INTERCESSOR

FALL / WINTER
2019

Trust the Lord!

The Magazine About Prayer

20/20 Vision in 2020

by Nancy-L. Dahl

.... this is what we need. We need prayer for healing, healing for the world, for families and friends, our states and countries. Our prayers need to include all the people in the world, all the people. We are here --- rich or poor we be. Is there any word that speaks to us in one language? I believe there is ... the word kindness. We all know this word. It speaks for itself --- without a sound, helping hands --- from all. Set your vision high in 2020. We just need to do our best in everything. And like the songs says ---.... "the world will be a better place."

Nancy is a retired teacher and associate dean/coordinator of teacher certification for a state university in Michigan. Nancy lives in Ypsilanti, Michigan where she enjoys reading, writing, gardening and working out at a health club.

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ABOUT BREAKTHROUGH

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Trust the Lord!

He answered their prayers because they trusted in Him.

1 Chronicles 5:20

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Our Mission: Bringing together anonymously those needing prayer and Christians willing to pray for them; calling, equipping and encouraging people for this work.

Our Mission

Breakthrough Intercessory Prayer Ministry is here for anyone who wants prayer. Prayer requests may be sent to us by mail, phone, email, fax, or through our website. Your prayer request is sent anonymously to six of our nearly 4,000 intercessors around the world who agree to pray for 21 days for each request they receive. You will have your own prayer team of dedicated intercessors holding your needs up before the Lord. People often report an increased



sense of peace during the prayer period. As you read this magazine, you will learn about many prayers that have been answered.

Catherine Marshall was given the inspiration for Breakthrough over 40 years ago. She was a best-selling Christian author who became concerned about the many prayer requests sent to her by her readers. At the same time, other readers were writing to tell her that they longed to be used by God but had no

idea what they could do. God gave Catherine the vision of matching these two groups of people: those with prayer needs and those Christians who wanted to be part of a ministry. Thus Catherine and her husband, Leonard LeSourd, began the Breakthrough ministry.

Prayer requests are identified by first name only and are never sent to intercessors in the same geographic location as the prayer requester. The 21-day prayer period was arrived at based on the story in Daniel Chapter 10. Daniel was praying for three weeks before the angel of the Lord was able to come and help him. The angel had been detained by spiritual forces from the first day of Daniel's prayer. Our intercessors may receive scriptural insights from God for the prayer requester. Those messages, in the form of Scripture verses, are sent to the office and then forwarded to the person requesting prayer. In turn, prayer requesters send their answers to prayer to the staff which are then forwarded to the intercessors as encouragement for their faithfulness in praying.

We want to hear from you. Pray about becoming one of our intercessors. It is a small expenditure of time compared to how it will impact your life and change the lives of others. As you read this magazine, think of your own stories of answered prayer that you would like to share. Our editorial committee will consider them for publication in The Breakthrough Intercessor. Remember also to send us your prayer requests. It is our privilege to pray for you.

From the Chairman

A BIG REMINDER FROM OUR FOUNDERS:

At the most recent meeting of the Breakthrough board, we reviewed the fourth newsletter, now magazine, published in 1981. The Founders of the ministry explained that the purpose of the newsletter was to inform about the ministry of Breakthrough, teach about prayer, (since that's what we do at Breakthrough), and share the answers to prayer.

The purpose of this writing is to share in more detail two of the three purposes enunciated in that early newsletter. And we will look at two points that are essential to the effectiveness of intercessory prayer i.e. praying for others. And how Breakthrough's prayer policy facilitates the effectiveness of intercessory prayer. This article was not motivated by just the discovery of the early newsletter written way back in 1981, but by a sermon delivered on June 23, 2019 by Tony Perkins, President of Family Research Council, a conservative policy and lobbying organization based in Washington D.C. He brought the sermon on intercessory prayer at the Cornerstone Chapel in Leesburg, Virginia, just a short distance from Breakthrough headquarters located in Lincoln, Virginia. Perkins was advocating the need for intercessory prayer for our nation because of the extreme need for revival in our country and the mandate in the scriptures that we pray for those in government, both elected and appointed, as they exercise authority over us. 2 Timothy 1:1-2

Two of the several points that he laid out to encourage and teach on prayer, were the need for persistence and unity.

