

Seminar of Hope



How to Pray for Your Sons, Daughters & Loved Ones



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

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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** 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** 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** 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

TALK 1

- ❖ 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 a part of the Catholic prayer family?

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

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

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

	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 four biblical examples of how this happened.
	<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 6:8-10 ⁸But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. ⁹These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation; Noah walked with God.</p> <p>Genesis 7:1 ¹⁰And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Ja'pheth. ¹¹Then the Lord said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation."</p> <p>Genesis 9:22 ²²And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside.</p>
	<p>2. <u>SAMUEL</u></p> <p>1 Samuel 8:1-5 ¹When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel. ²The name of his first-born son was Joel, and the name of his second, Abij'ah; they were judges in Be'er-she'ba. ³Yet his sons did not walk in his ways, but turned aside after gain; they took bribes and perverted justice. ⁴Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ra'mah, ⁵and said to him, "Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways; now appoint for us a king to govern us like all the nations."</p>
	<p>3. <u>JOB</u> What God said about Job.</p> <p>Job 1:8 ⁸And the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?"</p> <p>Job 1:5 ⁵And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all; for Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually.</p>

WHEN GOOD PARENTS SUFFER, WHERE IS GOD?
TALK 2 (Cont'd.)

	<p>4. <u>KIND DAVID:</u> Acts 13:22 ²²And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king; of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David, the son of Jesse, a man after my heart, who will do all my will.'</p>
	<p>5. <u>MARY, JOSEPH & JESUS</u> Matthew 2:12-23 The flight into Egypt.</p>
	<p><u>BLESSINGS FROM REDEMPTIVE SUFFERING</u></p> <p>1 Peter 5:6-10 ⁶Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that in due time he may exalt you. ⁷Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you. ⁸Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking some one to devour. ⁹Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experience of suffering is required of your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, establish, and strengthen you.</p> <p>James 1:2-6 ²Count it all joy, my brethren, when you meet various trials, ³for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. ⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all men generously and without reproaching, and it will be given him. ⁶But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.</p> <p>Genesis: Ch.37 to Ch.42 A LOOK AT THE LIFE OF JOSEPH IN PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY.</p>

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

Luke 3:21-22	WHO WE ARE
	<p>²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form, as a dove, and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."</p>
Mark 3:13-15	INTIMACY
	<p>¹³And he went up on the mountain, and called to him those whom he desired; and they came to him. ¹⁴And he appointed twelve, to be with him, and to be sent out to preach ¹⁵and have authority to cast out demons:</p>
Luke 5:16-20	INTERCESSORY FAITH
	<p>¹⁶But he withdrew to the wilderness and prayed. ¹⁷On one of those days, as he was teaching, there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem; and the power of the Lord was with him to heal.</p> <p>¹⁸And behold, men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they sought to bring him in and lay him before Jesus;</p> <p>¹⁹but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into their midst before Jesus. ²⁰And when he saw their faith he said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you."</p>
Matthew 11:25-26	PRAYER OF PRAISE
	<p>²⁵At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will."</p>

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

John 11:39-43	PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
	<p>³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this on account of the people standing by, that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Laz'arus, come out."</p>
Matthew 26:36-46	INVITATION TO PRAY WITH JESUS
	<p>³⁶Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsem'ane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." ³⁷And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zeb'edee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." ³⁹And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, "My Father, if it be possible, let this chalice pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." ⁴⁰And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ⁴²Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." ⁴³And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. ⁴⁵Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."</p>

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

Luke 22:31-32	PROCESS OF ANSWERED PRAYER
	³¹ "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, ³² but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail; and when you have turned again, strengthen your brethren."
Luke 23:34	PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS
	³⁴ And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.
Luke 23:46	PRAYER OF ABANDONMENT
	⁴⁶ Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.
John 17:11-26	WHAT JESUS PRAYS FOR HIS DISCIPLES
	¹¹ That they may be one, even as we are one ¹³ That they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves ¹⁵ He asks that they should be kept from the evil one ¹⁷ He asks that they be sanctified in the truth ²³ That they become perfectly one ²⁴ They may be with me where I am ²⁶ That the love which you have love me may be in them
Hebrews 5:7	JESUS AT PRAYER
	⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard for his godly fear.

