

Sermon by Sister Victoria Michelle for January 3, 2021

Ps. 84:8 - Hear my prayer, O Lord God Almighty;  
Listen to me, O God of Jacob.

Pain, sickness and tragedy in this life can shut down our desire to talk to God. Possibly we blame Him for what's happened, or we call out to Him and don't feel He's answered us. Or maybe we don't consider that God is personal and really wants us to talk to Him, or share what's in our hearts. Prayer simply means to communicate with God. Since God is everywhere and has promised to never leave us or forsake us, we can talk to God anytime and anywhere about anything, just as we would talk to a best friend.

Long prayers aren't necessary in order for God to hear or answer what we request of Him. Sometimes the simple prayer of "help" is the only thing that can be uttered in the time of crisis. God understands the unspoken words behind that simple cry for help - He knows the longings and intentions of our heart. Whether we are seeking wisdom, requesting a miracle, asking Him for something specific, or just sharing what's on our minds, we should talk to God regularly. That's prayer. The Bible tells us that God hears us when we call to Him and He will answer.

Jeremiah 31: 7, 12

This is what the LORD says: Sing with joy For Jacob; shout For the Foremost OF the nations.

They will come and shout For joy on the heights OF Zion; they will rejoice in the bounty OF the LORD.

IF the circumstances of life have taken away your joy, today is the day to get it back. You weren't meant to live this life feeling drained, depressed and down. God wants you to be excited about your future and learn to enjoy each and every day. Make the conscious effort to keep your joy. When you have joy, you can use that joy to influence the people around you for good. Joy is strength, and when you have joy, you can offer strength to the people God has placed in your life. The Bible says that "the joy of the LORD is your strength. Keep giving God praise despite your circumstances, and you will enjoy your life to the fullest. Put a smile on your face and choose to be happy!"

For this reason, ever since I heard about your Faith in the LORD JESUS and your Love for all the SAINTS, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.  
Eph. 1:15,16

When you wake up in the morning, what's the first thing you think about? What's the first thing you say? Do you begin with a positive attitude and set the tone for success, favor and blessing?

This is a new day! We should be on the lookout for God's blessings. ~~The~~ Psalm 34:1 says I will praise the LORD at all times. His praise will always be on my lips. The Scripture tells us that the darker it gets in the world, the brighter it's going to be for God's people. The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn shining brighter until the new day. The worse it gets, the brighter you're going to shine. Be determined to set the tone of your day by praising God and speaking words of faith over your future. Be determined to shine. Stand strong in faith.

Every morning when you wake up, you should declare, "Something good is going to happen to me today." Set the tone at the beginning of each day. Then all through the day, you should have this attitude of expectancy. Your expectation is your faith at work. When you expect good things to happen, you're releasing your faith. Keep asking that God may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better.

A Prayer For today:

Dear God, we love you and we worship you,  
Thank you for your goodness in our lives,  
You are good and your mercy endures forever.  
We choose to start our day with you and set  
the tone for our day and our future, we  
receive your favor, grace, mercy, wisdom and  
strength. Help us to receive all you have for  
us. Thank you for your faithfulness to us at  
all times in Jesus' name. Amen.