Let's look first at persistence. It recalled the direction in the Bible that the fervent, effectual prayer of a righteous man, (woman) is very effective. (James 5:16) And the Apostle Paul encourages us to pray without ceasing. (I Thessalonians 5:17) Fervent prayer is not just an emotional, committed prayer, but a prayer life that keeps on praying even when it appears that the prayer(s) have not been answered as we prayed. This is essential to effective prayer and especially intercessory prayer. The reality is that most of our prayers

for ourselves and others are not answered by God instantly and require persistence. (Luke 18 1-8, Jesus' parable of the persistent widow with the unrighteous judge.)

There are over 4,000 Breakthrough Intercessors around the world, who sign up to pray for those assigned to them for twenty-one days. Generally, (as most of you know most of you reading this are intercessors) four to five individuals provide prayer requests, for whom we pray for twenty-one days. Why twenty-one days? Because the founders of our ministry, nearly forty years ago, wanted intercessors to take this assignment seriously, pray persistently, and follow the model that Daniel set for us in prayer.

In Daniel 10:2, 3, the Word says Daniel fasted and prayed for three weeks which was triggered by a dream he had seen regarding the future of the world. He prayed for God to reveal the complete vision. At the end of that twenty-one days, an angel appeared to Daniel to tell him the prophecy of how the different world powers would come and go and how the world would end. The angel tells Daniel he had been trying to come to him for twenty-one days and that he departed from heaven on the first day that Daniel prayed, and that God had heard his prayer in heaven. It took twenty-one days because the evil spirit assigned by Satan to Persia, had blocked the angel's way. But the archangel Michael finally came and helped free the angel who then showed up to proclaim the prophecy.

The implication is that had Daniel not continued to pray for the twenty-one days, the angel would not have broken through. This account not only demonstrates the need for persistence but explains that there is a spiritual battle taking place in the unseen world over our prayer requests, hence the need for fervency and persistence.

Perkins also pointed out the need for unity in prayer, meaning there is power in more than one person praying for the same thing. One can send a thousand to flight, but two can send ten thousand to flight. Deuteronomy 32:20. Again this is confirmation that prayer is a spiritual battle and the more people praying for the same thing, the more power in the prayer. The same prayer requests are sent to six intercessors, all praying for the same prayer requests for twenty-one days.

No wonder we can report the miraculous answers to prayers from those for whom you pray. This model that Breakthrough uses is unique to this ministry and it has been working from the beginning. This ministry was founded by men and women who believed in prayer and were prayer warriors. Not the least of these was our chief founder, Catherine Marshall, who has written so much on the power of prayer.

As long as Breakthrough exists, we will follow the direction of our founders to pray long, hard, and with numbers because it works. Thanks for your faithfulness as intercessors to pray each day for

twenty-one days. Because of your obedience to this commitment, the prayers of our requestors are answered. May Breakthrough still be uniting prayer requestors with our intercessors until Jesus calls us home.



J. Michael Smith, Esq Chairman of the Board

Thank you for Making Answered Prayer Possible!

Breakthrough's financial statement is available upon your written request to The Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs, P.O. Box 526, Richmond, VA 23218

From the Director

I celebrate the faithfulness of our God, our faith in God, and our faithfulness to Breakthrough! Only by His grace and glory!

I've often found that the pressures of life can change our perspective of God and how He's working in our lives. When we pray, we sincerely ask and expect our Father to show us where He wants us to serve—because



Delouis Pace Ministry Director

wherever He wants us to go is worth the commitment and the investment. Who is this God to whom we have entrusted the final outcome of our intercession and prayers? Hebrews 11—the chapter about bold faith—states in verse six in the Passion Translation, "And without faith living within us it would be impossible to please God. For we come to God in faith knowing that He is real and that He rewards the faith of those who give all their passion and strength into seeking Him."

Catherine Marshall, in her book The Helper, says that the knowledge of God's reality, the ability to passionately seek Him, is founded only in the person of God the Holy Ghost. Thus, the only entity capable of helping men know God is Holy Spirit. This knowledge moves our faith in God entirely out of the manipulation of our circumstances and into total trust of His heart and intentions for us. In the beginning of 2019, I heard this word from God: "You have toiled, now give Me this ministry." It wasn't quite what I expected to hear, but I live by every word proceeding out of God's mouth and there is nothing I won't give God. He said to take the assignment of administration in 2007; He gave me His fruit and character. And He followed through on His words then by giving me a revelation of Himself - wisdom, truth, grace, power, and anointing to excellently succeed in this position. God is above all of our failures and accomplishments. And now, grace is lifting for the assignment here with you, and bold faith is moving me to pursue the Lord in strength to His new calling. In the believer's life, a reward for knowing God is strength. To finish strong, we must have His strength.

