SOUND THE TRUMPET IN PRAYER

**And if you go to war in your land against the enemy that opresseth you, then ye shall blow an alarm with the trumpets; and ye shall be remembered before the Lord your God, and ye shall be saved from your enemies (Numbers 10:9).**

Preventative Prayer

All of God’s promises are true. He is not like man who will say things, but then is unable or unwilling to follow through. There is nothing in God’s word that will not come to pass in its time. The written word cannot be changed, but is it possible to change the outcome of circumstances? Most people have heard of preventative medicine, used to hinder or prevent disease; but is it possible for prayer to prevent incidents from happening that otherwise would have been disastrous? Scripture tells us yes, it is definitely possible to cause God to act on behalf of our prayers to change a situation. To clarify before going any further; we cannot change God’s laws or His written word, but God definitely responds to prayer when intercession is made for something within His will. We can read about this in the life of David. One of the first accounts, involving the destruction of a whole city, can be found in Genesis 18:20-33 in the life of “faithful” Abraham. God was planning to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because this place was very wicked, and this He let Abraham know. God could have just destroyed the city, but He must have wanted man involved somehow. It is written: **“Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets”** (Amos 3:7). It may be that God is looking for someone to confide in, not that He needs us, but maybe He wants us to be part of His plan? God said that He knew that He could count on Abraham to do the right thing. Abraham interceded for the city, asking that God not destroy the righteous with the wicked. In the end, God told Abraham that if He could find ten righteous, He would not destroy the city. Apparently He couldn’t find ten righteous, but God brought out Abraham’s family before destroying the city.

What can we learn from this that can be applied to our lives? How many times have we worried or felt hopeless in a situation that is out of our control? It may be a loved one who is ill or lost or maybe we are troubled about something that “might” happen. Prayer can even help the things that have happened as a result of the bad choices we have made. Prayer can help us make better choices. Whatever the case may be, God has been known to bring good out of the worst, most grievous situations. Often, we cannot see it at the time, but if we trust God and pray when things seem the worst; He will use the bad thing happening for good. This is one of the most miraculous and mysterious things about Him. We need Him in our lives every day. Many accounts have been told of Him doing great things with man’s messes---not only in the Bible, but today. He does not change. He is faithful. Let’s take a look at the word “faithful” as it is used in the Old Testament according to Strong’s Concordance, “faithful” is defined as: “assurance, believe, bring up, establish, be faithful (of long continuance, steadfast, sure, surely, trusty, verified), nurse, (-ing father), (put), trust, turn to the right.” Most of these meanings are obvious meanings for the word faithful. What is not so obvious, yet thought provoking, is to “bring up, nursing father, turn to the right”. These three all imply strength and power in a parental sense. What we are really doing when we pray in faith according to God’s will, is to stand in God’s stead to bring about a desired end for the good. “Turning to the right” or “right hand” is also used to describe strength and power. As we know the term today, we could say “he is my right hand man”, meaning that person is of great help to us, and we can depend on them. When we pray in faith, acting in God’s stead, for a situation or person; we cannot be more like Him. Because He is as a nursing father to all, without Him we could not even breathe, it is He who has given us the breath of life. Moses was a great man of prayer and faith. He took all his problems to God, and God spoke to him as a friend. In his distress, which was due to the complaints of the people, he asked God if he had conceived all the people that he should feed them “as a nursing father” while leading them to the Promised Land. God apparently had confidence in Moses’ ability to do so since he put him in that position. It is interesting to note that the term “nursing father” has the same meaning(s) as “faithful”. Moses interceded many times for the people to prevent God from destroying them for their sin and rebellion. God saves prayers in golden vials (see Revelation 5:8). These prayers may be answered after the passing of those who prayed them. There is a family whose mother prayed for her children to be in church. She has passed on before them. Today at least two are known to be delivered, and in the house of God. Who needs your prayers today? When words are not working; seek the power of God. BMLR

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Inmates, family members, and those who are interested can now access the monthly newsletter. Please visit [**http://www.inspirationalwordsforinmatesandtheirfamilies.yolasite.com/**](http://www.inspirationalwordsforinmatesandtheirfamilies.yolasite.com/)to be added to the monthly email list or obtain copies. .The site is still under construction, and will in time have all copies of the newsletter since the column **Words from Behind the Wall** was started in 2007.

