

Seminar of Hope



**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN A SEMINAR
IN YOUR PARISH CONTACT:**

Vernon Robertson
19563 Oak Terrace
Pitt Meadows, BC V3Y 2A2
Phone: 604-460-0114
vernon4@telus.net
www.seminarofhope.org

HOW TO PRAY FOR YOUR SONS, DAUGHTERS & LOVED ONES By Vernon Robertson

OUTLINE OF TALKS		PAGE
	A FATHER'S LOVE LETTER	1
TALK 1	HOW IS YOUR PRAYER LIFE?	2
TALK 2	WHEN GOOD PARENTS SUFFER, WHERE IS GOD?	3 – 4
TALK 3	A LOOK AT HOW JESUS PRAYED AND WHAT HE AND OTHERS SAID ABOUT PRAYER	5 – 10
TALK 4	WHEN PARENTS CAME TO JESUS ON BEHALF OF THEIR CHILDREN... WHAT HAPPENED?	11 – 13
TALK 5	GOD'S LOVE AND SACRIFICE FOR ALL PEOPLE	14 – 15
TALK 6	OUR ENEMY AND THE BATTLE AND WHAT WE MUST DO	16
TALK 7	SOME OF THE CONDITIONS OF THE PEOPLE WE CAN BE PRAYING FOR	17
TALK 8	THE POWER OF THE WORD OF GOD IN YOUR PRAYER LIFE AND PRAYING THE WORD INTO THE LIFE OF YOUR LOVED ONES	18 – 19
TALK 9	PRAYING THE PROMISES OF GOD FOR YOUR LOVED ONES	20 – 22
TALK 10	PRAYING GOD'S WORD INTO THE LIVES OF YOUR LOVED ONES AND KNOWING GOD'S PEACE	23 – 25
TALK 11	THE MINISTRY OF ANGELS	26 – 27
TALK 12	FASTING	28 – 29
TALK 13	OBSTACLES TO YOUR PRAYERS BEING ANSWERED	30 – 33



Father's Love Letter

My Child.....

You may not know me,

*but I know everything about you... **Psalm 139:1***

*I know when you sit down and when you rise up... **Psalm 139:2***

*I am familiar with all your ways ... **Psalm 139:3** Even the very hairs on your head are numbered... **Matthew 10:29-31***

*For you were made in my image... **Genesis 1:27** In me you live and move and have your being... **Acts 17:28***

*For you are my offspring... **Acts 17:28** I knew you even before you were conceived... **Jeremiah 1:4-5***

*I chose you when I planned creation... **Ephesians 1:11-12** You were not a mistake... **Psalm 139:15-16***

*For all your days are written in my book... **Psalm 139:15-16** I determined the exact time of your birth and where you*

*would live... **Acts 17:26** You are fearfully and wonderfully made... **Psalm 139:14** I knit you together in your*

*mother's womb... **Psalm 139:13** And brought you forth on the day you were born... **Psalm 71:6** I have been*

*misrepresented by those who don't know me... **John 8:41-44** I am not distant and angry, but am the complete*

*expression of love... **1 John 4:16** And it is my desire to lavish my love on you... **1 John 3:11** Simply because you are*

*my child and I am your Father... **John 3:1** I offer you more than your earthly father ever could... **Matthew 7:11***

*For I am the perfect Father... **Matthew 5:48** Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand... **James 1:17***

*For I am your provider and I meet all your needs... **Matthew 6:31-33** My plan for your future has always been filled
with hope... **Jeremiah 29:11***

*Because I love you with an everlasting love... **Jeremiah 31:3** My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the*

*seashore... **Psalm 139:17-18** And I rejoice over you with singing... **Zephaniah 3:17** I will never stop doing good to*

*you... **Jeremiah 32:40** For you are my treasured possession... **Exodus 19:5** I desire to establish you with all my*

*heart and all my soul... **Jeremiah 32:41** And I want to show you great and marvelous things... **Jeremiah 33:3***

*If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me... **Deuteronomy 4:29** Delight in me and I will give you the desires of*

*your heart... **Psalm 37:4** For it is I who gave you those desires... **Philippians 2:13** I am able to do more for you than*

*you could possibly imagine... **Ephesians 3:20** For I am your greatest encourager... **2 Thessalonians 2:16-17***

*I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles... **2 Corinthians 1:3-4** When you are broken-hearted, I am*

*close to you... **Psalm 34:18** As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart... **Isaiah 40:11***

*One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes... **Revelation 21:3-4** And I'll take away all the pain you have*

*suffered on this earth... **Revelation 21:4** I am your Father and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus... **John 17:23***

*For in Jesus my love for you is revealed ... **John 17:26** He is the exact representation of my being... **Hebrews 1:3***

*And He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you... **Romans 8:31** And to tell you that I am not counting*

*your sins... **2 Corinthians 5:18-19** Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled... **2 Corinthians 5:18-19***

*His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you... **1 John 4:10** I gave up everything I loved that I might gain*

*your love... **Romans 8:32** If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me... **1 John 2:23** And nothing will ever*

*separate you from my love again... **Romans 8:38-39** Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever*

*seen... **Luke 15:7** I have always been Father and will always be Father... **Ephesians 3:14-15** My question is... Will*

*you be my child?... **John 1:12-13** I am waiting for you... **Luke 15:11-32***

**Love, Your Dad
Almighty God**

HOW IS YOUR PRAYER LIFE?

TALK 1

HOW IS YOUR PRAYER LIFE?

- ❖ How is your prayer life?
- ❖ Do you have one?
- ❖ Is it effective
- ❖ Is it helping you grow closer to God?
- ❖ Do you feel alone in your prayer life or
- ❖ Are you aware that you are apart of the Catholic prayer family?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

To keep our divine appointment each day with our Heavenly Father in prayer

How to determine:

1. Time of prayer
2. Place of prayer
3. Preparation for prayer time
4. Protection of our prayer time
5. Proper aids to help us in our prayer time

CATECHISM ON PRAYER

The fourth and final section of the Catechism of the Catholic Church is devoted to the subject of Christian Prayer, composed of a total of 308 paragraphs numbered from 2558 to 2865. The Catechism describes prayer as a “vital and personal relationship with the Living and True God” (2558). “What is Prayer?” It quotes St. Therese of Lisieux, who described prayer as “a surge of the heart . . . a simple look turned toward heaven . . . a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy” (2558). The Catechism states that “whether prayer is expressed in words or gestures, it is the whole man that prays” (2562) and explains that the heart, mentioned “more than a thousand times” in Scripture, needs to be involved; “If our heart is far from God, the words of prayer are in vain” (2562). Our praying and our prayer should, therefore, involve our heart, more than any other part of us. May the prayers that we say involve our hearts as well as our minds and voices, so that we can participate fully in “the living relationship of the children of God with their Father who is good beyond measure, with His Son Jesus Christ and with the Holy Spirit” (2565)

WHEN GOOD PARENTS SUFFER, WHERE IS GOD?