I wonder, now that I'm stepping up and away, what could God possibly want from me—a widow of two years. I experienced God through this pain which is a message of what God can do in a man's life, if we receive of His Spirit. I am now provoked to pray more earnestly as a matter of life and death. I heard in a prayer gathering the other day that God's intent, purpose, and final outcome is glory. He desires us to grow

spiritually, to know Him by the Spirit, and stay on the move with Him as He speaks His will to each of us personally and corporately. I may not know what God has next for me, but I firmly believe and decree that God's Presence will always go before me and that His glory will be my rearguard! I know that God wishes the same for you, too.

Remember by faith that God is doing a new thing in each of our lives; through desperate pursuit wholeheartedly trust Him to work His best in our lives and this ministry. My love and honor to you always—and stay focused, because it's all for God's glory! I announce the new season and era of the next dimension of the Spirit in prayer and intercession for us and Breakthrough!

Psalm 19 (ESV)

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy. Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat. The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.



Created to Serve God

by Roy A. Borges

Ever since God created Adam and Eve man has rejected God and chosen his own way. Sadly, it is also the attitude of most Christians today. Why do we think we know more about what is best for us than our Creator? He created us. He rules the Universe and is sovereign over Heaven and Earth. He sent His Son to redeem us. Why is it so hard to serve and love Him? Why can't we see that what we gain is far greater than what we forfeit? Far greater than anything we could selfishly want or achieve on our own.

The reality is that God created us for His purposes. "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before hand and that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10)

No work or action we do can help us obtain salvation. God intends our salvation to result in service. We are saved to serve – that's why He created us. We are not saved merely for our own benefit but to serve Christ and His Church. (Ephesians 4:12)

It's easy to forget that our real purpose here is for God's glory and not our own. The world is full of distractions and temptations that promise pleasures. The lure of momentary pleasure has led many to do something detrimental. Esau, for example, sold his birthright for a "bowl of soup." (Genesis 25:29-34) The list of ways that we make foolish, shortsighted choices is endless.

The apostle Paul was wrongfully imprisoned and had plenty to complain about but he didn't grumble or blame anyone. Instead, he rejoiced in Christ. (Philippians 4:10-13) Paul saw how God used his imprisonment. He wrote to the Romans, "And we know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28)

God used prison to show me how much He loves me, and He wants me to value others the way He values me regardless of who they are or what they have done.

God is at work; a grateful heart knows that God is at work. I give thanks to God for everything – even for prison. No one knows our hurts the way He does. He will never leave us. He stays through it all, sustaining us and limiting the intensity and duration of our distress.

Like Paul and many other writers, God uses the things He is teaching us, no matter where we may be, for His purposes. He created us to serve Him and He can do it wherever we are.

Unlike sinful man the Lord is trustworthy. He will never disappoint you. He may allow something to happen, like prison, that you don't understand but He has a purpose and a plan. He can adjust your mistakes into His plans. Whom do you trust?

The only thing left for me to do is to trust Him and so I pray every day my favorite Proverb: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Roy Borges's stories have appeared in many Christian publications. He won AMY Foundation awards in 1998, 2002, and 2003. Roy's book "Faith and Love Behind Prison Fences" was published in 2002.



Confusion

by Erin Kaschub

"I just don't know what to do." My friend told me as I was driving one January morning.

I will never forget her words that cold day because she was so fixated on her problems that she never knew I was on my way to an important doctor's appointment of my own. I had been released from the ER two days prior and was on my way to follow up from the hospital visit.

As I spoke with my friend on the phone, I remember thinking that she was in the very same predicament that she been in a few years prior. Not much had changed with her situation. She had been delaying taking action in a serious home situation and was becoming increasingly frustrated. I told her that inaction actually was an action because not deciding was to decide.

When I arrived at my appointment, I promised to pray for her and then hung up the phone. That year had literally begun for me as I was at the ER while others spent New Year's Eve at parties. I was told to make an appointment immediately to follow up with a doctor. Donning a puffy winter coat, I walked into the appointment worried for my friend as much as I was concerned for myself.