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THE ROSE MEMORIAL FUND

Some months back, a recipient of the newsletter requested a memorial for Rose Golden, who went on ahead of those who loved her to be with the Lord. He made this request because he was a recipient of her prayers and cards, and knew of her love and concern for Inmates. Rose Golden had a love for all people, and was known to ask for family pictures so she could put them in her Bible as a reminder to pray for those pictured. It didn’t matter how well you knew her or if you were related to her, this is something she was known to do. She had a love, care, and concern for Inmates that went beyond spoken words. Some years back, she requested a prayer list for those who were incarcerated or on parole; asking what their particular needs might be. I created one for her from our “then” mailing list. At a later date, I created a blanket prayer guide for inmates, and the different facets that affect both Inmates and those on parole. Without her thoughtfulness and request, these things may have never been accomplished. When I first received a letter requesting that a memorial be made for her, I didn’t know quite how that would work, but did think it was a good idea. Especially since Rose was a friend and a great help to me, sending cards for the bereavement ministry, encouraging those who lost loved ones, and was a person who I enjoyed talking with. She is missed by many; including me. She would often help me by reminding me to send a card to a person who had lost a loved one or someone she thought to be lonely; things that we often forget in our busy lives, but are very important. Rose, even though she was aged, was young in spirit. She did not judge others. A memorial seemed to be the least I could do to remember her. How was I to create a memorial through the newsletter for someone so worthy of it? Then, a couple months back, someone sent a monetary gift to ensure a newsletter be sent to his friend. This caused me to remember the prior request, and thought this may be a way to remember Rose, her kindness, and her love for Inmates. This will also give those who would like to give something back to society the chance to do so. No amount is too small. A stamp currently costs 45₵. All funds will go to sending out the monthly newsletter to Inmates, supporting our ever growing mailing list, or to send a card to an Inmate who has lost a loved one. Please make all funds payable to International Christian Fellowship. Thank you.

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WORDS FROM BEHIND THE WALL

THE COMFORTER

A Long time back, during my high school years, things were getting rough with our money situation since my mother was struggling to support me and my brother, while expenses kept rising up. I was very upset about us not being able to pull through. Seeing my worry, my mother said to me, “You know that no matter how bad things get, we always get by.” Those words made me feel a lot better, and we actually did make it by. Now that I’m a believer, Matthew 6:25-34 reminds me of my mother’s comforting words; and how many different ways the Lord will use many resources to let us know not to worry. Verses 25-30 shows us our faith will take care of our needs. Verses 31-34 says there are enough troubles, and worrying about them too much will only cause problems. So take comfort in the One who loves you, and remain firm and patient.

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WALK BY COMMAND

The Ten Commandments may seem like orders which are hard to follow. The thing is, God is concerned about His people, and offered promises for us if we are able to maintain certain obligations. In Psalm 15, we learn that the principles of His commandments are intended for us to be better able to approach our Perfect Creator. After all, with such sin living within, we would be unable to face the Lord. This psalm phrases those commands in a way to answer our questions about the Ten Commandments of Exodus.

 **William Moctezuma**

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YOUR SIGNFICANCE AND SECURITY

I John 3:2

All of us long to be valued for who we are, not just for what we do or say! So we look to others to affirm us. When that doesn’t happen, we seek approval through acquiring more things, affairs, endless activity, and obsession with appearance, food, or money. Recognize any of those? As long as you seek significance and security (S.S.) from any other source than God, you’re setting yourself up for disappointment. This is because certain people, places, and things will always have the ability to take you in the wrong direction. So be smart! Identify your danger areas, and protect yourself. The truth is, until you change your definition of significance and security, and transfer it to the only one who can give you both; you will never experience them. Making the transfer involves two steps. 1) Identifying the things and people from which you draw your S.S. 2) Replacing them with the truth that your S.S. is based on your relationship with God---nothing else. Question: Are you more likely”to blow” it when you’re around certain people, in certain situations, in certain moods? If so: a) pray more, making Jesus Lord of your relationships, desires, and moods. b) Take better control of your time. c) Stop building your future around your past! If you’re fallen, and who hasn’t, get up again! Listen: “We are children of God.” Remember whose child you are! What a family connection! Listen once more: “And that’s only the beginning.” Wow! Really! Your best days are ahead! You’re significant and secure because you are His! **Brandy Holmes**

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THE LIGHT IS THE ONLY SUN I SEE

The light is the only sun I see. Its smile brings many faces, but the shine took over. A blind person could see in this light. A man approaches, he only wants to talk and walk. He had a walkman for me. He looks like someone I knew from somewhere. The music of jazz took over. A woman went past me holding the sun. She had the sun in the light. I only, began to notice these things. There was a song I used to sing, a song of old mist blue. The light of the sun looked at me with a look of sickness. It seems all right to me. There was no harm in the sun. I could only see. I read my newspaper with the sun. The light seems jealous, but I say it’s all right. I work on my math with a friend. I only want a friend I could call my own. The light is the only thing I want to see, only to them, a voice of silence. **Joseph Williams**

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**Inmates, please submit your inspirational thoughts for Words from Behind the Wall to Beth Marie Laccone- Rexford, C/O International Christian Fellowship, 9146 Lincoln Ave, Brookfield IL 60513. Office Phone: 708-387-9009. Thank you.**