TALK 2

	<p>In this talk we will look at famous biblical characters to see how they suffered on behalf of their children's sins. To help us to understand how God can bring forth from our suffering, with our co-operation, tremendous blessing and transformation for our lives. We will look at three biblical examples of how this happened.</p>
	<p>GOAL: To know God's peace in the midst of suffering</p> <p>1. <u>NOAH</u> What God said about Noah.</p> <p> Genesis 6:8-9 "But Noah found favour in the eyes of the Lord. These are the records of the generations of Noah. <u>Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time. Noah walked with God.</u>"</p> <p> Genesis 7:1 "Then the lord said to Noah, "Enter the ark, you and your household, for you alone I have seen to be righteous before me in this time."</p> <p> Genesis 9:22 Ham, Noah's son, dishonours his father by gazing on Noah's nakedness.</p>
	<p>2. <u>SAMUEL</u></p> <p> 1 Samuel 3:1-3,5 "And it came about when Samuel was old that he appointed his sons judges over Israel. His sons, however, did not walk in his ways, but turned aside after dishonest elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. And they said to him, "Behold you have grown old and your sons do not walk in your ways."</p>
	<p>3. <u>JOB</u> What God said about Job.</p> <p> Job 1:8 "And the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil."</p> <p> Job 1:5 "And it came about, when the days of feasting had completed their cycle, that Job would send and consecrate them, rising up early in the morning and offering burnt offerings according to the number of them all, for Job said, "Perhaps my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This Job did continually."</p>

**A LOOK AT HOW JESUS PRAYED AND WHAT HE AND OTHERS
SAID ABOUT PRAYER
TALK 3**

Luke Ch.3: 21-22	WHO WE ARE
	When all the people were baptized and Jesus was at prayer after likewise being baptized, the skies opened (22) and the Holy Spirit descended on Him in visible form like a dove. A voice in heaven was heard to say; "You are My beloved Son. On You my favour rests."
Mark Ch.3: 13-15	INTIMACY
	And He went up to the mountain and summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him (14) and He appointed twelve that they might be with Him, and that He might send them out to preach (15) and to have authority to cast out the demons.
Luke Ch.5: 16-20	INTERCESSORY FAITH
	He often retired to deserted places and prayed. (17) One day Jesus was teaching, and the power of the Lord made Him heal. Sitting close by were Pharisees and teachers of the law who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. (18) Some men came along carrying a paralytic on a mat. They were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, (19) but they found no way of getting him through because of the crowd, so they went up on the roof. There they let him down with his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd before Jesus. (20) Seeing their faith, Jesus said, "My friend, your sins are forgiven you."
Matthew Ch.11: 5-26	PRAYER OF PRAISE
	On one occasion Jesus spoke thus, "Father, Lord of heaven and earth, to You I offer praise, for what you have hidden from the learned and the clever you have revealed to the merest children. (26) Father, it is true. You have graciously willed it so.

**A LOOK AT HOW JESUS PRAYED AND WHAT HE AND OTHERS
SAID ABOUT PRAYER
TALK 3 (Cont'd.)**

John Ch.11: 39-43	PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
	<p>“Take away the stone,” Jesus directed. Martha, the dead man’s sister, said to him, “Lord, it has been four days now, surely there will be a stench!” (40) Jesus replied, “Did I not assure you that if you believed you would see the glory of God displayed?” (41) Then they took away the stone and Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. (42) I know that You always hear me but I have said this for the sake of the crowd, that they may believe that you sent me.” (43) Having said this He called loudly, “Lazarus, come out!” (44) The dead man came out, bound hand and foot with linen strips, his face wrapped in a cloth. “Untie him,” Jesus told them, “and let him go free.”</p>
Matthew Ch.26:36-46	INVITATION TO PRAY WITH JESUS
	<p>Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane. He said to His disciples, “Stay here while I go over there and pray.” (37) He took along Peter and Zebedee’s two sons, and began to experience sorrow and distress. Then He said to them, (38) “My heart is nearly broken with sorrow. Remain here and stay here with me.” (39) He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer. “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass me by. Still, let it be as you would have it, not as I.” (40) When He returned to His disciples, He found them asleep. He said to Peter, “So you could not stay awake with me for even an hour? (41) Be on guard, and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing but nature is weak.” (42) Withdrawing a second time, He began to pray, “My Father, if this cannot pass Me by without my drinking it your will be done!” (43) Once more, on His return, He found them asleep, they could not keep their eyes open. (44) He left them again, withdrew somewhat, and began to pray a third time, saying the same words as before. (45) Finally He returned to His disciples and said to them, “sleep on now. Enjoy your rest! The hour is on us when the Son of Man is to be handed over to the power of evil men. (46) Get up! Let us be on our way! See my betrayer is here.”</p>

**A LOOK AT HOW JESUS PRAYED AND WHAT HE AND OTHERS
SAID ABOUT PRAYER
TALK 3 (Cont'd.)**

Luke Ch.22: 31-32	PROCESS OF ANSWERED PRAYER
	“Simon, Simon! Remember that Satan has asked for you, to sift you all like wheat. (32) But I have prayed for you that your faith may never fail. You in turn must strengthen your brothers.”
Luke Ch.23: 34	PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS
	Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, they do not know what they are doing.”
Luke Ch.23: 46	PRAYER OF ABANDONMENT
	Jesus uttered a loud cry and said, “Father, into your hands I commend My Spirit.” After He said this, He died.
John Ch.17: 11-26	WHAT JESUS PRAYS FOR HIS DISCIPLES
	(11) Jesus asks for protection and unity (13) Jesus asks for them to have His joy (15) He asks that they be kept from the evil one (17) He asks that they be sanctified in truth (23) That they be perfected in unity (24) That they may be with Him to behold the Father (25) That the Father’s love be in them
Hebrews Ch.5: 7	JESUS AT PRAYER
	In the days when He was in the flesh, He offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to God, who was able to save Him from death and He was heard because of His reverence.

**A LOOK AT HOW JESUS PRAYED AND WHAT HE AND OTHERS
SAID ABOUT PRAYER
TALK 3 (Cont'd.)**

Luke Ch.18: 1	DON'T GIVE UP
	He told them a parable on the necessity of praying always and not losing heart.
Matthew Ch.21: 22	KEEP THE FAITH
	You will receive all that you pray for, provided you have faith.
John Ch.14: 13-15	PRAYING IN JESUS NAME
	And whatever you ask in My name I will do so as to glorify the Father in the Son. (14) Anything you ask Me in My name I will do. (15) If you love me and obey the commands I give you.
Matthew Ch.18:19-20	PRAYER OF AGREEMENT
	“Again I tell you, if two of you join your voices on earth to pray for anything whatever, it shall be granted you by My Father in heaven. (20) Where two or three are gathered in My name, their am I in there midst.”
Matthew Ch.5:44-45	PRAYING FOR YOUR ENEMIES
	My command to you is, love your enemies, pray for your persecutors. (45) This will prove that you are sons of your heavenly Father, for His sun rises on the bad and the good, He rains on the just and the unjust.