My new physician told me a plethora of things to do. I walked out with a folder of information and feeling very overwhelmed, much like my friend had been previously.

I walked out to my car, sat in the cold silence and breathed for a moment. Soon school would be out for the day and I would not have another moment alone. I needed to clearly hear God, just like my friend needed His voice. After a few breaths, I cranked the car with the intent of praying during the 20 minute car ride home. By the time I was home, I felt a bit of relief. Determined to intercede for my friend, I typed up a version of the prayer I prayed in my car.

Prayer for Confusion:	
"Lord, please speak to me	now. I am so confused. Please
show me the steps to take.	Family members and friends tell
me to	But every time I
open Your Word, it falls to	a portion of scripture that says to

Father, have I been hard hearted toward Your voice? Have I gone too far into trying to hear you for myself that I am not open to receive what You are trying to say to me from godly friends and family? Perhaps, my problem is just the opposite- am I too fixated on what others think and not willing to hear Your still, small voice?

Even now, am I being overly analytical or thinking too much about it? Some people seem to be able to "wing it" their whole lives, other people are goal setters and they have established routines. For me, I am stuck, perplexed, frozen... I have been doing life this way for so long that I do not know another way.

Father, I say "enough" to the vacillating. You say in Your Word that when we waver, we are double-minded, unstable, and unable to receive anything from You (James 1:6-8). I agree with You, Lord. I do not like to see double-mindedness in my friends, and You must be even more disappointed to find wavering in me.

Lord, to stop the wavering, help me come up with a simple plan. I do not have to know the entire course of events, or how all these things will turn out. But, please help me to put something in motion so I am no longer stagnant and weak. Show me three simple steps I can take this month that will lead to a resolution. And, let each of those steps be directed by You.

Today, Father, give me one action step I can take so that I will be in line with your will. This time next year I do not want to be sitting around complaining about _____ anymore.

Thank You for the direction that I know will come. Amen"

Erin Kaschub has been an intercessor for over 20 years. She lives with her family outside of Atlanta, where she enjoys teaching Sunday School.



Are You A Writer?

Has God taught you about prayer?

Has He answered prayer and you want to share it?

Do you write prayer poetry?

The Intercessor's editors welcome submissions!

Some Guidelines:

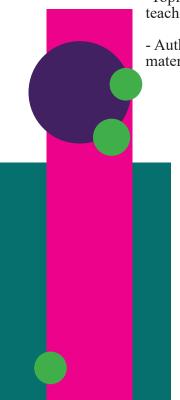
- -Articles 500 to 1,000 words. Poems, 12 lines minimum
- -Topic must focus on prayer: an experience or teaching supported in Scripture
- Authors give Breakthrough permission to edit material for length and content

Email: editor@intercessors.org Mail: Breakthrough Editor, P.O. Box 121, Lincoln, VA 20160

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"It Is Well with My Soul"

A hymn penned by Horatio Spafford and composed by Philip Bliss.

Horatio (1828-1888) was at the pinnacle of his profession and financial success when his life changed. It began with the tragic loss of their son. Not long after, the Great Chicago Fire destroyed nearly every real estate investment Horatio owned.

A few years later in 1873, Horatio decided to bless his wife and daughters with a trip to Europe. He had plans to join them. A few days after their departure he received a dreadful telegram from his wife, "Saved alone..." It bore the excruciating news that the ship had wrecked and all four of his daughters had perished.

Horatio was on his way to meet his heartbroken wife, passing over the same sea that had just claimed the lives of his remaining children. It was then that he put his pen to paper and the timeless hymn was born.

40 Thou hast broken down all his walls.

The original manuscript has only four verses, but Spafford's daughter, Bertha Spafford Vester, who was born after the tragedy, said an additional verse was later added and the last line of the original song was modified.

And hast not made him stand in battle.

And hast not made him stand in battle.

And hast not made him stand in battle.

And cast his throne to the ground.

And cast his throne to the ground.

Thou hast 'shortened the days of his youth;

Ps. 102.23

Thou hast covered him with shame.

Ps. 102.23

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, re?

When sorrows like sea billows roll; what created all the work of the sea billows roll; what created all the work of the sea billows roll; what created all the work of the wo

It is well (it is well), with my soul (with my soul), It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, Let this blest assurance control, That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate, And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

> It is well (it is well), with my soul (with my soul), It is well, it is well with my soul.