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

Luke 18:1	DON'T GIVE UP
	¹ And he told them a parable, to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.
Matthew 21:22	KEEP THE FAITH
	²² "And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."
John 14:13-15	PRAYING IN JESUS' NAME
	¹³ "Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son; ¹⁴ if you ask anything in my name, I will do it. ¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."
Matthew 18:19-20	PRAYER OF AGREEMENT
	¹⁹ "Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them."
Matthew 5:44-45	PRAYING FOR YOUR ENEMIES
	⁴⁴ "But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."

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

Mark 11:22-25	FAITH AND FORGIVENESS
	<p>²²And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. ²³Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. ²⁴Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you receive it, and you will. ²⁵And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against any one; so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."</p>
Matthew 6:9-18	PRAYER AND FASTING
	<p>⁹"Pray then like this: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us this day our daily bread; ¹²And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us; ¹³And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. ¹⁴For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; ¹⁵but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."</p> <p>¹⁶"And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you."</p>
John 15:7-13	PRAYING THE WORD
	<p>⁷"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. ¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."</p>

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

Psalm 37:4-5	PRAYER OF PRAISE
	⁴ Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. ⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.
Hebrews 4:14-16	PRAYING OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH
	¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sinning. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
Psalm 24:3-4	PRAYING WITH CLEAN HANDS AND A PURE HEART
	³ Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? ⁴ He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false, and does not swear deceitfully.

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

Matthew 15:21-28	THE SILENCE OF GOD
	<p>²¹And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Si'don. ²²And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." ²³But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." ²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."</p> <p>²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶And he answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.</p>
Matthew 17:14-21	THE INVITATION OF GOD
	<p>¹⁴And when they came to the crowd, a man came up to him and kneeling before him said, ¹⁵"Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. ¹⁶And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him." ¹⁷And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." ¹⁸And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. ¹⁹Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" ²⁰He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you."</p>

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

Luke 7:11-15	THE COMPASSION OF GOD
	<p>¹¹Soon afterward he went to a city called Na'in, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. ¹²As he drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. ¹³And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." ¹⁴And he came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." ¹⁵And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And he gave him to his mother.</p>
John 4:46-53	TRUST IN HIS WORD
	<p>⁴⁶So he came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. And at Caper'na-um there was an official whose son was ill. ⁴⁷When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went and begged him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. ⁴⁸Jesus therefore said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe." ⁴⁹The official said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies." ⁵⁰Jesus said to him, "Go; your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went his way. ⁵¹As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was living. ⁵²So he asked them the hour when he began to mend, and they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." ⁵³The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live"; and he himself believed, and all his household.</p>

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

Luke 8:41-42	WHAT IS NEEDED IS TRUST
	<p>⁴¹And there came a man named Ja'irus, who was a ruler of the synagogue; and falling at Jesus' feet he begged him to come to his house, ⁴²for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. As he went, the people pressed round him.</p>
Luke 8:49-56	<p>⁴⁹While he was still speaking, a man from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more." ⁵⁰But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she shall be well." ⁵¹And when he came to the house, he permitted no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child. ⁵²And all were weeping and bewailing her; but he said, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping." ⁵³And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. ⁵⁴But taking her by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise." ⁵⁵And her spirit returned, and she got up at once; and he directed that something should be given her to eat. ⁵⁶And her parents were amazed; but he charged them to tell no one what had happened.</p>
Matthew 20:20-23	WHEN GOD SAYS "NO"
	<p>²⁰Then the mother of the sons of Zeb'edee came up to him, with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something. ²¹And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Command that these two sons of mine may sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom." ²²But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the chalice that I am to drink?" They said to him, "We are able." ²³He said to them, "You will drink my chalice, but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father."</p>

GOD'S LOVE AND SACRIFICE FOR ALL PEOPLE
TALK 5

John 3:16-18	LOVE THAT GIVES
	¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ He who believes in him is not condemned; he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God.
Roman's 5:6-9	LOVE THAT SACRIFICES
	⁶ While we were yet helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man—though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. ⁸ But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.
Ezekiel 34:11-12	LOVE THAT SEEKS THE LOST
	¹¹ For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹² As a shepherd seeks out his flock when some of his sheep have been scattered abroad, so will I seek out my sheep; and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.
Ezekiel 34:15-16	¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶ I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the crippled, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will watch over; I will feed them in justice.
Luke 15:4-7	THE LOST SHEEP
	⁴ “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost, until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost.’ ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”