**A LOOK AT HOW JESUS PRAYED AND WHAT HE AND OTHERS
SAID ABOUT PRAYER
TALK 3 (Cont'd.)**

Mark Ch.11: 22-25	FAITH AND FORGIVENESS
	In reply Jesus told them, “put your faith in God. (23) I solemnly assure you, whoever says to this mountain, be lifted up and thrown into the sea, and has no inner doubts but believes that what he says will happen, shall have it done for him. (24) I give you My word, if you are ready to believe that you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer, it shall be done for you. (25) When you stand to pray, forgive anyone against whom you have a grievance so that your heavenly Father may in turn forgive you your faults.”
Matthew Ch.6: 9-18	PRAYER AND FASTING
	This is how you are to pray, Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, (10) Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. (11) Give us this day our daily bread (12) and forgive us the wrong we have done as we forgive those who have wronged us. (13) Subject us not to the trial but deliver us from the evil one. (14) If you forgive the faults of others, your heavenly Father will forgive you yours. (15) If you do not forgive others neither will your Father forgive you. (16) “When you fast, you are not to look glum as the hypocrites do. They change the appearance of their faces so that others may see they are fasting. I assure you, they are already repaid. (17) When you fast, see to it that you groom your hair and wash your face. (18) In that way no one can see you are fasting but your Father who is hidden and your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you.”
John Ch.15: 7-13	PRAYING THE WORD
	“If you abide in Me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. (8) By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples. (9) Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you, abide in My love. (10) If you keep my commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments, and abide in His love. (11) These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. (12) This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. (13) Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

**A LOOK AT HOW JESUS PRAYED AND WHAT HE AND OTHERS
SAID ABOUT PRAYER
TALK 3 (Cont'd.)**

Psalm Ch.37: 4-5	PRAYER OF PRAISE
	Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart. (5) Commit your way to the Lord. Trust also in Him and He will do it.
Hebrews Ch.4:14-16	PRAYING OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH
	Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our profession of faith. (15) For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weakness, but one who was tempted in every way that we are, yet never sinned. (16) So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and favour and to find help in time of need.
Psalm Ch.24: 3-4	PRAYING WITH CLEAN HANDS AND A PURE HEART
	Who can ascend the mountain of the Lord? Or who may stand in His Holy place? (4) He whose hands are sinless, whose heart is pure.

**WHEN PARENTS CAME TO JESUS ON BEHALF OF THEIR CHILDREN
WHAT HAPPENED?
TALK 4**

Matthew Ch.15:21-28	THE SILENCE OF GOD
	<p>Then Jesus left that place and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. (22) It happened that a Canaanite women living in that locality presented herself, crying out to Him, "Lord, Son of David, have pity on me! My daughter is terribly troubled by a demon." (23) He gave her no word of response. His disciples came up and began to entreat Him, "Get rid of her. She keeps shouting after us." My mission is only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel," Jesus replied. (25) She came forward then and did Him homage with the plea, "Help me, Lord!" (26) But He answered, "It is not right to take the food of sons and daughters and throw it to the dogs." (27) "Please, Lord," she insisted, "even the dogs eat the leavings that fall from their masters table." (28) Jesus then said in reply, "Woman, you have great faith! Your wish will come to pass." That very moment her daughter got better.</p>
Matthew Ch.17:14-21	THE INVITATION OF GOD
	<p>As they approached the crowd, a man came up to Him and knelt before him. (15) "Lord," he said, "Take pity on my son, who is demented and in a serious condition. For example, he often falls into the fire and frequently into the water. (16) I have brought him to your disciples but they could not cure him." (17) In reply Jesus said, "What an unbelieving and perverse lot you are! How long must I remain with you? How long can I endure you? Bring him here to me!" (18) Then Jesus reprimanded him and the demon came out of him. That very moment the boy was cured. (19) The disciples approached Jesus at that point and asked him privately, "Why could we not expel it?" (20) Because you have so little trust" He told them. "I assure you, if you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you would be able to say to this mountain, move from here to there, and it would move. Nothing would be impossible for you. (21) This kind does not leave but by prayer and fasting.</p>

**WHEN PARENTS CAME TO JESUS ON BEHALF OF THEIR CHILDREN
WHAT HAPPENED?
TALK 4 (Cont'd.)**

Luke Ch.7: 11-15	THE COMPASSION OF GOD
	<p>Soon afterward He went to a town called Naim, and His disciples and a large crowd accompanied Him. (12) As He approached the gate of the town a dead man was being carried out, the only son of a widowed mother. (13) The Lord was moved with pity on seeing her and said to her, "Do not cry." (14) Then He stepped forward and touched the coffin, at this, the bearers halted. He said, "Young man, I bid you get up." (15) The dead man sat up and began to speak. Then Jesus gave him back to his mother.</p>
John Ch.4: 46-53	TRUST IN HIS WORD
	<p>He went to Cana in Galilee once more, where He had made the water into wine. At Capernaum there happened to be a royal official whose son was ill. (47) When he had heard that Jesus had come back from Judea to Galilee, he went to Him and begged Him to come down and restore health to his son, who was near death. (48) Jesus replied, "unless you people see signs and wonders, you do not believe." (49) "Sir," the royal official pleaded with Him, "come down before my child dies." (50) Jesus told him, "return home, your son will live." The man put his trust in the word Jesus spoke to him, and started for home. (51) He was on his way there when his servants met him with the news that his boy was going to live. (52) When he asked them at what time the boy had shown improvement, they told him, "the fever left him yesterday afternoon about one." (53) It was at that very hour, the father realized that Jesus had told him, "Your son is going to live." He and his whole household thereupon became believers.</p>

**WHEN PARENTS CAME TO JESUS ON BEHALF OF THEIR CHILDREN
WHAT HAPPENED?
TALK 4 (Cont'd.)**

Luke Ch.8: 41-42	WHAT IS NEEDED IS TRUST
	A man named Jairus, who was chief of the synagogue, came up and fell at Jesus feet, begging that He come to his home. (42) because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying. As Jesus went, the crowds almost crushed Him.
Luke Ch.8: 49-56	(49) He was still speaking when a man came from the ruler's house with the announcement, "your daughter is dead, do not bother the Teacher further." (50) Jesus heard this, and His response was, "Fear is useless, what is needed is trust, and her life will be spared." (51) Once He had arrived at the house, He permitted no one to enter with Him except Peter, John, James, and the child's parents. (52) While everyone wept and lamented her, He said, "Stop crying for she is not dead but asleep." (53) They laughed at Him, being certain that she was dead. (54) He took her by the hand and spoke these words, "Get up child." (55) The breath of life returned to her and she got up immediately, whereupon He told them to give her something to eat. (56) Her parents were astounded, but He ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.
Matthew Ch.20:20-23	WHEN GOD SAYS NO
	The mother of Zebedee's sons came up to Him accompanied by her sons, to do Him homage and ask of Him a favour. (21) "What is it you want?" He said. She answered, " Promise me that these sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and the other at your left, in Your kingdom." (22) In reply Jesus said, "You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink of the cup I am to drink of?" "We can," they said. (23) He told them, "From the cup I drink of, you shall drink. But sitting at My right hand or My left is not Mine to give. That is for those to whom it has been reserved by My Father."

