

Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee? – Psalm 85:6

Let me begin by introducing a part of America History to your current minds. In the late 1800's, a farmer decided on his own to use his winter months to pray on Saturday nights from 6 PM until Midnight for his church to experience a revival. For five years in a row his church experienced five revivals! On the sixth year, his church did not experience a revival. The church decided to inquire why. The farmer got up and said that he was sorry for he had not prayed like usual in the winter months that just past. One farmer was used of God for 5 years in a row to increase the size of his church. Once the praying stopped....the revival stopped. Once God grants a moving of His Holy Spirit in a church.....it is always granted in answer to prayer. Revival is going.....and prayer stops....Revival stops and never resurfaces again in that church. ONE person praying can move mountains.

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The battle rages. It never stops. Not for a moment, not for a tear. Through birth, spring time, summer, harvest time, or death it never stops raging onward. The Devil does not care what you are going through. He will destroy you physically or do his best to place prayer hindrances up in your path to stop your prayers from being answered. The Devil knows that a Christian is only worth as much as their prayers are sent up to God. Stop a Christian from praying and believing and he conquers another front.

When the battle seems to take out sections that used to bring us happiness; like removing people out of the church....it seems to numb us into direction. What can we do? You might feel dismayed, hurt, damaged in some way....you might even have questions of "why" God? Why did you allow this to happen to us? I don't understand.

These are valid feelings and questions. Let me give you an example of another situation where these same questions were asked. At Thanksgiving and Christmas time, 2009, I received a few gifts of hard news. The doctors told me that I had 3 different types of cancer. Go home and prepare to bury yourself was told to me on the first visit from the specialist. You will be lucky to live past January, 2010.

I was confused. I gave God everything. I was in my last semester in college, seminary was in January, I knew I was to preach. Why God would you let this hit me? What did I do wrong? I am scared and I do not understand. I was numb.

The chemo treatments took place and I was very sick for weeks at a time. Months later, I was finished for now and the cancer was gone. My cancer fighting friends had all died and went to Heaven. Yet, I was still here. Why?

My relationship with God had reached heights I never experienced before the cancer. God reached out to me and we talked several times. My growths from the hardships were greater than all the previous times. Yes, I was in seminary while being shot up with the "Red Devil", and God was teaching me to depend on Him. He was teaching me compassion. The lessons the Lord taught me was things I never could learn in a classroom. I thought I was compassionate before....not even close

in compassion as I now have. Yes, the Lord had His reasons for my sufferings. It did not make sense at first, not all my questions were answered, but I now am very happy to have gone through it.

I had not done anything to bring on the sufferings. You have probably not done anything to the situation your life has you living in today. Yet, God is more interested in you and your spiritual development than in achieving the goals man feels are important.

How does a Christian walk when facing hardships? Pray to Him and tell Him. You first start out being honest with God. Tell Him what is bothering you. Tell Him your feelings and thoughts. Be honest with Him....He likes it when you are plain and truthful. Maybe someone has hurt you and you cannot on your own forgive that person. Good! Tell Him. He will give you Romans 5:5, and show you that the love He requires from you towards people....Yes, everyone....the person that hurt you, the person that you hate, the person that caused all the problems....even that person....He gives you a promise in Romans 5:5 that the love He requires out of you, He gives you the ability to love them through the Holy Spirit. You say, "I just can't love them." Then say to God, "I claim Romans 5:5 for this person because I just cannot love them. You require me to love them and you give me the Holy Spirit with this promise...so You must help me to love them through the Holy Spirit because I just can't on my own." And He will!

Corrie ten Boom shared this scripture verse with me. She had a person that she hated. One man was used by the Devil to kill; 4 family members including her aged Father, and she wrote him in prison. Because of you, 4 of my family members suffered in concentration camps and were killed. Even I have suffered terribly in one. But God requires me to love you and forgive you. And I cannot. But I claim Romans 5:5, and the Holy Spirit has made it possible for me to forgive you through Jesus Christ.

And one day, maybe very soon, when they put you to death for your crimes, you too could go to heaven if you ask the Lord Jesus into your heart and to forgive you of all of your sins. He was so amazed that she could forgive him, that he asked Jesus into his heart and wrote her. One week later he was killed. She rejoiced in Jesus that another person escaped the Devil's hands.

Today, you too can seek forgiveness of any and all of your sins. John tells us in the New Testament that we too can be forgiven of any sins we have committed while being a Christian. In 1 John 1:9 – If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. We must make sure that all our Prayer hindrances are taken care of to have our prayers heard by God. For God promises us in 1 Peter 3:12 – For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. We can take this one step further and see in Psalm 143:1 – Hear my prayer, O Lord, Give ear to my supplications: In thy faithfulness answer me, and in THY righteousness.

Where am I going with all these words and scriptures? You are in a battle. It is obvious that the Devil is doing his best to destroy you and this church. The key to your problem is Prayer. But in order for your prayers to be heard by God, you need all your prayer hindrances taken to the Lord and corrected. If you have unforgiveness or hatred in your heart, that will stop God from answering your prayers.

