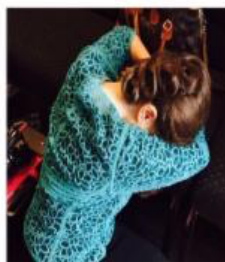


Ladies Prayer International Newsletter



United Pentecostal Church Intl

February 2021



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Prayer Changes Hearts

By Bre Uzzell



"Change me, Lord. Change me, Lord. Don't let me stay the same. I want to be more like You. Take my life. Make my life just what You want it to be. Oh Lord, please change me. Change me, dear Lord."

The words of this song rang through my head as I was putting together my thoughts for this article. Prayer changes hearts, but sometimes the most important change is within our own heart. In Psalm 51:10 David prayed, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me" It is particularly important to continue in our prayer and to not give up.

When we were first married, my husband went through a spiritual struggle and backslid for many years. Our sons were very young then. I worried that they would also feel the spiritual battle. During that time, I prayed two scriptures daily, Psalm 23 and II Chronicles 7:14. I remain convinced that my prayers not only helped change my husband's heart, but also my own. The Lord is my shepherd, and He leads me by the still waters every day. If I hadn't prayed daily for God to change my husband's heart, I would have never been able to allow the Lord to soften my heart. Thankfully, my husband listened to the Lord calling to him and humbled himself to return to church. He is not only serving God now, but he has also become a licensed minister who teaches and preaches with anointing. Both of our sons serve God as well; both were bible quizzers and both serve in whatever ministry they are able to help in. I am thankful that God helped me see the blessings in my valley.

Sometimes we can feel as though life is stacked against us. As wives and mothers, we take many extra burdens on our shoulders - we task ourselves with scheduling, keeping order in our house, taking care of our family. When something doesn't go right, it can seem overwhelming. This year, especially, has been overwhelming for many families. Many of our church families are struggling with job loss or the loss of a paycheck here or there because they've had to quarantine. Just like David, we need to pour ourselves in prayer. Prayer can change how we perceive our circumstances. It may be tight this month. Bills may be more difficult to pay, but look at our blessings - the Lord is keeping us safe with a roof over our heads. We have our family around us. Our children are serving the Lord. We are blessed.

Change my heart, O Lord. Help me see the blessings in the struggle.

Note: Bre Uzzell is wife to Reverend Steve Uzzell and mother of two amazing boys. She currently teaches French in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri. Her home church is Bluff City Apostolic Worship Center in Poplar Bluff, Missouri, Pastor Dustin Williams.

Prayer from Home

By Darla Brochu



I remember how excited we were when we realized I was expecting our first child. We could not wait to meet our baby boy - to hold him, to shower him with affection, to take care of him. We were young, inexperienced, and yes, a bit naïve. It didn't take long before we realized that we were responsible to teach this child everything. As parents, we needed to give our child the skills he would need to survive and to succeed in life.

As parents, it is our responsibility to introduce our children to Jesus and to teach them how to pray. Praying is simply speaking to God. Teaching them begins early, before they even learn to speak. How? By letting them see and hear you praying for them.

As they grow and are able to communicate better, you can begin by having them "repeat" what you say. We did this especially at bedtime. We asked God to bless mommy, bless daddy, bless Bootsie (our cat). As they got older, I let them lead the prayer themselves as I listened. It is important to include your child in the ritual of prayer on a daily basis.

Later, we had times of family prayer. We would put Christian music on quietly to set the mood. They often had a "prayer request." They were expected to pray with us; no toys or storybooks were allowed. If they grew tired, they could lay down quietly on the floor and go to sleep. They saw us praying, and by including them, we showed them that praying is something important that adults do.

If your children are older, this does not mean it is too late to teach them to pray. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is never too late to begin learning the importance of prayer.

How do I pray - what do I say?? We used the prayer "sandwich" illustration.

Top bun: Praise - give God praise and honor for who He is

Lettuce: Forgiveness - ask him to forgive you for all of your sins

Cheese: Needs - you may hear some cute things on this one - a puppy was a priority with our daughter. (Yes, she got one.)

Meat: God's Will - God, Your will be done in everything

Bottom bun: Praise - again!

"I call on You, my God, for You will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer" (Psalm 17: 6).

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

Note: Paul and Darla Brochu have been missionaries to France for 27 years. They have 2 children Justin & Danae, and 2 grandchildren.

Raising Children to Love God

By Raina Hinton



I have been raised as a pastor's kid all my life. I have three siblings, all whom are married with kids, and all are faithful in so many aspects of our church. So, through the years I've had people ask me "How are all of you kids so involved in the church? What's your parent's secret?".

I am not writing this article boastfully. We have many faults, and believe me we've had our share of conflict; but we have never been separated because of the foundation on Christ that my parents helped us build.

Proverbs 22:6 states, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." So today I would like to share a few guidelines my parents used to keep us on that path.

1. Bring your kids to the church at every opportunity you have. Sunday school, youth class, workdays, outreach, prayer nights, etc. My mom worked full time, on top of being a pastor's wife it wasn't easy, but they made church a priority. They were consistent about it. In addition, my parents had a mutual rule that they would NEVER ground their kids from church or church activities. "Well, you're in trouble so you can't go to the youth outing." Church outings are not luxuries, they are necessities! This past year has reinforced just how important time is with the family of God.

3. "Because I said so" was not used when answering questions regarding biblical principles or convictions. Some may feel a child asking a question as to "why?" means they are thinking about backsliding. No, this is a beautiful moment to have a spontaneous Bible study. "Because I said so" is not a foundation to build upon. Show them scriptures where this biblical moral/conviction comes from.

4. Let love and forgiveness be present every day. I never once doubted that my parents loved me. Even if there was an argument ten minutes before, love would always prevail. To teach forgiveness, you need to show that it's a two-way street. A parent can ask for forgiveness just as a child can.

5. Ask for help. If you need help getting them to church, if you need advice, if you feel like the weight is too heavy this week . . . ask for help. We are the body of Christ.! The Bible states in I Corinthians 12:12 "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ."

Parents, you make sacrifices for your children every day and this is a reminder that none of them go unnoticed. I stand today giving honor to my parents for the sacrifices they made for me and my siblings. Be encouraged. God has entrusted your children to you; He believes in you.

Note: Raina Bibb Hinton was born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona. She and her husband are currently serving in the music and youth ministries of (insert church name), which is pastored by her father

From the Editor

God is doing mighty things!



God is opening many doors and this newsletter is now available in English, Arabic, Chinese, Czech/Slovak, Dutch, French, Georgian, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Tagalog, Sinhala, Sri Lankan, Cree and Thai

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Please share this information with your church, friends and family. Thank you for being a part of this thriving prayer ministry and for helping us spread the word about the FREE newsletter and Facebook page!



Who we are . . . Since 1999: Ladies Prayer Intl. is made up of women worldwide, who meet on the first Monday of each month to unite in focused prayer for their children and the children of the local church and community.

Our Mission . . . We are committed to the spiritual preservation of this generation and beyond and the spiritual restoration of previous generations.

Our Need . . . Committed women who will join together on the first Monday of each month and pray focused prayer for their children.

Three Priorities of Prayer...

- The salvation of our children (Isaiah 49:25; Psalm 144:12; Isaiah 43:5-6).
- That they take ownership of the faith at an accountable age (I John 2:25-28; James 1:25).
- That they enter into the ministry of the Lord's harvest (Matthew 9:38).