GOD'S LOVE AND SACRIFICE FOR ALL PEOPLE
TALK 5

John Ch.3: 16-18	LOVE THAT GIVES
	Yes, God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him may not die but may have eternal life. (17) God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. (18) Whoever believes in Him avoids condemnation, but whoever does not believe is already condemned for not believing in the name of God's only Son.
Roman's Ch.5: 6-9	LOVE THAT SACRIFICES
	At the appointed time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for us godless men. (7) It is rare that anyone should lay down his life for a just man, though it is barely possible that for a good man someone may have the courage to die. (8) It is precisely in this that God proves His love for us, that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Ezekiel Ch.34: 11-12	LOVE THAT SEEKS THE LOST
	Thus says the Lord God, I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. (12) As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.
Ezekiel Ch.34: 15-16	(15) I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will give them rest, says the Lord God. (16) The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal but the sleek and the strong I will destroy, shepherding them rightly.
Luke Ch.15: 4-7	THE LOST SHEEP
	Who among you, if He has a hundred sheep and loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wasteland and follow the lost one until he finds it? (5) And when he finds it, he puts it on his shoulders in jubilation. (6) Once arrived home, he invites friends and neighbours in and says to them, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' (7) I tell you, there will likewise be more joy in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to repent.

GOD'S LOVE AND SACRIFICE FOR ALL PEOPLE
TALK 5 (Cont'd.)

Luke Ch.15: 8-10	THE LOST COIN
	<p>What woman, if she has ten silver pieces and loses one, does not light a lamp and sweep the house in a diligent search until she has retrieved what she lost? (9) And when she finds it, she calls in her friends and neighbours to say, "Rejoice with me! I have found the silver piece I lost." (10) I tell you, there will be the same kind of joy before the angels of God over one repentant sinner.</p>
Luke Ch.15: 11-31	THE LOST SON
	<p>Prayerfully read and reflect this parable of the Prodigal Son to come to an understanding of the heart of the father towards his sons.</p>
1 Timothy Ch.2: 1-4	LOVE THAT PRAYS
	<p>First of all, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be offered for all men, (2) especially for kings and those in authority, that we may be able to lead undisturbed and tranquil lives in perfect piety and dignity. (3) Prayer of this kind is good, and God our Saviour is pleased with it, (4) for He wants all men to be saved and come to know the truth.</p>

OUR ENEMY AND THE BATTLE - WHAT WE MUST DO
TALK 6

Daniel Ch.10: 13	Angels do battle against evil spirits for us.
John Ch.10: 10	Satan came to <u>steal</u> , <u>kill</u> and <u>destroy</u> .
Revelation Ch.12: 13	And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off <u>to make war</u> with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus.
1 Peter Ch.5: 8	Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, <u>seeking someone to devour</u> .
2 Corinthians Ch.4: 4	In whose case the god of this world <u>has blinded the minds of the unbelieving</u> , that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ who is the image of God.
2 Timothy Ch.2: 25-26	Perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, <u>having been held captive by him to do his will</u> .
1 Timothy Ch.4: 1	But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to <u>deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons</u> .
WHAT WE MUST DO	
James Ch.4: 7-8	Submit therefore to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.
Eph.Ch.6: 11-12	Put on the full armour of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. <u>For our struggle is not against flesh and blood</u> (sons & daughters), but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.
2 Corinthians Ch.10: 4-6	For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses (<u>in the hearts and minds of our children</u>). We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.
Revelation Ch.12: 11	They overcame him by the blood of the lamb and the word of their testimony.
OUR WEAPONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christian Community and the Sacraments 2. The Word of God 3. The Blood of Jesus 4. Prayer and Fasting 5. Rosary

SOME OF THE CONDITIONS OF THE PEOPLE WE CAN BE PRAYING FOR
TALK 7

<p>Prodigal Son <i>Dead In Sin</i></p>	<p><u>Pray:</u> Holy Spirit convict them of sin, convert them to Jesus, commit them to the perfect will of the Father, connect them to the church for faithful and fruitful service.</p>
<p>Spiritually Blind People</p>	<p><u>Pray:</u> Lord lift the veil from the eyes of their heart and their mind so that they can see you and know your truth so as to receive you into their lives as their Lord and Saviour.</p>
<p>Spiritually Deaf People</p>	<p><u>Pray:</u> Lord open their ears that they can hear your word, so that faith can come to them through hearing your word; That they will believe and receive you in their hearts in Jesus' name.</p>
<p>Hard-Hearted People</p>	<p><u>Pray:</u> Lord take their hearts of stone and give them a heart of flesh in Jesus' name.</p>
<p>Social Outcasts</p>	<p><u>Pray:</u> Lord may they find your acceptance through your people and become part of a loving and caring Christian community.</p>
<p>Wounded People</p>	<p><u>Pray:</u> Lord touch their woundedness with your compassion and healing and place them in a loving community so that they can be restored and made whole.</p>
<p>Spiritual Interference (Occult)</p>	<p><u>Pray:</u> Lord break all bondage in their lives. Rebuke all demonic forces from their past and present to grant them the grace to repent and renounce all occult activity and empower them in the freedom of your spirit.</p>
<p>Good People and Their God of Self-Sufficiency</p>	<p><u>Pray:</u> Lord invade their comfort zone and reveal to them their need for you and your kingdom.</p>
<p>Addictions</p>	<p><u>Pray:</u> Lord increase in them a hunger and thirst for freedom from their addictions. Apply the power of the cross to the root of their addiction. Lord, sever all generational ties in past family members and release them in the freedom of your spirit.</p>
<p>False Religion</p>	<p><u>Pray:</u> Lord break the power of the religious spirit that blinds them from the truth of who you are and what you have done for them. Grant them the grace to come to you and receive you as their Lord and Saviour.</p>
<p>Abused by People in Positions of Trust</p>	<p><u>Pray:</u> Lord invade their pain and brokenness and restore their faith in you. Heal all their hurts and grant them the grace to forgive those who have abused them and fill them with your peace Lord.</p>

**THE POWER OF THE WORD OF GOD IN YOUR PRAYER LIFE
AND PRAYING THE WORD INTO THE LIFE OF YOUR LOVED ONES
TALK 8**

THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD

Genesis

Ch.1: 2 The Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters

Ch.1: 3 Then God said, "let there be light and there was light"

Ch.1: 6 Then God said, "Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters"

Ch.1: 9 Then God said, _____

Ch.1: 11 Then God said, _____

Ch.1: 14 Then God said, _____

Ch.1: 20 Then God said, _____

Ch.1: 24 Then God said, _____

Ch.1: 26 Then God said, _____

Ch.1: 28 Then God said, _____

Ch.1: 29 Then God said, _____

THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD
TALK 8 (Cont'd.)