Well you might say, I have heard all this before. Ok. Let me tell you something that God taught me within months of being saved. God assigned me to teach the world about prayer. Quite literally He has used me to tell over 189 countries and over 10 million people about Him and prayer. Today, He

has sent me here to you. Now I will tell you something that is happening in the Ann Arbor area, and in the Detroit area.

My friend, Solomon Kinloch, Jr., received his first church from God on the wrong side of the tracks in Detroit. Solomon was used to being poor. He was raised on the wrong side of the tracks. Then God gave him a church of around 30 to 40 people in Detroit.

Solomon did not know what to do so he decided he would pray. How Lord can I teach these people and those that you will give me. Give me wisdom to know what to do. Teach me God what I need. He spent all night, and I mean lots of all night prayer sessions on his face prostrated before God in prayer seeking guidance. God honored him for seeking Him. He gave him people, lots of people, in 8 years time his congregation has grown to 8,000 and growing. He has the 3rd fastest growing church in the nation. Solomon told me that it is because of prayer, and that all the ministers in that church are required to spend hours every day in prayer. Seek God first while He may be found. Give Him the best in personal quiet alone time in prayer. See what God will do.

Now let me tell you the rest of the story.....in the church where I met Solomon Kinloch, it was in a normal size church in Belleville, and on a Tuesday night. He was renting out the church on Tuesday night for the people who attended his church in that area. The church he was renting out only had Sunday morning services. I knew the minister of that church and asked, "Since your church only has about 30 people why does not God bless you in prayer. The minister answered, I am too lazy to spend any all nights in prayer. I just won't do it. So while Solomon packed out the church on Tuesday night so that you had to get there one hour early to get a seat (people were sitting all in the entrance room and standing in the entrance just to hear the message.....but on Sunday....week after week, month after month....there was about 30 people. Which end result do you want? There are shelves and shelves of books about how Prayer is the number one thing to grow a church.

In the last several months, while I still had cancer, I spent 3 days and 3 nights in prayer. Shortly after that time frame I spent 7 days in prayer. In August, I will be spending 30 days in prayer. Why? Because I feel led. God wants to have me to Himself. He has opened the door and provided the way. God desires everyone of His children to have communion with Him. He wants you to daily talk with Him. You start this avenue with Prayer. In James 4:8 – Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double minded.

1 Timothy 2:8 – I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. It is time to pray. To really pray. Praying John Hyde, prayed a lot and he even started to pray that God would give him souls to witness too. He had enough faith for one person a day and he asked God to give him one person a day in his path to bring to salvation. God gave him 1 soul a day for 365 days. Then Praying Hyde, asked God for 2 souls a day...for 3 souls a day....for 5 souls a day....each time God gave him what he asked foreach time for 365 days a year. God answered his prayers.

Amazing? Why? God says that if we ask Him anything in Jesus' name, and it is His will to be done, that He will do it. 1 John 5:14-15 – And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us: (15) And if we know that he hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him. It is so beautiful to remember that it is His will that none should perish in the following: O Zion, haste, thy mission high fulfilling, to tell to all the world that God is Light, and He who made all nations is not willing one soul should perish, lost in shades of night.

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So when you pray, asking God to fill this church with people to lift up praises to Him. You are asking in His will. For He wants none to perish. He will hear your prayers and He takes delight when we ask in faith. When we love Him, our faith in Him will grow. When we stand shaky at first on faith, it will grow with active experience on relying on Him. Just like new lovers.

You say, I do not know how to pray. Neither did I and I told God so. How can I go and tell anyone how to pray? I will teach you. And He did.

This is how you pray.....pretend you are on your cell phone talking to your best friend. Hold it to your ear if it will help. Now talk to God as though He is your best friend. Say.....God....I need to talk to you....I need to and tell Him. Tell Him everything and honestly. Ask Him to grow your faith in Him. Bring all your needs to Him. Now bring the needs of your church family. Bring Him the needs of your loved ones. Tell everything and before you know it.....you will learn how to pray real good.

Now when you are done....simply say, "I ask all these things in Jesus name. And Father....thank you for helping me to pray. Please bend me always and keep helping me to grow closer to you. Now do you have anything to say to me? Be quiet and listen.....if He does....He will answer you in a couple of minutes at the most. Trust me You WILL know when God talks to you! Or when Jesus talks to you. Even the Holy Spirit will talk to you. And you will know. For now Just be still and listen. When He is done....or it has been a couple of minutes.....put your phone down. You have just prayed. Expect answers! Not a day goes by which God answers prayers of mine.

Yes, He has used me to do miracles. God has sent me to you to teach you about prayer and how it is the number one thing to grow a church. WILL you do it?

Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. – 1 Thess. 5:6

Pray Without Ceasing. – 1 Thess. 5:17

Let us pray.