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

Luke 15:8-10	THE LOST COIN
	⁸ "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I had lost.' ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."
Luke 15:11-31	THE LOST SON
	Prayerfully read and reflect on this parable of the Prodigal Son to come to an understanding of the heart of the father towards his sons, and how it reflects our Heavenly Father's love for us.
1 Timothy 2:1-4	LOVE THAT PRAYS
	¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way. ³ This is good, and it is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

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

Daniel 10:13	¹³ The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, so I left him there with the prince of the kingdom of Persia.
John 10:10	¹⁰ "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."
Revelation 12:17	¹⁷ Then the dragon was angry with the woman, and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and bear testimony to Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.
1 Peter 5:8	⁸ Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking some one to devour.
2 Corinthians 4:4	⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the likeness of God.
2 Timothy 2:25-26	²⁵ God may perhaps grant that they will repent and come to know the truth, ²⁶ and they may escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.
1 Timothy 4:1	¹ Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by giving heed to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons.
	WHAT WE MUST DO
James 4:7-8	⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you men of double mind.
Eph.6:11-12	¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we are not contending against flesh and blood, (visible enemies of the Church), but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.
2 Corinthians 10:4-6	⁴ for the weapons of our warfare are not worldly but have divine power to destroy strongholds [in the hearts and minds of our children]. ⁵ We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle to the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, ⁶ being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.
Revelation 12:11	¹¹ And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.
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

Prodigal Son Dead in Sin	<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.
Spiritually Blind People	<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 Savior.
Spiritually Deaf People	<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.
Hard-Hearted People	<u>Pray:</u> Lord take their hearts of stone and give them a heart of flesh in Jesus' name.
Social Outcasts	<u>Pray:</u> Lord may they find your acceptance through your people and become part of a loving and caring Christian community.
Wounded People	<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.
Spiritual Interference (Occult)	<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.
Good People and Their God of Self-Sufficiency	<u>Pray:</u> Lord invade their comfort zone and reveal to them their need for you and your kingdom.
Addictions	<u>Pray:</u> Lord increase in them a hunger and thirst for freedom from their addictions. Apply the power of the Cross to their addiction's roots, severing all inherited and other influences, and releasing them in the freedom of your Spirit.
False Religion	<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 Savior.
Abused by People in Positions of Trust	<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.

**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

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

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

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

1:9 Then God said, _____

1:11 Then God said, _____

1:14 Then God said, _____

1:20 Then God said, _____

1:24 Then God said, _____

1:26 Then God said, _____

1:28 Then God said, _____

1:29 Then God said, _____

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

<u>Romans</u>	1:16	¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel: it is the power of God for salvation to every one who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
<u>2 Timothy</u>	3:16-17	¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
<u>Joshua</u>	1:8	⁸ This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall have good success.
<u>Proverbs</u>	4:20-22	²⁰ My son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. ²¹ Let them not escape from your sight; Keep them within your heart. ²² For they are life to him who finds them, and healing to all his flesh.
<u>Isaiah</u>	55:11	¹¹ So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I intend, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

CONFIDENCE IN PRAYER

<u>Jeremiah</u>	32:27	²⁷ Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh; is anything too hard for me?
<u>Hebrews</u>	4:14-16	¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sinning. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need
<u>1 John</u>	5:14-15	¹⁴ And this is the confidence which we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of him.
<u>1 Timothy</u>	2:1-4	¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way. ³ This is good, and it is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

PRAYING THE PROMISES OF GOD FOR YOUR LOVED ONES
TALK 9

Acts 1:4-5	⁴ And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me, ⁵ for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”
Acts 2:36-39	³⁶ “Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” ³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” ³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children and to all that are far off, every one whom the Lord our God calls to him.”
Acts 11:13-16	¹³ And he told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon called Peter; ¹⁴ he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.’ ¹⁵ As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’
Acts 16:29-33	²⁹ And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, ³⁰ and brought them out and said, “Men, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹ And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” ³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. ³³ And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family.

