

Prayer Power Tower

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Preparation

You have just been promoted to a prestigious position. That's the good news. The bad news is that there is another who currently holds that position and refuses to let it go. How do you exist congenially? To whom do you turn for resolution? This is the position of David, but he knows whom to turn to – none other than God Himself. (You can read more in 1 Samuel 23.) Listen as David shares his lament: *"Come with great power, O God, and rescue me! Defend me with Your might. Listen to my prayer, O God. Pay attention to my plea. For strangers are attacking me; violent people are trying to kill me. They care nothing for God. But God is my helper. The Lord keeps me alive! May the evil plans of my enemies be turned against them. Do as You promised and put an end to them. I will sacrifice a voluntary offering to You; I will praise Your name, O LORD, for it is good. For You have rescued me from my troubles and helped me to triumph over my enemies"* (Psalm 54 NLT). As you come to this hour of prayer, notice that David's lament quickly turns to an offering of thanks for deliverance, from the same loving and gracious God to whom you now turn in prayer.

Scripture

His final words of blessing spoken, Jacob "was gathered to his people," (Genesis 49:33) and we see the fulfillment of his days. As you read this week's passage (Genesis 49:28-50:14), reflect upon the ways God has called you to be His servant, no matter what your age.

- Jacob's last words to his sons charge them that he be buried in the land of promise, with his fathers (49:29-33). Could Jacob be wishing to go ahead to be there when the land is fully gained? Are you willing to believe in God's promises enough to go to the eternal land He has promised you – even now, if it be His will?
- The sons are given Jacob's burial plans, but it seems that Joseph is in charge of carrying them out. He whose early years were marked by a pattern of deceit dies a decent man, honored by even the pharaoh (50:2-3). The great patriarch Israel receives the burial rites accorded an Egyptian nobleman, with embalming and formal lamenting. Through all his years, Jacob's life was a story of the promise of the God who directs all, even the movements of Jacob's hands (see 48:14) – as He does our own.

- With great ceremony (50:7-13), the life of Jacob is celebrated. His family, reunited in Egypt for the final seventeen of his 147 years, celebrates his life. We can only guess at the thoughts of the Egyptians watching this great mourning procession! The fulfillment of God's promises may present itself in ways that unbelievers find difficult to understand. But are *you* listening and understanding? Are you trusting that He will be true to all of His promises to you, even if in surprising ways?

Adoration

Jacob's life is commemorated at his death. Those present probably gave thanks for the life they experienced with him. How often do you give thanks for the One who gives you life? Even ten thousand times a day can never be sufficient for all the love and grace He bestows, at such a high cost! Rejoice in your Savior.

Ten Thousand Thanks to Jesus

Matilda C. Day

*Ten thousand thanks to Jesus,
Whose life our ransom paid,
Whose blood a full atonement
For all the world has made.
Let every heart adore Him;
Let every creature sing
Ten thousand thanks to Jesus,
Our Savior and our King.*

Refrain: Ten thousand thanks,
Ten thousand thanks,
We'll praise Him o'er and o'er;
And for the life with Him to live,
Ten thousand thousand more!

*Ten thousand thanks to Jesus;
How gladly would we give
Ten thousand lives to Jesus,
Had we so long to live.
Ten thousand tongues shall praise Him,
Ten thousand songs ascend
To Him, our blest Redeemer,
To Him, our dearest Friend!* **Refrain**

*Ten thousand thanks to Jesus
For blessings every hour;
Ten thousand times ten thousand,
For love's redeeming power;
And when we hear His welcome
Beyond the rolling sea,
His love thro' endless ages
Our sweetest song shall be!* **Refrain**

Confession

As we have followed the life of Jacob, we've seen many aspects of his character that we could dwell upon. They range from his pre-birth struggles with brother Esau, to deceitful acts by which he cheated his brother out of an inheritance, to a sharp deal with his father-in-law Laban, yielding wealth in livestock for the great trickster. Yet we sense that Jacob at last came to realize that true success is not to be found in land and material riches. Rather, all things depend on the faithfulness of God – guaranteed by none other than Himself. Jacob may not have seen the fulfillment of God's promises in his lifetime, but he passed those promises on to his sons and heirs – passed them on so they would remember and anticipate that fulfillment. Jacob's reliance on God's faithfulness is not just an ancient ideal! We should each stand firm in the promises that we too have received from our heavenly Father, sealed through the blood of Jesus Christ. If you struggle with holding tightly to God's promises, at this time of confession turn over any doubts and fears to the One who is the promise-giver, the fulfiller of the promise, the One who is always faithful, even when we are not. Seek the peace that only Christ can give in His grace and forgiveness.