<u>Romans</u>	Ch.1: 16	I am not ashamed of the Gospel. It is the power of God leading everyone who believes in it to salvation, the Jew first then the Greek.
<u>2 Timothy</u>	Ch. 3: 16-17	All Scripture is inspired of God and is useful for teaching – for reproof, correction, and training in holiness (17) so that the man of God maybe fully competent and equipped for every good work.
<u>Joshua</u>	Ch. 1: 8-9	Keep this Book of the Law on your lips. Recite it by day and by night, that you may observe carefully all that is written in it, then you will successfully attain your goal.
<u>Proverbs</u>	Ch. 4: 20-22	My son, to my words be attentive, to my sayings, incline your ear, (21) let them not slip out of your sight, keep them within you heart, (22) for they are light to them who find them, to man's whole being they are health.
<u>Isaiah</u>	Ch. 55: 11	So shall My Word be that goes forth from my mouth, it shall not return to me void, but shall do my will achieving the end for which I sent it.

CONFIDENCE IN PRAYER

<u>Jeremiah</u>	Ch. 32: 27	I am the Lord, the God of all mankind! Is anything impossible to me?
<u>Hebrews</u>	Ch. 4: 14-16	Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God let us hold fast to our profession of faith (15) for we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weakness, but one who is tempted in every way that we are yet never sinned (16) so let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and favor and to find help in time of need.
<u>1 John</u>	Ch. 5: 14-15	We have this confidence in God that He hears us whenever we ask anything according to His will, (15) and since we know that He hears us whenever we ask, we know that what we have asked Him for is ours
<u>1 Timothy</u>	Ch. 2: 1-4	First of all, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be offered for all men, (2) especially for kings and those in authority, that we may be able to lead undisturbed and tranquil lives in perfect piety and dignity. (3) Prayer of this kind is good, and God our Savior is pleased with it, (4) FOR HE WANTS ALL MEN TO BE SAVED AND COME TO KNOW THE TRUTH

PRAYING THE PROMISES OF GOD FOR YOUR LOVED ONES
TALK 9

Acts Ch.1: 4-5	On one occasion when He met with them, He told them not to leave Jerusalem, "Wait rather, for the fulfilment of My Father's promise, of which you have heard me speak. (5) John baptized with water, but within a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."
Acts Ch.2: 36-29	Therefore let the whole house of Israel know beyond any doubt that God has made both Lord and Messiah this Jesus whom you crucified. (37) When they heard this, they were deeply shaken. They asked Peter and the other apostles, "What are we to do, brothers?" (38) Peter answered, "You must reform and be baptized, each one you, in the name of Jesus Christ, that your sins may be forgiven, then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (39) It was to you and your children that the promise was made, and to all those still far off whom the Lord our God calls."
Acts Ch.11: 13-16	Send someone to Joppa and fetch Simon, known also as Peter. (14) In the light of what he will tell you, you shall be saved, and all your household. (15) As I began to address them the Holy Spirit came upon them, just as it had upon us at the beginning. (16) Then I remembered what the Lord had said, John baptized with water but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.
Acts Ch.16: 29-33	The jailor called for a light, then rushed in and fell trembling at the feet of Paul and Silas. (30) After a brief interval he led them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" (31) Their answer was, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, and all your household." (32) They proceeded to announce the word of God to him and to everyone in his house. (33) At that late hour of the night he took them in and bathed their wounds, then he and his whole household were baptized.

PRAYING THE PROMISES OF GOD FOR YOUR LOVED ONES

TALK 9 (Cont'd.)

Malachi Ch.4: 6	And He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers.
Isaiah Ch.43: 5-7	Fear not for I am with you, from the east I will bring back your descendants, from the west I will gather you. (6) I will say to the north, Give them up! and to the south, Hold not back! Bring back my sons from afar, and my daughters from the ends of the earth. (7) Everyone who is named as mine, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.
Isaiah Ch.44: 3-5	I will pour out water upon the thirsty ground, and streams upon the dry land, I will pour out my spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing upon your descendants. (4) They shall spring up among the verdure like poplars beside the flowing waters. (5) One shall say, "I am the Lord's," another shall be named after Jacob, and this one shall write on his hand, "The Lord's," and Israel shall be his surname.
Isaiah Ch.49: 24-25	Can the prey be taken from the mighty man, or the captives of a tyrant be rescued? Surely, thus says the Lord, "Even the captives of the mighty men will be taken away, and the prey of the tyrant be rescued, for I will contend with the one who contends with you, and I will save your sons."
Isaiah Ch.54: 13	And all your sons will be taught of the Lord, and the well being of your sons will be great.

PRAYING THE PROMISES OF GOD FOR YOUR LOVED ONES
TALK 9 (Cont'd.)

Romans Ch.4: 16	Hence, all depends on faith, everything is grace. Thus the promise holds true for all Abraham's descendants, not only for those who have the law but for all who have his faith.
Romans Ch.4: 18-22	(18) Hoping against hope, Abraham believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it was once told him, "Numerous as this shall your descendants be." (19) Without growing weak in faith he thought of his own body which was as good as dead for he was nearly a hundred years old, and of the dead womb of Sarah. (20) Yet he never questioned or doubted God's promise, rather, he was strengthened in faith by giving glory to God, (21) fully persuaded that God could do whatever He had promised. (22) Thus his faith was credited to him as justice.
2 Peter Ch.3: 9	The Lord does not delay in keeping His promise though some consider it "delay." Rather, he shows you generous patience, since He wants none to perish but all to come to repentance.
Hebrews Ch.13: 5-6	Do not love money but be content with what you have, for God has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I forsake you." (6) Thus we may say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid, what can man do to me?"

**PRAYING GOD'S WORD INTO THE LIVES OF YOUR LOVED ONES
AND KNOWING GOD'S PEACE**

TALK 10

James Ch.4: 7	THEREFORE SUBMIT TO GOD
	<u>Pray:</u> Lord Jesus I ask you to come into my heart and take over my life. Forgive me my sins. Baptize me in your Holy Spirit and release in me all the gifts of your Holy Spirit so that I may be the person that you called me to be so that the Father may be glorified.
James Ch.4: 7	RESIST THE DEVIL AND HE WILL FLEE FROM YOU
	<u>Pray:</u> In the name of Jesus Christ, I rebuke you Satan, in your activities in the lives of (family members) and I hold up the Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ to you today Satan and I command you in Jesus' name, don't you dare come near me or (family members) for that blood is our shield and the word of my testimony is that you are a defeated foe, for the Bible says Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. (1 John Ch.3:8) Your works are destroyed. Jesus has disarmed you. (Col.Ch.2:15) He has rendered you powerless (Heb.Ch.2:14) and I resist you now on behalf of (family members) and command you in Jesus' name and by His blood to loose yourself from the hearts and minds and relationships of (family members).
Luke Ch.23: 34	FATHER FORGIVE THEM FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO
	<u>Pray:</u> Ask God to forgive you in what you have done or what you have failed to do as a parent. Now ask Jesus to forgive your children through you and with you for any sins they have committed against you or the Lord.
	<u>Pray:</u> I pray according to <u>Ephesians Ch.1:7</u> that by the Blood of Jesus, my children have been redeemed and now I release my faith on their behalf so that they can come to repentance and receive this redemption and forgiveness of their sins as a reality in their lives. In Jesus' Name.
Ephesians Ch.6: 10-18	PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD
	Lord Jesus, I come to you with my family and by faith I clothe each one of us with truth around our waist, and the breastplate of righteousness; we put on our feet the gospel of peace and carry before us the shield of FAITH by which we extinguish all the fiery darts of the evil one. We put on our heads the helmet of salvation and the Word of God is our sword. I praise you and thank you Jesus for this protection.