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

Malachi 4:5-6	⁵ "Behold, I will send you Eli'jah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a curse."
Isaiah 43:5-7	⁵ Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶ I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, ⁷ every one who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.
Isaiah 44:3-5	³ For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your descendants, and my blessing on your offspring. ⁴ They shall spring up like grass amid waters, like willows by flowing streams. ⁵ This one will say, 'I am the LORD's another will call himself by the name of Jacob, and another will write on his hand, 'The LORD's,' and surname himself by the name of Israel."
Isaiah 49:24-25	²⁴ Can the prey be taken from the mighty, or the captives of a tyrant be rescued? ²⁵ Surely, thus says the LORD: "Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken, and the prey of the tyrant be rescued, for I will contend with those who contend with you, and I will save your children.
Isaiah 54:13	¹³ All your sons shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the prosperity of your sons.

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

Romans 4:16	¹⁶ That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants—not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham, for he is the father of us all.
Romans 4:18-22	¹⁸ In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations; as he had been told, “So shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead because he was about a hundred years old, or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰ No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² That is why his faith was “reckoned to him as righteousness.”
2 Peter 3:9	⁹ The Lord is not slow about his promise as some count slowness, but is forbearing toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.
Hebrews 13:5-6	⁵ Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, “I will never fail you nor forsake you.” ⁶ Hence we can confidently say, “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 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. Deepen my relationship with 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 and the Father may thereby be glorified.
James 4:7	RESIST THE DEVIL AND HE WILL FLEE FROM YOU
	<u>Pray:</u> Lord Jesus Christ, rebuke Satan in his activities in the lives of (family members). May Your Blood protect me (and my family members), so that the devil does not dare to come near me (and my family members), for Your Blood is our shield and the word of testimony that he is a defeated foe. Scripture tells us You came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8). His works are destroyed. You, Lord, have disarmed Him. (Col. 2:15) Enable us to resist him in Your name and by Your Blood, loosing him from our hearts, minds and relationships.
Luke 23:34	FATHER FORGIVE THEM FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO
	<u>Pray:</u> Ask God to forgive you for what you have done or what you have failed to do as a parent, and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation if you have committed any grave sins in the process. Also ask Jesus to lead your children to repent for any sins they have committed against you or the Lord, and that they similarly receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for any grave sins they have committed in this regard.
	<u>Pray:</u> Ephesians 1:7 tells us that our children have been redeemed by the Blood of Jesus. I pray that they come to repentance and re-appropriate that redemption through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In Jesus' Name.
Ephesians 6:10-18	PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD
	Lord Jesus, I come to you with my family and by faith I pray that you help clothe each one of us with truth around our waist, and the breastplate of righteousness; that we put on our feet the equipment of the gospel of peace and carry before us the shield of FAITH by which we extinguish all the fiery darts of the evil one. And that we put on our heads the helmet of salvation and that the Word of God may be 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 1:17-19	Father of Glory, I pray that you will give to me and my children, their spouses and all our loved ones and those that we carry in our hearts, 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 3:16-21	Father of Glory, I pray for myself and my children, their spouses and all our lived ones and those whom we carry in our hearts, that out of your glorious riches you would strengthen me and 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 in our being rooted and established in love, (18) we 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 <u>in the church</u> and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.
Philippians. 1:9-10	Father, I pray for myself and my children, their spouses and all our loved ones and those whom we carry in our hearts, that our love may abound more and more in real knowledge and discernment, and that they 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. 1:9-11	<p>Father, I pray for myself and my children, their spouses and all our loved ones, that we will 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 with joy. Father, I thank you.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In Jesus' Name.</p>

**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 will prevail 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. Thus, I ask you that no evil will befall them, no accident shall overtake them, nor shall any plague or calamity come near them, in Jesus' name. Father, I thank you for keeping my children's feet from being caught in a trap or from a hidden danger. And I pray that, consistent with your word, they will be taught by you and therefore great will be 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 those whom I have committed to you.

In Jesus' Name.
Amen.

