matt. 6:10). If we refuse God’s commands, God cannot stand our prayers. “He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination” (Prov. 28:9).

Often the sin that hinders our prayers is unforgiveness. Jesus made a special point of telling us that if we pray, *we must forgive* anyone who has wronged us. If we do not forgive, *God will not forgive us* either. Jesus said that three times: Matthew 6:15; Matthew 18:35; and Mark 11:25,26.

Another big reason prayers don't get answered is that we *don't pray!* “Ye have not, because ye ask not” (James 4:2).

Let's set aside some time each day, go into our room, close the door, and pray, using the Lord's Prayer for a pattern, and get the help we need for ourselves and for others we love. The reason I say "use the Lord's Prayer" every day is because Jesus commanded us to use it. In Luke 11:2 He said, "When ye pray, say, 'Our Father which art in heaven...'" I know it should be a *daily* prayer because part of the prayer is, "Give us this day our daily bread."

What do I pray for most?

Often our main concerns in prayer are for *things* and *healing*. We *should* pray about things and healing. We are to pray about *everything* (Phil. 4:6). God delights in mercy (Micah 7:18); He likes to meet our needs. In fact, “the *desire* of the righteous shall be granted” (Prov. 10:24), and if you delight yourself in the Lord, He will give you the *desires* of your heart (Psalm 37:4).

But there are *bigger concerns, more urgent needs!* Jesus warned about eternal fire and eternal punishment (Matthew 25:41,46)! There is a broad way that leads to destruction, and *many* are on it (Matthew 7:13)!³

When I pray “Thy kingdom come,” I’m not only praying for the Lord’s return, I’m also praying that more people will be

³ Actually, healings sometimes help the lost turn to the Lord and get saved. When Peter healed Aeneas, who had been bedridden for eight years, “all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him, and turned to the Lord” (Acts 9:35). When Lazarus was raised from the dead, “many of the Jews... believed on Jesus” (John 12:11).

“delivered from the power of darkness, and translated... into the kingdom of His dear Son” (Col. 1:13).

I try to pray each day that God would thrust laborers into His harvest throughout the world. “The harvest truly is great,” there are a huge number of people who could be saved, “but the labourers are few,” that is, not many people are really working at bringing them to Jesus.

So Jesus commanded us, “Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth laborers into His harvest” (Luke 10:2).

Praying for Others

There are so many blessings we can get if we pray! “Ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full” (John 16:24). Let’s get these same blessings for others as well! Love your neighbor as yourself. That’s the summary of all of God’s commands (Gal. 5:14). So the things I want God to do for me, I pray for others I love.

We are commanded to pray “for all men, for kings, and for all that are in authority” (1 Tim. 2:1,2). Pray “always... for all saints” (Eph. 6:18). It is a *sin* to fail to pray for others. “God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you” (1 Sam. 12:23).

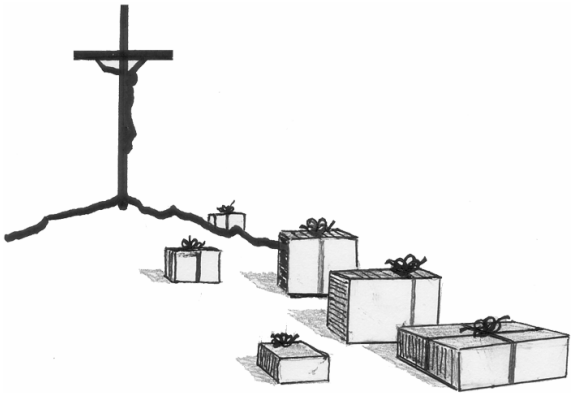
When we pray “Thy kingdom come,” as Jesus told us to do, for ourselves or for other Christians, we are praying for more “righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.” “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost” (Romans 14:17).

The Biggest Answer to Prayer

I did not even mention the most important answer to prayer (to me)! The best answer to prayer was when the Lord *saved me!* He rescued me from the lake of fire! “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13). Don’t rejoice just that “the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written heaven” (Luke 10:20).

If God would answer that prayer, He’ll answer prayer for all sorts of good things! God gave His own Son! Nothing else costs Him that much!

**“He that spared not His own Son,
but delivered Him up for us all...**



**...how shall He not also with Him
freely give us all things?” (Rom. 8:32).**

*“The same Lord over all is rich unto all
that call upon Him” Romans 10:12.*