New Life/Prayer March 1

Answered and Unanswered

So many times we pray and pray and wonder if our prayers are even heard much less answered – When you pray, I will answer you. When you call to me, I will respond. Isaiah 58:9. Here we have assurance that God does hear and answer our prayers.

All prayers are answered, there are yes or no to our requests or wait. The answer may not be the answer we want but the prayer is still answered. If we don’t get what we ask for it may be the way we are asking – And when you ask, you do not receive it, because your motives are bad; you ask for things to use for your own pleasures. James 4:3. We need to pray for our own needs, but not neglecting the needs of others, and praising and thanking God for all our blessings.

We must pray in the Name of Jesus and that God’s will be done, if we pray in this manner, then we must be willing to accept the answer that God gives us, after all GOD knows best.

VERSE FOR TODAY: I pray to you, O God, because you answer me; so turn to me and listen to my words. Psalm 17:6.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May the Spirit lead me to patience in waiting on you, O Lord, for the answering to my prayers and to be happy in whatever the answer is!

New Life/Prayer March 2

Prayer Examples

Today prayer of others is a vital part of our lives.

Jesus prayed for others:

* Jesus’ prayer for Lazarus:

They took the stone away. Jesus looked up and said, “I thank you, Father, that you listen to me. I know that you always listen to me, but I say this for the sake of the people here, so that they will believe that you sent me.”  John 11:41, 42.

* Jesus’ prayer from the cross:

Jesus said, “Forgive them, Father! They don't know what they are doing.” Luke 23:34.

Paul prayed for others too.

* Paul prayed for Israel – “My brothers and sisters, how I wish with all my heart that my own people might be saved! How I pray to God for them!” Romans 10:1
* Paul’s Prayer for the Ephesians – “I have not stopped giving thanks to God for you. I remember you in my prayers.” Ephesians 1:16.

We should pray for others specifically, not generally, by name and need if possible. USE the power of prayer to help others!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Pray on every occasion, as the Spirit leads. For this reason keep alert and never give up; pray always of all God’s people. Ephesians 6:18b.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Let me always remember others in my prayers, and not just myself.

New Life/Prayer March 3

Praying for One Another

There are many prayers for others, we can pray for healing both physical and spiritual – This prayer made in faith will heal the sick; the Lord will restore them to health, and the sins they have committed will be forgiven.  So then, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you will be healed. The prayer of a good person has a powerful effect. James 5:15, 16.

We must also remember our leaders in prayer – First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, requests, and thanksgivings be offered to God for all people; for kings and all others who are in authority. First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, requests, and thanksgivings be offered to God for all people;  for kings and all others who are in authority. 1 Timothy 2:1, 2a. Pray for our president and the awesome tasks he has to perform daily and for leaders of all countries, especially those in the middle of war or natural disasters.

Pray also for ministers and missionaries of the Gospel, that also includes each one of us as believers – At the same time pray also for us, so that God will give us a good opportunity to preach his message about the secret of Christ. Colossians 4:3a.

So pray for everyone, the person next door, the leaders of countries and the messengers of God’s Word.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Be persistent in prayer, and keep alert as you pray, giving thanks to God. Colossians 4:2

PRAYER THOUGHT: Let me always remember to you, O Lord, the needs of others and not forget to give you the honor and glory you deserve.

New Life March 4

Wealth

Being rich is not a sin but how we use the wealth and the power that comes with wealth can lead to sin – But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and are caught in the trap of many foolish and harmful desires, which pull them down to ruin and destruction. 1 Timothy 6:9.

If you are not rich becoming a Christian will not get you materially richer but – Well, religion does make a person very rich if he is satisfied with what he has. 1 Timothy 6:6. After all – What did we bring into this world? Nothing! What can we take out of the world? Nothing! So then, if we have food and clothing, that should be enough for us. 1 Timothy 6:7, 8.

Jesus gives us the perfect advice on where to store up our riches – “Do not store up riches for yourselves here on earth, where moths and rust destroy, and robbers break in and steal. Instead, store up riches for yourselves in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and robbers cannot break in and steal…” Matthew 6:19-20.

VERSE FOR TODAY: “…For your heart will always be where your riches are.” Matthew 6:21.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I use wisely the material “wealth” you do allow me to gather on this earth, but may I have my riches stored up with you, O Lord.

