

FRESH NOTES

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*Christian Fellowship
Is Essential To Spiritual Growth!
We Invite You To Come Fellowship With Us &
Be Blessed By The Word!*

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A BLUEPRINT FOR PRAYER

To really learn about prayer, you must pray. Take it seriously and carve out some time each day to pray. Jesus gave us a blueprint for prayer—use it that way. Begin by praying, **"OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN."** Let your mind focus on what it means to talk to the God of the universe as Father. Then pray to the Father about the Father. Pray about His person, **"HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME."** Pray about His program, **"YOUR KINGDOM COME."** And pray about His purpose, **"YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN."** Then pray to the Father about the family. Pray for provision, **"GIVE US OUR DAILY BREAD."** Pray for pardon, **"AND FORGIVE US OUR SINS, FOR WE ALSO FORGIVE EVERYONE WHO IS INDEBTED TO US."** And pray for protection, **"LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE."** If you let this prayer serve as your blueprint, you will discover that its elements have a purifying effect on what you pray for. You won't be able to pray for things that would exalt your name, advance your kingdom, or promote your will. To ask for daily bread if you're living in defiance would be like a traitor asking for strength to betray his country. You won't be able to ask God to forgive you when you are not willing to forgive someone else. And to ask God for His protection from the evil one would be contradictory if you are cultivating temptations. Prayer is hard work, but our communication with God is as essential to our spiritual well-being as breathing is to our physical life.

Dear Lord, I know You hear me, and that You are powerful and wise. Help me to wait patiently and to trust You for Your good and perfect answers to the needs of those I love. Amen.

DELAY IS NOT DENIAL. SO KEEP ON PRAYING.

Old Testament

1. Genesis
2. Exodus
3. Leviticus
4. Numbers
5. Deuteronomy
6. Joshua
7. Judges
8. Ruth
9. 1 Samuel
10. 2 Samuel
11. 1 Kings
12. 2 Kings
13. 1 Chronicles
14. 2 Chronicles
15. Ezra
16. Nehemiah
17. Esther
18. Job
19. Psalm
20. Proverbs
21. Ecclesiastes
22. Song of Solomon
23. Isaiah
24. Jeremiah
25. Lamentations
26. Ezekiel
27. Daniel
28. Hosea
29. Joel
30. Amos
31. Obadiah
32. Jonah
33. Micah
34. Nahum
35. Habakkuk
36. Zephaniah
37. Haggai
38. Zechariah
39. Malachi

New Testament

1. Matthew
2. Mark
3. Luke
4. John
5. Acts
6. Romans
7. 1 Corinthians
8. 2 Corinthians
9. Galatians
10. Ephesians
11. Philippians
12. Colossians
13. 1 Thessalonians
14. 2 Thessalonians
15. 1 Timothy
16. 2 Timothy
17. Titus
18. Philemon
19. Hebrews
20. James
21. 1 Peter
22. 2 Peter
23. 1 John
24. 2 John
25. 3 John
26. Jude
27. Revelations

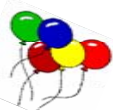
I am an imperfect being,
living in an
imperfect world,
Loved by a perfect God,
Who sees me
as complete in Him!
How can I go wrong!

I am just a Body,
Trying to tell Everybody
About Somebody
Who can Save Anybody!



Wanjack
wanjack

**Happy
Birthday**
APRIL Saints!



Proverbs 16:20 tells us, **"Whoever trusts in the Lord, happy is he."** And Psalm 146:5 indicates that happiness comes to those who find their help and hope in God.

How To Be Happy:

- † Give something away.
- † Do a kindness.
- † Give thanks always.
- † Work with vim and vigor.
- † Visit the elderly and learn from their experience.
- † Look intently into the face of a baby and marvel.
- † Laugh often—it's life's lubricant.
- † Pray to know God's way.
- † Plan as though you will live forever—you will.
- † Live as though today is your last day on earth.

LEAP OF FAITH

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.” Hebrews 11:6

What do you picture when you hear the word *faith*? One of my mental pictures of faith in action is the memory of me, shivering by the side of a swimming pool, looking eagerly at my dad in the water. My dad kept calling to me from only about two inches away, “Go ahead, jump!” In that moment, I faced a major crisis of faith. Can I trust that my dad is powerful enough to catch me if I jump in? And do I trust that my dad’s character is good—that he will keep his promise to catch me? After a moment of contemplation, I acted on my faith, jumping into my dad’s arms! Giggling, I was ready to climb back out and do it again, and again, and again!

That’s what faith is. It’s putting your belief and trust in something or somebody outside of yourself, and then acting on that belief. Think about the examples given in *Hebrews 11*. Like, for instance, Abraham, venturing from his home to the unfamiliar, trusting a promise that wouldn’t materialize for decades. How about that same patriarch, placing his beloved son, Isaac, on the altar, trusting that somehow God would either provide an alternate sacrifice or raise his son from the dead? Or, think about Moses, choosing to leave behind the pleasures and power of the pharaoh’s palace to shepherd a group of grumblers out of slavery into the Promised Land. Step by step, day by day, Moses acted on his faith in a promise that wouldn’t even completely materialize until after his death. The writer of Hebrews recounts these and many other examples of trust in this “*Hall of Faith*” chapter.

Of course, acting on faith isn’t always easy. It calls us to step away from what is comfortable and safe and, like a two-year-old at the edge of a vast swimming pool, look into unknown and unfamiliar circumstances. Maybe it’s a challenge to surrender our finances to God’s control, a career change, a move overseas, or waiting patiently on the Lord for the right spouse. It may be forgiving an offender or risking something for the sake of integrity or purity. Whatever the case, when God nudges our heart beyond what we can manage and manipulate on our own, we have an opportunity to act on the faith that we profess to believe.

The questions we face are as simple as the question in my heart when I was at the edge of the pool. Can we trust that our Father is powerful enough? And do we trust that He is good? The answer to both questions, if we understand and believe the teaching of God’s Word, is a resounding “*YES!*” Our all-powerful, all-knowing, and ever-present God can handle every situation we face. He is the very essence and definition of what is good. He will always do what is right and we can trust Him to ultimately not let us fall or fail.

What I like best is that *Hebrews 11:6* tells us that faith triggers a response of pleasure in God’s heart. As we demonstrate our trust in Him, He is not apathetic or indifferent, but actually delights in our belief in Him. In fact, as His children, the writer says, we cannot please Him without faith! It is impossible.

I don’t know what “*pool*” you are standing next to today, but I do know the character of the Father who is calling you to act on your faith in Him. I invite you to the pleasure of trusting Him today. Come on in! The water’s fine!

YOUR JOURNEY!

- ✦ List a few times in your life when you acted on your trust in Christ. What was the result of those steps of faith?
- ✦ Why do you think God is pleased when we show our faith in Him? How does that reflect the heart of a loving Father?
- ✦ What step of faith can you take today to demonstrate your trust in the Lord? What is holding you back?

1 John 4:11-21

“Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the Day of Judgment, because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, “I love God,” yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.”

I love him