



**Volume XXXIX**

**August 14, 2023**

**GOD ANSWERS PRAYER**—Many years ago a steamer was crossing the Atlantic. Its Captain was a Christian. The steamer was off the banks of Newfoundland when the Captain said to one of the passengers who was his friend, "The last time I crossed here, five weeks ago, one of the most extraordinary things happened that has completely revolutionized the whole of my Christian life. Up to that time, I was one of your ordinary Christians. We had a man of God on board, George Muller of Bristol. I had been on that bridge for twenty-two hours and never left it. I was startled by someone tapping me on the shoulder. It was George Muller."

" 'Captain,' he said, 'I have come to tell you that I must be in Quebec on Saturday afternoon.' This was Wednesday."

" 'It is impossible,' I said."

" 'Very well, if your ship can't take me, God will find some other means of locomotion to take me. I have never broken an engagement for fifty-seven years.' "

" 'I would willingly help you, but how can I? I am helpless.' And I pointed to the dense fog surrounding us."

" 'Let's go down to the chart room and pray,' " responded Mr. Muller."

"I looked at the man of God and I thought to myself, *What lunatic asylum could the man have come from? I never heard of such a thing!*" 'Mr. Muller,' I said, 'do you know how dense this fog is?' "

" 'No,' he replied, 'my eye is not on the density of the fog but on the living God, who knows every circumstance of my life.' "

"He went down on his knees, and he prayed one of the most simple prayers. I thought to myself, *That would suit a children's class, where the children were not more than eight or nine years of age.* The burden of his prayer was something like this, 'O Lord, if it be consistent with Thy will, please remove this fog in five minutes. You know the engagement You made for me in Quebec for Saturday. I believe it is Your will.' "

"When he had finished, I was going to pray, but he put his hand on my shoulder and told me not to pray. 'First,' he said, 'you do not believe God will do it; and second, I believe He has done it. There is no need whatever for you to pray about it.' "

"I looked at him and George Muller said, 'Captain, I have known my Lord for fifty-seven years and there has never been a single day that I have failed to gain an audience with the Lord. Get up, Captain, and open the door and you will find the fog is gone.' I got up and the fog was gone! And on Saturday afternoon George Muller was in Quebec."

This is according to spiritual law. Ask from a true heart, in real faith, and God will answer.

—Gospel Standard

*"...a net...cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind."* Matthew 13:47

**Number 4**

**THE POWER OF PRAYER**—The boy was sick. For days he had run a high fever, but his father and mother thought it was just a fever. Everybody in Hong Kong had a fever, so no need to worry. Suddenly he got worse, so they took him to the doctor. After examination, three doctors who checked the child said he had meningitis and had only twenty-four hours at the most to live.

The father hurried to the missionary, requesting prayer for his only son. Arriving at the hospital, they found that because of lack of space, the child had already been removed to the morgue even though he had not yet died.

Kneeling in these unfamiliar surroundings with other bodies as silent witnesses, they claimed the promise of the Lord in Matthew 21:22, *"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."* The missionary, because of other duties, had to leave. The father remained beside the almost lifeless, unconscious child.

The next day being Sunday, the missionary rose to minister in the church and the door opened, and there, leading by the hand the child who the day before was as good as dead, was the father with rejoicing on his face. The congregation rose as one, singing the praises of God. The father gave testimony that the promises of God are true and God had honored his faith. The overall result was a new release of faith and power in the Lord.

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**PRAYER** has divided seas, rolled up flowing rivers, made rocks gush into fountains, quenched flames of fire, muzzled lions, disarmed vipers, repelled frauds, burst open iron gates, recalled souls from eternity, conquered the strongest devils, commanded legions of angels down from Heaven. **Prayer** has brought one man from the bottom of the sea and carried another in a chariot of fire to Heaven. 1 Thessalonians 5:17, *"Pray without ceasing"*.

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**HOW GREEN IS YOUR PRAYER PATH?**—Some converted Africans could find no place to pray in their small, crowded huts, so they formed the habit of walking off into the forest to pray. In time a path was trodden through the grass from each man's hut to his place of prayer.

When one of these Christians became lukewarm and seldom trod his path to pray, his friends would help him with the reminder, "Brother, the grass grows green on your path."

How is it with your path of prayer? Does the grass grow green upon it, or is it well trod with your communion with God regular and your soul nourished? Jesus admonishes, *"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak"* Matthew 26:41.