My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought! My sin, not in part but the whole, Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

> It is well (it is well), with my soul (with my soul), It is well, it is well with my soul.

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live: If Jordan above me shall roll, No pain shall be mine, for in death as in life Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

> It is well (it is well), with my soul (with my soul), It is well, it is well with my soul.

have finished our years like a sigh. 9 Fo you have made for the days of our life, the day, when the faith shall be sight, seventy years, year And Lord haste the day, when the faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll; r soon it is gone and we fly away he trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend, Even so, it is well with my soul.

> It is well (it is well), with my soul (with my soul), It is well, it is well with my soul.

BOOK 4

we have been consumed

t their pride is but labor and sorrow d Thy fury, according to the fear

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THE PRAYER OF RELINQUISHMENT

by Catherine Marshall

Like most people, when I first began active experimentation with prayer, I was full of questions such as: why are some agonizingly sincere prayers granted, while others are not? Today I still have questions. Mysteries about prayer are always ahead of knowledge– luring, beckoning onto further experimentation.

But one thing I do know; I learned it through hard experience. It's a way of prayer that has resulted consistently in a glorious answer because each time, power beyond human reckoning has been released. This is the prayer of relinquishment.

I got my first glimpse of it in 1943. I had then been ill for six months with a widespread lung infection, and a bevy of specialists seemed unable to help. Persistent prayer, using all the faith I could muster, had resulted in – nothing. I was still in bed full time.

One afternoon, a pamphlet was put in my hands. It was the story of a missionary who had been invalid for eight years. Constantly, she had prayed that God would make her well, so that she might do His work. Finally, worn out with futile petition, she prayed, "All right, I give up. If You want me to be an invalid, that's Your business. I want You even more than I want health. You decide." Within two weeks, the woman was out of bed, completely well.

This made no sense to me, yet I could not forget the story. On the morning of September 14 – how can I ever forget the date? I came to the same point of abject acceptance. "I'm tired of asking," was the burden of my prayer. "I'm beaten, finished. God, You decide what You want for me."

Tears flowed. I felt no faith as I understood faith, expected nothing. The gift of my sick self was made with no trace of graciousness.

And the result? It was as if I had touched a button that opened windows in heaven; as if some dynamo of heavenly power began flowing, flowing. Within a few hours, I had experienced the

presence of the Living Christ in a way that wiped away all doubt and revolutionized my life. From that moment my recovery began.

Through this incident and others that followed, God was trying to teach me something important about prayer. Gradually, I saw that a demanding spirit, with self-will as its rudder, blocks prayer. I understood that the reason for this is that God absolutely refuses to violate our free will; unless self-will is voluntarily given up, even God cannot move to answer prayer.

In time I gained more understanding about the Prayer of Relinquishment through the experiences of others, both in contemporary life and through books. Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane is this pattern for us. Christ could have avoided the Cross. He did not have to go up to Jerusalem the last time. He could have compromised with the priests, bargained with Caiaphas. He could have capitalized on His following and appeased Judas by setting up the beginning of an earthly Kingdom. Pilate wanted to release Him, all but begged Him to say the right words that would let him do so. Even in the Garden on the night of the betrayal, He had plenty of time and opportunity to flee. Instead, Christ used His free will to turn the decision over to His Father.

"Dear Father... all things are possible to You. Let me not have to drink this cup! Yet it is not what I want, but what You want." Mark 14:36 Phillips

The prayer was not answered as the human Jesus wished. Yet power has been flowing from His Cross ever since.

Even at the moment when Christ was bowing to the possibility of an awful death by crucifixion, He never forgot either the presence or the power of God. There is a crucial difference here between acceptance and resignation. There is no resignation in the prayer of relinquishment. Resignation says, "This is my situation, and I resign myself and settle down to it." Resignation lies down in the dust of a godless universe and steels itself for the worst.

Acceptance says, "True, this is my situation at the moment. I'll look unblinkingly at the reality of it. But I'll also open up my hands to accept willingly whatever a loving Father sends." Thus, acceptance never slams the door on hope.

Yet, even while it hopes, our relinquishment must be the real thing – and this giving up of self will is the hardest thing we human beings are ever called to do.