KNOWING GOD'S PEACE

Philippians 4:4-9	<p>⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. ⁶Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.</p>
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MEDITATE ON THE FOLLOWING TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S PEACE

1. God is my Father
2. God loves me and all my loved with a measureless love.
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 a bride of Christ
6. I am a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is at work in me at all times, provided I abide/remain in him.
7. Jesus will never leave me nor forsake me
8. The Blessed Mother, and all of the angels and saints, are praying for me and my loved ones

THE MINISTRY OF ANGELS
TALK 11

Matthew 18:10	¹⁰ “See that you do not despise one of these little ones; for I tell you that in heaven their angels always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven.
Hebrews 1:14	⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation?
Revelation 8:4	⁴ And the smoke of the incense rose with the prayers of the saints from the hand of the angel before God.
Revelation 14:6	⁶ Then I saw another angel flying in midheaven, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and tongue and people.
Daniel 10:12	¹² Then he said to me, “Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your mind to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words.”
Acts 12:5-9	⁵ So Peter was kept in prison; but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the Church. ⁶ The very night when Herod was about to bring him out, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison; ⁷ and behold, an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, “Get up quickly.” And the chains fell off his hands. ⁸ And the angel said to him, “Dress yourself and put on your sandals.” And he did so. And he said to him, “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.” ⁹ And he went out and followed him; he did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision.
Psalms 91:11-13	¹¹ For he will give his angels charge of you to guard you in all your ways. ¹² On their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone. ¹³ You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.
Matthew 26:53	⁵³ Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?
Psalms 103:20-21	²⁰ Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, hearkening to the voice of his word! ²¹ Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will!
Daniel 10:13	¹³ The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me.

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

Matthew 18:10	They behold the face of God on our behalf.
Hebrews 1:14	They render service unto us.
Revelation 8:14	They present our prayers to God.
Revelation 14:6	They preach the Gospel to those who are on earth.
Daniel 10:12	They bring answers to our prayers.
Acts 12:5-9	They bring light into darkness, set captives free, give directions, and bring people back to Church.
Psalms 91:11-13	They protect us spiritually and physically and give us power over our spiritual enemies.
Psalms 103:20-21	They hearken unto the Word of God, to perform it and to bring it to pass in people's lives.
Daniel 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 5:34-35	<p>³⁴And Jesus said to them, "Can you make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? ³⁵The days will come, when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and 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 6:16-18	<p>¹⁶"And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.</p> <p>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 10:1	<p>¹And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every infirmity.</p> <p>As the disciples exercised this authority, the results were:</p>
Luke 10:17	<p>¹⁷The 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 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?"</p> <p>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. When offered as prayer, fasting can change circumstances vitally. Fasting can help break down the footholds of demonic activity in peoples' lives and thus help set them free.</p>

This needs editing

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

Isaiah 58:6-12	<p>⁶“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?</p> <p>⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?</p> <p>⁸Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.</p> <p>⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, Here I am. “If you take away from the midst of you the yoke, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,</p> <p>¹⁰if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday.</p> <p>¹¹And the LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your desire with good things, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.</p> <p>¹²And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in.”</p>
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OBSTACLES TO YOUR PRAYERS BEING ANSWERED
TALK 13

<p>Matthew 6:15</p> <p>Matthew 18:34-35</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RESULT OF UNFORGIVENESS</p> <p>¹⁵But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.</p> <p>³⁴“And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt.</p> <p>³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”</p>
<p>Matthew 6:14</p> <p>Luke 23:34</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SOLUTION TO UNFORGIVENESS</p> <p>⁴“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you.”</p> <p>³⁴“And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”</p>
<p>Hosea 4:6</p> <p>Matthew 17:19</p> <p>James 4:3</p> <p>Mark 12:24</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RESULT OF LACK OF KNOWLEDGE</p> <p>⁶My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.</p> <p>¹⁹Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?”</p> <p>³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.</p> <p>²⁴Jesus said to them, “Is not this why you are wrong, that you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God?”</p>
<p>2 Timothy 3:16-17</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SOLUTION TO LACK OF KNOWLEDGE</p> <p>¹⁶All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.</p>
<p>Isaiah 1:15</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RESULT OF SIN</p> <p>¹⁵When you spread forth your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood.</p>
<p>Isaiah 1:16-18</p> <p>1 John 1:9</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SOLUTION TO SIN</p> <p>¹⁶Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, ¹⁷learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow. ¹⁸“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.”</p> <p>⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.</p>