When you have finished your confession, draw comfort and strength from this promise from your Master:

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. (John 5:24 NKJV)

Rejoice in the Good News: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Thanksgiving

Jacob knew to whom thanks was due for his many blessings. But how much is enough? Ten or ten thousand thanks? Always rejoice with gratitude for the many blessings you have been given, even when it is impossible to give thanks for each one of the multitude of your blessings.

- Thank God for good gifts you have received that you did not even know you needed.
- Thank Him for those blessings given that you were not even aware you had received.
- Thank God for relationships – especially the relationship Jesus desires to have with you!
- Give thanks for the children of the church, because they represent God's fulfillment of the future of this church.
- Give thanks that you *"were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love."* (Galatians 5:13 NIV)

Supplication

The Bible assures us that *"The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results"* (James 5:16b NLT). Intimidated by the "righteous" part? Be encouraged by the truth that God gives to all believers the very righteousness of Christ, and pray confidently, even boldly – especially for those who stand shoulder to shoulder with you in this great ministry of prayer.

Daniel Adams, Kristen Agnew, Audrey and Bill Allen, Corinne Baker, Jon Baker, Cyndy Beech, Joyce Bett, Ed and Goldie Black, Betty Bowser, Barbara and David 'Skip' Byers, Jan Carr, Lisa Cook, Ray and Jane Cornelius, Jennifer and John Culp, Ed Daggitt, Gina Brenda Dolan, Jane Dunmire, Ruth Dykstra Entwistle, Mickey Edmiston, Becky Elliott, Janice Good, Dorothy Gooden, Kathleen Graham, Dorothy Henderson, John and Marilyn Hicks, Joy Holland, Suzanne Howat, Gail Jablonovsky, Alberta Keener, Louise Keough, Joann Kettler, Dana Krepps, Michelle Kurtz, Donna Lewis, Jean Longnecker, Linda Longwell, Nancy MacRae, Rich Madsen, Don McAninch, Myrna Jane McCamey, Greg McElroy, Colleen McGaffic, Bob and Joanne Miller, Sandy Minor, Shirley Minshull, Jane and John Moser, Alan and Terry Northcott, Sean O'Brien, Edna Orange, Phyllis Osborne, Hazel Palmer, Joan Pashley, Jeannette Patterson, Nancy Rankin, Joanne Raymer, Andrea and Tod Reiser, Rachael Renick, Megan (Illsley) Sateia, Erin Scott, John Snow, Mary Jane Surrena, Charles Timmons, Beth Utsch, Betty Walters, Toni Walters, Alice Winger, Tami Witzke and Chris Yeakle.

- Please ask God to not only help all who are part of our Prayer Initiative to be faithful in our praying labors, but also to bless us richly for Christ's kingdom as we pray.
- Please pray for all who serve Christ by sharing the Good News in a unique way through Tower's Puppet Ministry.
- Please pray for Associate Pastor Janice Good and her whole family as she ministers here at Tower Church.
- Please ask God to speak clearly and powerfully to each of us as we hear His word read in worship this week.
- Please pray that we will continue to grow in our efforts to truly be *"People helping people to know Jesus Christ."*
- Please pray for Ingrid Reneau as she serves Christ's kingdom in south Sudan.
- Please pray for our session and trustees in their continuing efforts to make our building more accessible.
- Please ask God to guide us as we weigh specific plans for a proposed elevator and new building entryway.
- Please pray that we will each *grow* in love for one another and for the Christ who saves us.