It's good to remember that not even the Master Shepherd can lead if the sheep do not follow Him. That's the why of Christ's insistence of a very practical obedience: "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" Obey... obedience ... trust... is all over the Gospels. The pliability of an obedient heart must be complete from the set of our wills right on through our actions.

Now the intriguing question is: What is the secret or spiritual law implicit in this Prayer of Relinquishment?

Here is part of it We know that fear is like a screen erected between us and God so that His power cannot get through to us. So, how does one get rid of fear?

This is not easy when the life of someone dear hangs in the balance, or when what we want most in all of the world is involved. At such times, every emotion, every passion, is tied up in the dread of what may happen. Obviously drastic measures can deal with such a gigantic fear and the demanding spirit that usually goes along with it. My experience has been that trying to deal with it by repeating faith affirmations is not drastic enough.

So, then we are squarely up against the Law of Relinquishment. Was Jesus showing us how to use this law when He said, "Resist not evil"? (Matthew 5:39) Stop fleeing from and denying this terrible

prospect. Look squarely at the possibility of what you fear most.

At the time, it seems to us that this is the opposite of trust. "Lord," we are inclined to protest, "didn't You tell us to pray with faith? I'm confused. Does relinquishment mean that we can never be sure about praying for any definite thing? If it does Lord, then how can that be faith?"

To all such pleas to understand, Jesus always patiently gives the same answer, "Obey Me. Then – after that –you will know and begin to understand."

So, we take the first hard steps of obedience. And lo, as we stop hiding our eyes, force ourselves to walk up to the fear and look it full in the face – never forgetting that God and His power are still the supreme reality – the fear evaporates. Drastic? Yes. But it is one sure way of releasing prayer power into human affairs.

In the prayer of faith, our hand is still in His. Our heart is still obedient. But now, He has led us out of the frightening darkness, with only the pressure of His hand to reassure us, into the sunlight. We look into the face beside us with a thrill of recognition – the hand of the Father is Jesus' hand!

Father, for such a long time I have pleaded before You this, the deep desire of my heart: _____. Yet, the more I have clamored for Your help with this, the more remote You have seemed.

I confess my demanding spirit in this matter. I've tried suggesting to You ways my prayer could be answered. To my shame, I have even bargained with You. Yet I know that trying to manipulate the Lord of the Universe is utter foolishness. No wonder my spirit is sore and weary!

I want to trust You, Father. My spirit knows that these verities are

forever trustworthy even when I feel nothing.

That You are there... (You said, "Lo, I am with you always" Matthew 28:20)

That You love me... (You said, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love." Jeremiah 31:3)

That You alone know what is best for me... (For in You, Lord, "are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Colossians 2:3)

Perhaps all along, You have been waiting for me to give up self-effort. At last, I want You in my life even more than I want _______ So now, by an act of my will, I relinquish this to You. I will accept Your will, whatever that may be. Thank You for counting this act of my will as a decision of the real person even when my emotions protest. I ask You to hold me true to this decision. To You, Lord God, who alone are worthy of worship, I bend the knee with thanksgiving that this too will work together for my good. I relinquish this to You. (Romans 8:28) Amen.

Catherine Marshall (1914-1983) was a bestselling author and founder of Breakthrough, Inc. This article was excerpted from "Adventures in Prayer" (Ballantine Books © 1975), used by permission of Marshall-LeSourd LLC.

Thoughts on

Answers to Prayer

I love how the Lord works. Having been involved in prayer ministry throughout my adult life I am so thankful He brought me to Breakthrough. In the years I have worked as Prayer Coordinator I have observed the consistency with which the Director and staff show honor for each and every prayer request. We pray before we come in, we pray as we work, we pray the Lord help us properly handle every request and every person asking for prayer. We pray for all the Intercessors and every person who supports the ministry. Though we have work to do we are literally "in prayer" while doing it.

I love to see the Messages of Insight come across the desk. The kind, encouraging Scriptures sent by our Intercessors to those seeking prayer. They are so important and provide strength to those receiving them.

And then there are the Answers to Prayer. Usually I am the staff member sending out answers to prayer. Whenever I begin, the atmosphere changes. God is being glorified, praised and thanked. It strengthens everyone who encounters them, but most importantly – Answers to Prayer adjusts our heart and gives the Lord preeminence.