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

Matthew 13:58 Mark 6:5-6	RESULT OF LACK OF FAITH
	⁵⁸ And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief. ⁵ And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands upon a few sick people and healed them. ⁶ And he went about among the villages teaching.
John 14:12-15	SOLUTION TO LACK OF FAITH
	¹² "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son; ¹⁴ if you ask anything in my name, I will do it. ¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
James 1:6-8	RESULT OF DOUBT
	⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ^{7,8} For that person must not suppose that a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways, will receive anything from the Lord.
Mark 11:22-24	SOLUTION TO DOUBT
	²² And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. ²³ Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. ²⁴ Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you receive it, and you will.
James 4:6	RESULT OF PRIDE
	⁶ But he gives more grace; therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."
1 Peter 5:6	SOLUTION TO RESULT OF PRIDE
	⁶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that in due time he may exalt you.
James 3:14-16 1 Peter 3:7	RESULT OF DISORDER IN LIFESTYLE
	¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom is not such as comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ⁷ Likewise you husbands, live considerately with your wives, bestowing honor on the woman as the weaker sex, since you are joint heirs of the grace of life, in order that your prayers may not be hindered.

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

Colossians 3:12-17	<p style="text-align: center;">SOLUTION TO DISORDER IN LIFESTYLE</p> <p>¹²Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, ¹³forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And over all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.</p>
Matthew 14:28-31	<p style="text-align: center;">RESULT OF FEAR</p> <p>²⁸And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; ³⁰but when he saw the wind, n he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"</p>
2 Timothy 1:7 Hebrews 13:5-6	<p style="text-align: center;">SOLUTION TO RESULT OF FEAR</p> <p>⁷For God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power and love and self-control. ⁵Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never fail you nor forsake you." ⁶Hence we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid; what can man do to me?"</p>
Mark 8:23-25	<p style="text-align: center;">RESULT OF ONE'S ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>²³And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the village; and when he had spit on his eyes and laid his hands upon him, he asked him, "Do you see anything?" ²⁴And he looked up and said, "I see men; but they look like trees, walking." ²⁵Then again he laid his hands upon his eyes; and he looked intently and was restored, and saw everything clearly.</p>
Mark 8:26	<p style="text-align: center;">SOLUTION TO ONE'S ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>²⁶And he sent him away to his home, saying, "Do not even enter the village."</p>
Daniel 10:13 Ephesians 6:12	<p style="text-align: center;">RESULT OF PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS</p> <p>¹³The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, so I left him there with the prince of the kingdom of Persia. ¹²For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.</p>

OBSTACLES TO YOUR PRAYERS BEING ANSWERED

TALK 13 (Cont'd.)

SOLUTION TO PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS	
Mark 9:29	<p>²⁹And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting."</p>
Ephesians 6:10-18	<p>¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having fastened the belt of truth around your waist, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the Evil One. ¹⁷And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.</p>

Excerpts from the homily given by

Archbishop Adam Exner

during the Vancouver Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services 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 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 Catholic Woman's League
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 was really not all that bad you know, but you know God, I do admit that I wasn't perfect.

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 Saviors; 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 makes 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 dependent on someone else. We want to be independent, (play) by our own rules. We want to be autonomous.

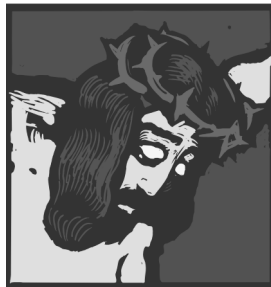
Now these desires to be independent, to be autonomous to be in control, these were the motivations, that led to original sin, to the very sin of our first parents. They are also the root of our own sinfulness and they are the root of the sinfulness of the publican who went to the temple to pray. Notice 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 on my own/by myself." 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 offered through the Catholic Church. I accept Jesus as my Healer and Savior. 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 Savior. 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.**



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