

Prayer Power Tower

Volume 8, No. 34

August 22, 2010

Preparation

Patience! Is that the virtue of remaining calm in difficult circumstances? Or is it more a strong faith in the One who controls all those circumstances? There is a story of a sole survivor of a shipwreck who managed to swim to a deserted island. Daily he watched the horizon for any sign of a passing ship: his rescue. As the days passed and he gathered driftwood to construct a simple hut for himself and his few belongings, he prayed for rescue. Day after day was the same: no ships, no rescue, no apparent answer to his prayers. One day after his daily adventure about the island, he returned to his beach home to discover that his hut was on fire. The flames of his small fire had caught the dried wood on fire. Overcome by one more unpleasant event in his life, as night fell, he threw himself on the sand and cried out to God. "Why?!" Sometime later, as the sun began to rise, the man looked out to the seas, contemplating his own demise. But then he looked again, and rubbed the sand out of his eyes. There, coming toward him from a great ship on the horizon, was a rescue party. When he asked how they found him, the sailors said they traveled that same route every ten days, but it was only that prior evening that they saw his *signal* fire. When there seems to be nothing left, God is always up to something: "*I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength to do His work. He considered me trustworthy and appointed me to serve Him... Oh, how generous and gracious our Lord was! He filled me with the faith and love that come from Christ Jesus. This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: 'Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners' – and I am the worst of them all. But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of His great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in Him and receive eternal life. All honor and glory to God forever and ever! He is the eternal King, the unseen one who never dies; He alone is God. Amen*" (1 Timothy 1:12-17 NLT). Take Paul's words into your heart as you come before the eternal King now to spend time in holy conversation.

Scripture

As much as we may complain, laws surround us. We either obey them, or resist and pay for our infractions (sometimes in substantial dollar amounts). The Apostle Paul puts the law in a new

light: the light of faith (Romans 3:27-31). As you read Paul's words, listen for ways they convict your heart.

- Those who have the best advantage often find the need to boast of their superiority (3:27). But Paul reminds us that in the Lord's eyes, we are all the same: in our faith in the one true God, we become one people, all of equal status. Pray that you might recognize and repent of any spiritual pride that plagues you.
- Do you think you can work your way to heaven? It is neither our faithful keeping of the law nor our good deeds that will ensure our place in Heaven, but rather God's grace, through our faith in Christ (3:28). How hard it is for us to fully understand that we can do *nothing*, no good work, to earn our God's saving love! Ask Him to break your heart each day with that glorious truth, that you might be a bold witness.

Adoration

Above the noise of each day, the busyness of our lives and the chatter of seemingly endless conversations, there is one sound we ought to not only hear, but also actively seek out, and personally join in: praising the Lord. Express your adoring praise now of the One without sin who gave it all so we could be forgiven of our sins.

Hallelujah! What a Savior

Philip Bliss, 1875

Man of Sorrows! what a name

For the Son of God, who came

Ruined sinners to reclaim.

Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude,

In my place condemned He stood;

Sealed my pardon with His blood.

Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Guilty, vile, and helpless we;

Spotless Lamb of God was He;

"Full atonement!" can it be?

Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Lifted up was He to die;

"It is finished!" was His cry;

Now in Heav'n exalted high.

Hallelujah! What a Savior!

When He comes, our glorious King,

All His ransomed home to bring,

Then anew His song we'll sing:

Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Confession

How many times have you knowingly driven at least a *little* over the posted speed limit? Is that breaking the law? As you drive, do you go into 'auto-pilot' and just cruise along aware, but also confident that no one will know, or catch you? What happens when you suddenly spot a police car, sitting along the road ahead, or with flashing lights in your rearview mirror? Paul's discussion of the law suggests such questions to us. Israel of old knew the law of God. But that certainly didn't mean that everyone obeyed! Nor are we righteous for merely *knowing* the law. As we grow in our faith we begin to understand this much better, just as our attitude to the law of the state changes as we mature. The law may prevent us from doing wrong, but it doesn't in itself make us right in God's eyes. As you speak to the One who determines your status before the Holy God, confess those sins He lays on your heart. And rejoice in your confidence that, because you are a believer, you are finally blameless in Christ, even though you may be also – like Paul – the worst of sinners (1 Timothy 1:16)!

When you have finished your prayers of confession, praise God for the promise He Himself gives us here in His holy word:

"For a mere moment I have forsaken you, but with great mercies I will gather you. With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; but with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you," says the LORD, your Redeemer." (Isaiah 54:7-8 NKJV)

Know that in Jesus Christ you are forgiven, and be at peace!

Thanksgiving

Give thanks this day for laws, those that keep you safe as well as those that may intimidate you to obey, thus protecting others.

- Thank the Lord for the rule of law in our society.
- Thank God for His patience as you walk and even stumble along your faith journey.
- Thank Him the guiding words of Scripture that give understanding of how He wants us to behave and believe.
- Give thanks for God's grace in areas of your daily walk where you struggle.
- Thank God for any instances in your life when you may have received grace from a police officer.
- Thank Him for the natural laws by which He holds the universe together and maintains the stars in their orbits.
- Give thanks for the insight of others, even as Peter does: *"So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to [the day of the Lord], make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with Him"* (2 Peter 3:14 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, 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, DJ Wagner, Betty Walters, Toni Walters, Alice Winger, Tami Witzke and Chris Yeakle.

- Please pray that *People helping people to know Jesus Christ* will be for us as a church the rule by which we joyfully live – not merely a pious cliché!
- Please pray that the same may be true of our Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
- Please ask God for His continued guidance and blessing as we concentrate on leadership for our new entrance/elevator project.
- Please pray specifically that He will be preparing the hearts and minds of all who will provide the funds to cover the costs of the project.
- Please pray for the members of our Personnel Team, and their vital work of stewardship of human resources.
- Please pray for Pastor John and his whole family.
- Please ask God to bless our children in particular in worship this week.
- Please pray for Ingrid Reneau as she serves Christ's kingdom in south Sudan.
- Please ask God to help us to grow as a church – in numbers, but especially in spiritual maturity.