I believe the Lord always answers our prayers. We just do not always like the answer we receive. It is an over simplification, but reasonable for this missive, to say the Lord answers us in one of three ways. He says, "Yes, No or Wait."

"Yes" is our favorite of course. The money comes in, the person is healed, the relationship is restored, we get the job, the crisis is resolved, etc. Those are the answers we understandably always hope to get.

"Wait" is the most frustrating of the three for me. It seems to bring out the inner "two-year-old" who wants to nag and beg and demand to know "how much longer?" I have complained to Him that although HE is outside of time and space, I am not. As years can pass as I wait, I like to point out to Him that I am getting older here. Of course, in those moments I completely miss the point. He is asking me to lean in and trust Him. Determine to trust Him.

And then there is "No." No IS an answer beloved.

It is a hard answer. Hard to hear and hard to see someone else receive. It can be the death of a dream. It can open us to grief and sorrow. And we may even wrestle with Him over it. But the Lord is a good Father. Just as an adult will tell a child "no" for their own good and safety there are times when that is the answer we need to accept, even when it breaks our heart. The Lord is quick to comfort, faithful to be near and holds all wisdom. He is well able to work all things together for good, for you and for me. Even when, especially when, it does not feel like it.

Answers to Prayer – the powerful and merciful and loving answers. We need them for ourselves and for each other. May we have the childlike faith to put our hand in His and trust. And may He be exalted as we obey Him, choose Him, surrender to Him moment by moment. May we be found faithful and run with endurance the race set before us – for His Name, His Kingdom and His Glory.

Jeannie K. Ryan works as Prayer Coordinator and current Acting Editor at Breakthrough. She is the mother of six, founder of Beauty by Design and Art Director of her husband Patrick's marketing business in Northern Virginia.

Answers to Prayer

We have a praise report. Hubby's recent check up indicates his vision is stable, praise God! He is legally able to drive and keep his license. Please let those who prayed know this glorious news.

~Ellie

Bless you all for your prayers!!! I just got the pathology report a few minutes ago. All the cancer was excised in the first excision, thankfully. I do not need more cut out. I am especially grateful. ~Ann

Family member is cancer free! Praise God!!!!

~Margaret

I have renewed strength. ~Andrea

No cancer and the tumor shrunk by 50%. Blood tests were negative. The oncologist said he has no idea what this is but it seems to be resolving. ~P

My daughter-in-law was going to need to be on call, work extra hours and weekends. It was going to be so detrimental to their family. Her employer suddenly decided to not enforce the change. Praise the Lord!

~E





I am moving toward full recovery from Lyme.

~Monica

Brother apologized to another brother for showing disrespect. No one expected that would ever happen.

~Michael

You prayed for my son and he is much better and accepting life.

~Jean

My sister opened a Bible!!! $\sim R$

My wife brought my daughter to see me.

~Frank

My daughter, who had a bleeding colon, is back at work. Thanking Jesus and you for praying.

~A

K was found, is back home and doing well with her family.

~L

I have so many answered prayers I want to set up a memorial. My mother (88) is recovered. My brother has turned from drugs. My tax debt is paid. And I have a new husband. Thank You precious Lord!

~Cynthia

I asked for prayer for a God fearing, patient and caring person to care for my mom. The Lord brought one right into my home. We were having upholstery work done and got to talking about aging parents and he said, "You should let my wife do it." She is perfect and Mom accepts her help.

~Ruth

We called you in a panic. Our newborn grandchild could not breathe and had heart complications. It was dire and doctors did not know where to even begin to help. Within 24 hours of calling they made one little adjustment, she began to breathe normally and her heart went in to a regular rhythm. Even the doctors know that it was the Lord.

~AC

Justin got a job when it seemed impossible due to an old issue with the law. He thanks you for praying.

~Shirley

Mrs. J did not need surgery after her heart cath. Thank you for praying.

~Erin

After my husband died the stock broker would not answer phone calls or pay me. This went or for 4 years. Because of your prayers I got the money. Thank you from someone who was in need.

Barbette and John are enjoying much better health. ~B

Thank you for your diligence in partnering with God. God bless this ministry always. Answers are too numerous to list. My prayer requests are ALWAYS answered!!!

~Jeanne

MEMORIALS

Sharon L. Sarver in loving memory of Intercessor Kathy Adamo

We welcome gifts in honor of loved ones.



Fall and Winter 2019



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