**PRAYING GOD'S WORD INTO THE LIVES OF YOUR LOVED ONES
AND KNOWING GOD'S PEACE
TALK 10 (Cont'd.)**

Ephesians Ch.1: 17-19	Father of Glory, I pray that you will give to _____ myself and their spouses and all our loved ones, a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of JESUS CHRIST . (18) I pray that the eyes of our hearts may be enlightened, so that we all may know what is the hope of HIS CALLING , what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. In Jesus' Name, I pray.
Ephesians Ch.3: 16-21	Father, I thank you for _____ for their spouses, for all of our loved ones and for myself. I ask you Father that you would grant out of your glorious riches that you would strengthen them with power through your spirit in their inner being, (17) so that Christ may dwell in their hearts through faith. And I pray that they being rooted and established in love, (18) may have power together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, (19) and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that they may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (20) Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power at work within us, (21) to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.
Philippians. Ch.1: 9-10	Father, I pray that our love may abound more and more in real knowledge and discernment and that _____ _____, _____ their spouses and myself and all our loved ones may approve the things that are excellent in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ. In Jesus' Name, I pray.
Colossians. Ch.1: 9-11	Father, I pray in Jesus' name that _____, _____, _____ their spouses, myself and all our loved ones may be filled with the knowledge of your will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that we all may walk in a manner worthy of you Father, to be pleasing to you in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in knowledge of you; strengthened with all power, according to your glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience. Father, I thank you. Lord God, you have promised in your Word to pour out your Holy Spirit on my children and my descendants. My specific request Lord is that your Spirit will: <u>CONVICT</u> my children of their sins, <u>CONVERT</u> them to Jesus, <u>COMMIT</u> them to your perfect will for their lives and <u>CONNECT</u> them to the Church for faithful and fruitful service. In Jesus' Name.

**PRAYING GOD'S WORD INTO THE LIVES OF YOUR LOVED ONES
AND KNOWING GOD'S PEACE
TALK 10 (Cont'd.)**

Father, your word is true and I believe it. Therefore, in the name of Jesus, I believe in my heart and say with my mouth that the Word of God prevails over my children. Father, I believe that you contend with him who contends with me, and you give safety to my children and ease them day-by-day. I confess that you give your angels special charge over my children, according to the 91st Psalm, to accompany and defend and preserve them. No evil shall befall them, no accident shall overtake them, nor shall any plague or calamity come near them, in Jesus' name. Father, I thank you that you keep my children's feet from being caught in a trap or hidden danger. And I know that according to your word they are taught by you and great is their peace. I commit my children to your care and protection. You are my confidence, firm and strong, and I am persuaded that you are able to guard and keep that which I have committed to you.

In Jesus' Name.
Amen.

KNOWING GOD'S PEACE

Philippians Ch.4: 4-9	Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again, rejoice! (5) Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. (6) Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (7) And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (8) Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. (9) Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of Peace will be with you.
------------------------------	---

MEDITATE ON THE FOLLOWING TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S PEACE

1. God is my Father
2. God loves me and all my loved ones the same way that He loves Jesus
3. Jesus proves His love for me and all my loved ones by His death on the cross for us
4. God my Father delights in me and I am the apple of His eye
5. I am the bride of Christ
6. I am the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is at work in me at all times
7. Jesus will never leave me nor forsake me
8. The Blessed Mother, all the angels and saints are praying for me and my loved ones

THE MINISTRY OF ANGELS
TALK 11

Matthew Ch.18: 10	See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you, that <u>their angels in heaven continually behold the face of my Father</u> who is in heaven.
Hebrews Ch.1: 14	Are they not all ministering spirits, <u>sent out to render service</u> for the sake of those who will inherit salvation.
Revelation Ch.8: 4	And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God <u>out of the angel's hand</u> .
Revelation Ch.14: 6	And I see another angel flying in mid-heaven, <u>having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth</u> , and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people.
Daniel Ch.10: 12	Then he said to me "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I <u>have come in response to your words</u> ."
Acts Ch.12: 5-9	So Peter was kept in prison, <u>but prayer for him was being made fervently by the Church to God</u> . And on the very night when Herod was about to bring him forward, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and guards in front of the door were watching over the prison. And behold <u>an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared</u> , and <u>a light shone in the cell</u> ; and he struck Peter's side and roused him, saying "Get up quickly. And <u>his chains fell off his hands</u> . And an angel said to him "Gird yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said "Follow me." And he went out and continued to follow and <u>he did not know that what was being done by the angel was real</u> , but thought he was seeing a vision.
Psalms Ch.91: 11-13	For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways. They will bear you up in their hands, lest you strike your foot against a stone. You will tread upon the lion and the cobra, the young lion and the serpent you will trample down.
Matthew Ch.26: 53	Or do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and He will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?
Psalms Ch.103: 20,21	Bless the Lord, <u>you His angels</u> , mighty in strength, <u>who perform His word</u> , <u>obeying the voice of His word</u> . Bless the Lord all His hosts, <u>you who serve Him</u> , doing His will.
Daniel Ch.10: 13	But the Prince of the Kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days, then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me.

A SUMMARY OF THE MINISTRY OF ANGELS
TALK 11 (Cont'd.)

Matthew Ch.18: 10	They behold the face of God on our behalf.
Hebrews Ch.1: 14	They render service unto us.
Revelation Ch.8: 14	They present our prayers to God.
Revelation Ch.14: 6	They preach the gospel to those who are on earth.
Daniel Ch.10: 12	They bring answers to our prayers.
Acts Ch.12: 5-9	They bring light into darkness, set captives free, give directions, and bring people back to Church.
Psalm Ch.91: 11-13	They protect us spiritually and physically and give us power over our spiritual enemies.
Psalm Ch.103: 20-21	They hearken unto the Word of God, to perform it and to bring it to pass in people's lives.
Daniel Ch.10: 13	They do battle against evil spirits for us.