New Life March 5

Christian Giving

Whenever giving is brought up many people tune out, but there are many ways of giving; time, money and talents. First we must give of ourselves – First they gave themselves to the Lord; 2 Corinthians 8:5b.

All giving is based on what you have to give – If you are eager to give, God will accept your gift on the basis of what you have to give, not what you haven’t. 2 Corinthians 8:12.

Your giving in all areas furthers the kingdom of God here on earth, by helping others to hear the Word of God. Your offering is between you and God only – that thine alms may be in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly. Matthew 6:4. KJV.

Never give if you feel it’s an imposition or a duty but - Each one should give, then, as he has decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty; for God loves the one who gives gladly. 2 Corinthians 9:7.

VERSE FOR TODAY: He will always make you rich enough to be generous at all times, so that many will thank God for your gifts which they receive from us. 2 Corinthians 9:11.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I always give a portion of that which you give me, O Lord, generously and cheerfully with love for your kingdom here on earth.

New Life March 6

The Body is a Temple

When you have answered the invitation of the Lord and asked Him into your heart, your body becomes the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit and is His Temple. – Don’t you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and who was given to you by God? 1 Corinthians 6:19a.

We must – Avoid immorality, any other sin a man commits does not affect his body; but the man who is guilty of sexual immorality sins against his own body. 1 Corinthians 6:18. – You know that your bodies are parts of the body of Christ. Shall I take a part of Christ’s body and make it part of the body of a prostitute? Impossible! 1 Corinthians 6:15. This is not saying a prostitute cannot be saved, but they must turn from their body defiling life.

There are other sins that may not be body defiling, but the thought of doing them to the temple of God would be wrong, such as becoming drunk – Do not get drunk with wine, which will only ruin you; instead, be filled with the Spirit. Ephesians 5:18. Drugs today if abused are like drunkenness of this day, but as we know have even worse affects on the body, even death.

Keep the Temple of God, your body clean and pure.

VERSE FOR TODAY: You do not belong to yourselves but to God; he bought you for a price. So use your bodies for God’s glory. 1 Corinthians 6:19b, 20.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May my body not be defiled by my doing or by force. Help me to keep your Temple, O Lord, clean and pure.

New Life March 7

Do not Judge One Another

We are warned in the letters of the New Testament not to judge others after all we cannot know all the circumstances around their life – Do not criticize one another, my brothers and sisters. If you criticize fellow-Christians or judge them, you criticize the Law and judge it. If you judge the Law, then you are no longer one who obeys the Law, but one who judges it. God is the only lawgiver and judge. James 4:11, 12a.

Who are you to judge someone else's servants? Romans 14:4a. We are not servants of one another; we are servants of God, so leave the judging to God. No matter what we think or how we judge doesn’t matter the Lord will be the final judge anyway so why risk condemnation by judging against God’s will. -  Do you, my friend, pass judgment on others? You have no excuse at all, whoever you are. For when you judge others and then do the same things which they do, you condemn yourself. Romans 2:1. Be careful not to judge anyone!

VERSE FOR TODAY: “Do not judge others, so that God will not judge you,  for God will judge you in the same way as you judge others, and he will apply to you the same rules you apply to others…”

Matthew 7:1, 2.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I always leave the judging of others to you, O Lord, as you know their hearts and lives.

Christian Life March 8

Envy/Jealousy

An envious person hurts others, but he hurts himself most of all – Peace of mind makes the body healthy, but jealousy is like a cancer. Proverbs 14:30. We all know what cancer can do to a person if not brought under control, it will kill, and so will jealousy kill the good in a person if not controlled.

We’ve all been guilty at one time or another of “Keeping up with the Joneses” but we must learn not to live by worldly standards – When there is jealousy among you and you quarrel with one another, doesn’t that prove that you belong to this world, living by its standards? 1 Corinthians 3:3b. Here we can see two sets of “worldly standards”, jealousy of another’s things and living not like God would have us live spiritually but like the world.

Jealousy can lead to uncontrolled anger – A husband is never angrier than when he is jealous; his revenge knows no limits. Proverbs 6:34.

Several Bible stories show us what jealousy in a family can do: Can killed Able over the jealousy of sacrifices – Joseph’s brothers thought of death but instead sold Joseph because they were jealous of their Father’s special love for Joseph …

Jealousy must be avoided in all areas of our lives.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Where there is jealousy and selfishness, there is also disorder and every kind of evil. James 3:16.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O lord never to be poisoned with envy, but be happy for those who have better and do better than me.