

The Family Time

December 1, 2014

By: *Pastor Cameron Bowen*



Philippians 4:6 - Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Philippians 4:7 - And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Sometimes as members of a family, we think that our challenges and difficulties will overcome us, but listen to Ministry of Healing, page 199, paragraph 4:

It is when we come into difficult places that He reveals His power and wisdom in answer to humble prayer. Have confidence in Him as a prayer-hearing, prayer-answering God. He will reveal Himself to you as One who can help in every emergency. He who created man, who gave him his wonderful physical, mental, and spiritual faculties, will not withhold that which is necessary to sustain the life He has given. He who has given us His word--the leaves of the tree of life-- will not withhold from us a knowledge of how to provide food for His needy children. *{MH 199.4}*

Christ has demonstrated time and time again, His ability and willingness to supply our needs according to His riches in glory. Ministry of Healing 200.2 says:

He who fed the multitude with five loaves and two small fishes is able today to give us the fruit of our labor. He who said to the fishers of Galilee, "Let down your nets for a draft," and who, as they obeyed, filled their nets till they broke, desires His people to see in this an evidence of what He will do for them today. The God who in the wilderness gave the children of Israel manna from heaven still lives and reigns. He will guide His people and give skill and understanding in the work they are called to do. He will give wisdom to those who strive to do their duty conscientiously and intelligently. He who owns the world is rich in resources, and will bless everyone who is seeking to bless others. *{MH 200.2}*

Because God's promises are sure we must never cease in asking. Steps to Christ 97.2 says:

Perseverance in prayer has been made a condition of receiving. We must pray always if we would grow in faith and experience. We are to be "instant in prayer," to "continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving." Romans 12:12; Colossians 4:2. Peter exhorts believers to be "sober, and watch unto prayer." 1 Peter 4:7. Paul directs, "In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Philippians 4:6. "But ye, beloved," says Jude, "praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the love of God." Jude 20, 21. Unceasing prayer is the unbroken union of the soul with God, so that life from God flows into our life; and from our life, purity and holiness flow back to God. *{Steps to Christ 97.2}*



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Personal hygiene is a necessary responsibility for each day. Spiritual hygiene, surrender, commitment, guidance, and obedience is also a daily responsibility. ST, August 7, 1884 par. 14 says:

- 1.** This is a daily matter. Each morning consecrate yourself and your family to God for that day. Make no calculation for months or years; for they are not yours. One brief day is given you, and that one day work for yourself and your family as though it were your last.
- 2.** Surrender all your plans to God, to be carried out or given up, as his providence shall indicate. In this manner you may, day by day, be giving your life with its plans and purposes into the hands of God, accepting his plans instead of your own, no matter how much they may interfere with your arrangements nor how many pleasant projects may have to be abandoned.
- 3.** Thus the life will be moulded more and more after the divine Model; and "the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." *{ST, August 7, 1884 par. 14}*

So let us understand again the importance of prayer.

- 1.** Prayer has been made the means of obtaining blessings that would not otherwise be received.
- 2.** The patriarchs were men of prayer, and God did great things for them.
- 3.** When Jacob left his father's house for a strange land, he prayed in humble contrition, and in the night season the Lord answered him through vision.
- 4.** He saw a ladder, bright and shining, its base resting on earth, and its topmost round reaching to the highest Heaven.
- 5.** At its top stood the God of Heaven in his glory, and angels were ascending and descending upon the mystic ladder.
- 6.** The Lord comforted the lonely wanderer with precious promises; and protecting angels were represented as stationed on each side of his path.
- 7.** Afterward, while on his return to his father's house, he wrestled with the Son of God all night, even till break of day, and prevailed. The assurance was given him, "Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel; for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men." *{ST, August 14, 1884 par. 1}*