**FASTING
TALK 12**

WHY SHOULD WE FAST?	We should fast in obedience to the Words of Jesus.
Luke Ch.5: 34-35	<p>You cannot make the attendants of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them, can you? But the days are coming when the bridegroom is taken away from them, then they will fast in those days.</p> <p>It is also worth noticing, that when Jesus taught the disciples how to pray, He also taught them how to fast.</p>
Matthew Ch.6: 16-18	<p>And whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites do, for they neglect their appearance in order to be seen fasting by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full, but you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not be seen fasting by men, but by your Father who is hidden, and your Father who sees in secret will repay you. Jesus gives us a promise in the above scripture. If we fast in secret, God will reward us.</p> <p>Let us look at some scriptural passages, to see where God's people were called to fast and see the results:</p>
Matthew Ch.10: 1	<p>Jesus, after having summoned His twelve disciples, gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.</p> <p>As the disciples exercised this authority, the results were:</p>
Luke Ch.10: 17	<p>And the seventy returned with joy saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your Name."</p> <p>As we follow the Ministry of the disciples in <u>Matthew Ch.17: 14-21</u> we can see that this was not always the case.</p> <p>What was the answer to their problem of not being able to cast the demon out of the young man?</p> <p>Was it God's will not to answer the prayer of the disciples? Never.</p> <p>Jesus came to destroy the works of Satan and to set captives free. In response to the question from His disciples <u>Matthew 17: 19</u> "Why could we not expel it?" Jesus said <u>Matthew 17: 21</u> This kind does not leave but by prayer and fasting.</p> <p>Fasting does not change God. It changes you and me. Fasting changes circumstances that otherwise would never change unless they were to become worse. Fasting breaks down the footholds of demonic activity in peoples' lives and sets them free.</p>

THE FAST GOD CHOOSES
TALK 12 (Cont'd.)

Isaiah Ch.58: 6-12	<p>(6) Is this not the fast which I choose, to loosen the bonds of wickedness, to undo the bands of the yoke, and to let the oppressed go free.</p> <p>(7) Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into the house, when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide your own flesh?</p> <p>(8) Then your light will break out like the dawn, and your recovery will speedily spring forth, and your righteousness will go before you, the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.</p> <p>(9) Then you will call, and the Lord will answer, you will cry, and He will say, "Here I am." If you remove the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger and speaking wickedness,</p> <p>(10) And if you give yourself to the hungry, and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then your light will rise in darkness, and your gloom will become like midday.</p> <p>And the Lord will continually guide you, and satisfy your desire in scorched places, and give strength to your bones, and you will be like a watered garden and a spring of water whose waters do not fail,</p> <p>(12) And those from among you will rebuild the ancient ruins, you will raise up the age old foundations, and you will be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of the streets in which to dwell.</p>
---------------------------	--

OBSTACLES TO YOUR PRAYERS BEING ANSWERED
TALK 13

<p>Matthew Ch.6: 15</p> <p>Matthew Ch.18: 34-35</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RESULT OF UNFORGIVENESS</p> <p>If you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive you.</p> <p>Then in anger the Master handed him over to the torturers until he paid back all that he owed. (35) “My heavenly Father will treat you in exactly the same way unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart.”</p>
<p>Matthew Ch.6: 14</p> <p>Luke Ch.23: 34</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SOLUTION TO UNFORGIVENESS</p> <p>If you forgive the faults of others, your heavenly Father will forgive you yours.</p> <p>PRAY “Father, forgive them, they do not know what they are doing.</p>
<p>Hosea Ch.4: 6</p> <p>Matthew Ch.17: 19</p> <p>James Ch.4: 3</p> <p>Mark Ch.12: 24</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RESULT OF LACK OF KNOWLEDGE</p> <p>My people perish from lack of knowledge.</p> <p>The disciples approached Jesus at that point and asked Him privately, “why could we not expel it?”</p> <p>You ask and you do not receive because you ask wrongly, with a view to squandering what you receive on your pleasures.</p> <p>Jesus said, “you are badly misled, because you fail to understand the scriptures or the power of God.”</p>
<p>2 Timothy Ch.3: 16-17</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SOLUTION TO LACK OF KNOWLEDGE</p> <p>All scripture is inspired of God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, correction, and training in holiness (17) so that the man of God may be fully competent and equipped for every good work.</p>
<p>Isaiah Ch.1: 15</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RESULT OF SIN</p> <p>When you spread out your hands, I close my eyes to you, though you pray the more, I will not listen, your hands are full of blood!</p>
<p>Isaiah Ch.1: 16-18</p> <p>1 John Ch.1: 9</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SOLUTION TO SIN</p> <p>Wash yourselves clean! Put away your misdeeds from before my eyes, cease doing evil, (17) learn to do good. Make justice your aim, redress the wronged, hear the orphan’s plea, defend the widow. (18) Come now, let us set things right, says the Lord. Though your sins be like scarlet, they may become white as snow; Though they be crimson red, they may become white as wool.</p> <p>But if we acknowledge our sins, He who is just can be trusted to forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrong.</p>

OBSTACLES TO YOUR PRAYERS BEING ANSWERED
TALK 13 (Cont'd.)

<p>Matthew Ch.13: 58</p> <p>Mark Ch.6: 5-6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RESULT OF LACK OF FAITH</p> <p>And He did not work many miracles there because of their lack of faith.</p> <p>He could work no miracle there, apart from curing a few who were sick by laying hands on them, (6) so much did their lack of faith distress Him.</p>
<p>John Ch.14: 12-15</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SOLUTION TO LACK OF FAITH</p> <p>I solemnly assure you the man who has faith in me will do the works I do, and greater far than these. Why? Because I go to the Father, (13) and whatever you ask in my name I will do, so as to glorify the Father in the Son. (14) Anything you ask me in my name I will do. (15) If you love me and obey the commands I give you.</p>
<p>James Ch.1: 6-8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RESULT OF DOUBT</p> <p>Yet he must ask in faith, never doubting, for the doubter is like the surf tossed and driven by the wind. (7) A man of this sort, devious and erratic in all that he does, (8) must not expect anything from the Lord.</p>
<p>Mark Ch.11: 22-24</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SOLUTION TO DOUBT</p> <p>In reply Jesus told them, “put your trust in God, (23) I solemnly assure you, whoever says to this mountain, “Be lifted up and thrown into the sea, and has no inner doubts but believes that what he says will happen, shall have it done for him.” (24) I give you my word, if you are ready to believe that you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer, it shall be done for you.</p>
<p>James Ch.4: 6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RESULT OF PRIDE</p> <p>“God resists the proud but bestows his favour on the lowly.”</p>
<p>1 Peter Ch.5: 6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SOLUTION TO RESULT OF PRIDE</p> <p>Bow humbly under God’s mighty hand, so that in due time He may lift you high.</p>
<p>James Ch.3: 14-16</p> <p>1 Peter Ch. 3: 7</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RESULT OF DISORDER IN LIFESTYLE</p> <p>Should you instead nurse bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, at least refrain from arrogant and false claims against the truth. (15) Wisdom like this does not come from above. It is earthbound, a kind of animal, even devilish, cunning. (16) Where there are jealousy and strife, there also are inconstancy and all kinds of vile behaviour.</p> <p>You husbands, too, must show consideration for those who share your lives. Treat women with respect as the weaker sex, heirs just as much as you to the gracious gift of life. If you do so, nothing will keep your prayers from being answered.</p>

OBSTACLES TO YOUR PRAYERS BEING ANSWERED
TALK 13 (Cont'd.)