**PRAYER AND FAITH**—The possibilities of prayer by faith in God’s ability to do are endless. Faith is the one prime condition by which God works. Faith gives character to prayer. A feeble faith has always brought forth feeble praying. Luke 18:1, *“And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint”*, in which Jesus stressed the necessity of vigorous praying. In Luke 18:8 He asks this pointed question, *“...when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?”*

In the case of a child which the father brought first to the disciples, who could not cure him, and then to the Lord, the father cried out with declining faith and of a great sorrow, *“...if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us”* (Mark 9:22). And Jesus said unto him, *“...If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth”* (Mark 9:23).

Strange how God has to school his people in His ability to do! He made a promise to Abraham and Sarah that Isaac would be born. Abraham was then nearly one hundred years old, and Sarah was barren by natural defect, and had passed into a barren age. She laughed at the thought of having a child. God asked, *“...Wherefore did Sarah laugh...Is any thing too hard for the LORD?...”* (Genesis 18:13,14). And God fulfilled His promise!

Elijah had the promise that God would send the rain, but no promise that He would send the fire. But by faith and prayer he obtained the fire as well as the rain, but the fire came first.

Daniel had no promise that God would make known to him the dream of the king, but he prayed, and God revealed to Daniel the king’s dream and the interpretation, and their lives were spared thereby.

If Christians prayed as Christians ought, with strong faith, with earnestness and sincerity, God-called men, God-empowered Christians everywhere, would all be burning to go and spread the gospel worldwide.

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**PRAYER AND FASTING**—Fasting is a means of humbling ourselves before God, letting Him know that we are willing to exchange physical food to seek Him for a spiritual feast. Establishing a closer communion with God is the very reason for fasting. Fasting is the act of abstaining from feeding the body in order to focus more fully on seeking God’s face and feeding the spirit. Fasting involves seeking God’s face in all humility, based on the principle of 2 Chronicles 7:14, *“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”*

As a nation we are faced with the gravest crisis in our history because we have rejected God and His commandments. Though America was founded on biblical principles by godly men and women, we have officially declared the Creator of the universe as “not wanted” in our schools and other public areas, bringing judgment on America and on His church in America by removing His hedge of protection and giving us over to the consequences of our sins. Unless we repent, His judgment will intensify with each passing day as He begins to pour out His wrath in

turning us over to disasters. The good news is that God is a God of mercy, always preferring mercy to judgment if His people meet His conditions. So the problem is not what the world is doing, but what God’s people are doing, or not doing, that will determine God’s blessing or judgment on our nation.

In the Old Testament, fasting was the way people individually humbled themselves before God. God’s people have always fasted to humble themselves, to receive cleansing of their sins by repentance, for spiritual renewal, and for special helps. Fasting is often associated with weeping and other acts of humility before God.

Fasting is mentioned throughout the Old Testament, In Joel 2:12,13 the Lord commanded them to turn with all their heart and with fasting. In the book of Ezra, Ezra calls a fast to seek God’s protection for the Jews returning from Babylon to Jerusalem. Throughout the Bible, there are many other examples of how fasting can change the course of events. Moses twice fasted forty days (Deuteronomy 9:9, 18), all Israel fasted in the time of the Judges and the time of Samuel (Judges 20:26, 1 Samuel 7:6). King David fasted on many occasions, including before he was crowned, when his child was ill, when his enemies were ill (Psalm 35:13), and because of the sins of his people (Psalm 69:8,10). Elijah, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther and Daniel all fasted in times of need.

For believers, the question is not should I fast, but will I fast?

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**FISHY QUESTION**—Last edition asked what does a ship have and doesn’t need, but can’t get underway without it? The answer is A WAKE! This time guess what an island and the letter “T” have in common.

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### TRUTHS TO REMEMBER

1. Faith is the ability to not panic.
2. If you worry, you didn’t pray; if you pray, don’t worry.
3. Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape.
4. When we get tangled up in our problems, be still. God wants us to be still so He can untangle the knot.
5. Do the math; count your blessings.
6. God wants spiritual fruit, not religious nuts.
7. Growing old is inevitable; growing up is optional.
8. We do not remember days, but moments. Life moves too fast, so enjoy your precious moments.

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### ONE FISHY FUNNY

A fisherman was reading a Bible story to his young son. He read, “The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt.”

His son asked, “What happened to the flea?”

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### MY PRAYER FOR YOU

I pray that...

- ...your peace will be real and serene,
- ...your fields will be fruitful and green.
- ...from sin you will keep yourself clean,
- ...sweet handfuls of blessing you will glean.
- ...your trials will make you humble, not mean,
- ...you’ll love God and let nothing come between.
- ...on Him you’ll fully lean.