

PRAYER

Brother Rex Pinegar, who served in the First Quorum of Seventies, was seriously burned in an explosion as a young boy in which he lost his eyesight. Before the doctor worked on him, the Doctor and his father gave him a blessing in which the father said, "Now Rex, if you will have faith, the Lord will make you whole." During the 2 1/2 hour repair work by the doctor, young Rex Pinegar thought of a song over and over again. "Ere you left your room this morning, Did you think to pray? Oh, how praying rests the weary! Prayer will change the night to day."

Prayer did change his night to day and his eyesight was restored.

Many of our hymns refer to prayer, in fact in the D & C Emma was told to compile a selection of sacred hymns. D & C 25:12 reads, "For my soul delighteth in the song of the heart; yea, the song of the righteous is a prayer unto me, and it shall be answered with a blessing upon their heads."

Have you ever really listened to the words of the hymns as you have sung them? How about, "Prayer is the Soul's Sincere Desire, Uttered or unexpressed, The motion of a hidden fire That trembles in the breast." It would be good to look through the hymn book some time and read and feel the words that are in the hymns—and when we sing them in the meetings, we should sing them with the feeling that should accompany the words.

(3 Nephi 18:15 and D & C 19:38) In many places in the scriptures we are told to pray always. We should have our own personal prayers, couple prayers, family prayers, mealtime prayers, prayers in meetings, and we should always have a prayer in our hearts. Thinking of the hymns would be a good way to do this. Heavenly Father hears the prayers—not only the spoken prayers but the feelings of our heart as well.

Years ago when I left home to attend BYU, I had a very hard time adjusting, and I learned that homesickness is a real thing. I had come from a small school in Southern Idaho where I knew everyone—to the big University where I knew only a handful of people and I never saw them in the course of the day. I'd sit in the fieldhouse at the assemblies surrounded by a sea of people and yet would feel all alone, and the tears would be streaming down my cheeks. My constant thought in those days would be the words to the hymn, "I Need Thee every hour, Most gracious Lord. No tender voice like Thine Can peace afford. I need Thee, oh, I need Thee; Every hour I need Thee! Oh, bless me now, my Savior; I come to Thee!" And He heard my prayer and comforted me and helped me get through a difficult adjustment. To this day that hymn still helps me in times of trial or difficulty.

We pray in Christ's name because Jesus pleads for us with the Father. He makes this possible because of the atonement when He paid for our sins in Gethsemane and when He gave up His life on the cross of Calvary. He is our advocate with the Father. He is the one who answers our prayers for the Father.

the General Authorities. My father was serving as the stake president and our stake conference was scheduled to be held that weekend, so my father went to see President Joseph Fielding Smith who was serving as President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. President Smith told him that the counselors could assume the responsibility for the conference, and he said the Brethren would pray for my mother when they had their weekly meeting in the temple the next day. My mother rallied a bit after her surgery and she was able to express her love to us, but following the prayer of the Brethren it became apparent to us that the Lord's will did not grant her recovered health—and she passed on that night. As hard as it was to say goodbye, we knew that our prayers had been answered.

When Glen and I were married, we started right out with companion prayer morning and night, as well as our own personal prayers. As children graced our home, we have had family prayers, and our children learned to talk to Heavenly Father and to know He always listens and answers—one way or another.

*Story of David praying for the car to start in San Diego—the neighbor answered his prayer and gave us a ride to church. Prayers are always answered, but not always at the time or in the way that we want them to be answered. Sometimes we have to pray to be able to accept the answer because sometimes the answer is no. *(most unlikely)*

*Story of Mary praying to be put in a higher reading group. She wanted to pay her money to the Primany Children's Hospital because she was afraid of being put back into a lower group.

*Story of Sarah —wanted to marry and have children—finished college and felt impressed to move to Las Vegas even though she didn't want to—very difficult time—very lonely, why not dating, etc.—cried and prayed much—passage from patriarchal blessing “Angels shall watch and comfort you in times of loneliness” brought comfort to her and she felt it was a hug from an angel—in fact she felt it was from my mother whom she had never met. She met a wonderful young man whom she married in the Las Vegas temple and is now a mother, thus fulfilling her desires.

Now that our children are parents, it is gratifying to see them teaching their children to pray and to know Heavenly Father and Jesus. It is humbling to hear these young grandchildren pray, and to hear them pray for specific things—to bless a family member, to help them in a difficult circumstance, to bless the Church leaders. They are also expressing thanks for their blessings—not just giving rote prayers.

*A son-in-law lost his wallet with all the valuable items that it contained. The entire family prayed for it to be found. When he was at work and prayed in his heart, the Lord showed him in his mind's eye exactly where he had left it. He called his wife, and she, along with all the children, went to where he had said and there was the wallet. This was a big witness to all the children that Heavenly Father does answer our prayers, because it was in a place they never would have thought to look.

*Preston—4 years old. Coughing and crying because of asthma and not sleeping. Woke Mother. “Will you pray with me?” Slept right away.

*Jamie—3 years old—coma, unknown problem—entire family prayed and fasted—Bishop blessed her that she would be all right—Son-in-law spent entire night on his knees, and in the morning told our daughter that he knew that she would be all right, but that there would still need to be some challenges and answers. She is well and whole now, a beautiful, precious girl, fully recovered from the encephalitis that had invaded her body.

Our large family has united in faith and prayers many times in behalf of others. Those prayers have always been answered, but not always have they been answered in the same way as those I have illustrated, but we have accepted the answers that have come from the Lord.

Testimony--- I felt the power of prayers of my family and others when I had to undergo cancer surgery a few years ago. Because of blessings and prayer I felt calm and peace in my heart, and I am so grateful for their faith and the Lord's blessing.