<p>Colossians Ch.3:12-17</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SOLUTION TO DISORDER IN LIFESTYLE</p> <p>Because you are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt mercy, with kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. (13) Bear with one another, forgive whatever grievances you have against one another. Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you. (14) Over all these virtues put on love, which binds the rest together and makes them perfect. (15) Christ peace must reign in your hearts, since as members of the one body you have been called to that peace. Dedicate yourselves to thankfulness. (16) Let the work of Christ, rich as it is, dwell in you. In wisdom made perfect, instruct and admonish one another. Sing gratefully to God from your hearts in psalms, hymns, and inspired songs. (17) Whatever you do, whether in speech or in action, do it in the name of the Lord Jesus. Give thanks to God the Father through Him.</p>
<p>Matthew Ch.14: 28-31</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RESULT OF FEAR</p> <p>Peter spoke up and said, "Lord, if it is really you, tell me to come to you across the water." (29) "Come!" He said. So Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water, moving toward Jesus. (30) But when he perceived how strong the wind was, becoming frightened, he began to sink and cried out, "Lord, save me!" (31) Jesus at once stretched out His hand and caught him. "How little faith you have!" He exclaimed. "Why did you fear?"</p>
<p>2 Timothy Ch.1: 7 Hebrews Ch.13: 5-6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SOLUTION TO RESULT OF FEAR</p> <p>The spirit God has given us is no cowardly spirit, but rather one that makes us strong, loving, and wise. For God has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I forsake you." (6) Thus we may say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid, what can man do to me?"</p>
<p>Mark Ch.8: 23-25</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RESULT OF ONE'S ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Jesus took the blind man's hand and led him outside the village. Putting spittle on his eyes He laid His hands on him and asked, "Can you see anything?" (24) The man opened his eyes and said, "I can see people but they look like walking trees!" (25) Then a second time Jesus laid hands on his eyes, and he saw perfectly, his sight was restored and he could see everything clearly.</p>
<p>Mark Ch.8: 26</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SOLUTION TO ONE'S ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Jesus sent him home with the admonition, "Do not even go into the village."</p>
<p>Daniel Ch.10: 13 Ephesians Ch.6: 12</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RESULT OF PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS</p> <p>But the prince of the kingdom of Persia stood in my way for twenty-one days until finally Michael one of the chief princes, came to help me. I left him there with the prince of the kings of Persia.</p> <p>Our battle is not against human forces but against the principalities and powers, the rulers of this world of darkness, the evil spirits in regions above.</p>

OBSTACLES TO YOUR PRAYERS BEING ANSWERED
TALK 13 (Cont'd.)

SOLUTION TO PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS	
Matthew Ch.17: 21	This kind does not leave but by prayer and fasting.
Ephesians Ch.6:10-11	<p>Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and His mighty power. (11) Put on the armour of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil.</p> <p>You must put on the armour of God if you are to resist on the evil day, do all that your duty requires, and hold your ground. (14) Stand fast, with the truth as the belt around your waist, justice as your breastplate, (15) and zeal to propagate the gospel of peace as your footgear. (16) In all circumstances hold faith up before you as your shield, it will help you extinguish the fiery darts of the evil one. (17) Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. (18) At every opportunity pray in the spirit, using prayers and petitions of every sort. Pray constantly and attentively for all in the holy company.</p>

Excerpts from the homily given by
Archbishop Adam Exner
during the VCCRS Conference held on September 29, 1996

Suppose that tonight you were to die and you would come face to face with God and suppose that God would ask you this question:

WHY SHOULD I LET YOU INTO HEAVEN?

Just take a few moments and think about what you would say. Why should I let you into heaven? I strongly suspect that many of us, if perhaps not most of us would answer that question in somewhat the following fashion.

We would probably say to God:

I really tried to be good
I tried to be honest
I tried to be truthful
I really tried to be kind
I prayed every day
I went to church regularly
I attended Mass with great devotion
I received the sacraments
I belonged to many organizations in my parish
I was really active in my parish
I was a member of the Knights of Columbus
I was a member of the CWL
I was a member of the Parish Council
I taught Catechism
I was the Choir Director, or I sang in the choir
I helped clean the church
I really was involved and I gave generously of my time, my talent, and even my treasure, especially for the poor
I was a good husband or wife or son or daughter
I tried to be very honest in my profession and I tried to do an honest day's work
I even belonged to a prayer group, oh yes! and I was baptized in the Holy Spirit and I spoke in tongues
I was really not all that bad you know, but you know God, I do admit that I wasn't perfect. Whenever I failed, I repented and I asked for forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation

I think most of our answers would sound a little bit like that. What about these answers? It's really quite frightening because **they are all the wrong answers**, every one of them, because really what we're doing is, we are asking God to let us into heaven because of what we did, not because of what Jesus did for us. We didn't even mention Jesus. We talk to God as though we were our own saviours; we were our own healers; we refuse to accept our helplessness; we refuse to accept our powerlessness; we want to stay in control.

These answers reveal that we really are depending on ourselves for our healing and our salvation and are not really depending on Jesus and what Jesus did for us. These reasons reveal the very deepest root of sin, in every human being, that make us sin, which makes us desire to be in control and makes it so hard for us to let go, to be helpless. That root of sin makes it so hard to be dependant on someone else. We want to be independent by our own rules and we want to be autonomous.

Now these desires to be independent, to be autonomous to be in control, these were the motivations, that led to original sin, to the very sin of our first parents. They are also the root of our own sinfulness and they are the root of the sinfulness of the publican who went to the temple to pray. Notice how he prayed. He said: "God, thank God I am not like that man in the back, that sinner. God, you should be congratulated on having such a fine worshiper as me." He has blown his own trumpet with a full blast." "I do this, I do this, I do that, I fast, I give alms."

He gave God answers similar to the ones that we talked about a little while ago. He is dependent on what he did and what he could do for his healing and his salvation. The parable says this man did not go home justified. Whereas, the publican at the back of the church admitted his helplessness, his powerlessness, and he was ready to give control to somebody else and he beat his breast and he said, "God, have mercy on me a sinner". He looked to the Lord for his healing. He looked to the Lord for his salvation, and the Gospel says that man went home justified and at peace with his God. We need to meditate on the teaching of St. Paul in this regard. St. Paul said: "I have given up on the salvation that would come from what I can do." And we need to do that, because the root is so deep. And then, in Ephesians Chapter 2, Paul says: ". . .but by grace you have been saved through faith and this is not your doing, it is a gift of God."

We must realize that ultimate healing and ultimate salvation is not something we can earn. Too often we try to do business with God, and we say; "Look, I've done this, and this and this, and now you owe me." He doesn't owe us anything. His salvation is not earned. His healing is not earned. It is a gift, an unearned gratuitous gift. And so, a really right answer that we should give to God, (in reply to the question, "Why should I let you into heaven?") should sound something like this: "Because God, your son Jesus died on the cross for me and rose again, restoring life, liberating all from sin and restoring life; and aided by your grace, by faith, I accept that gift of salvation. I accept Jesus as my Healer and Saviour. That, God is the reason why you should let me into heaven."

Or you could say it in a very simple way: You should let me into heaven God, because I have accepted Jesus as my personal Saviour. That's the right reason.

**We are healed and saved because of what JESUS did for us, not because of what we do.
And His GIFT is gratuitous, unearned.**

