

# **It Pays To Pray**

**Patriarch  
Leland Collins**



**Sermon at Center Branch of the Remnant  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints  
Feb. 18, 2018  
Music Ministry by ECHO**





## **ECHO: “I THEN SHALL LIVE”**

Sermon: Patriarch Leland Collins’

Transcript from the Remnant Church website

I can’t help but think, I vote for let’s just listen to ECHO the rest of the hour, but my vote probably don’t count. I appreciate the ministry of music you brought so far and look forward to the rest of it.

Some of you may be surprised to see me up here instead of Austin. Brother Purvis called me and asked me if I would relieve him of his duty this day, so it’s kind of a back door way of me sneaking into your congregation and getting to talk to you. I’ve got about five sermons that I want to talk about but I’ll try to narrow it down to just a few.

The scripture I want to start out with I know is very familiar to you comes from 2 Chronicles 7:14. *“If My people which are called by My name shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and*

*turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”*

That is a very powerful scripture. It is beholden unto us to understand who is God talking to? The world? NO. He’s talking to His people. And to mention “His” people and their wicked ways all in the same sentence, it kinda’ hurts pretty deep. But if we’re not totally obeying His commands, keeping all of them as best we can, then perhaps we are some of those people who have wicked ways in our life.

We don’t have the kingdom yet. We’ve had plenty of time to bring that to pass even as a Remnant church, we’ve had time to accomplish that. ***If that was our main focus and our main goal in our life, and we only existed for that, the kingdom would be here.***

See Emma Burton’s dream of Jesus coming to the church before the Glory Coming. When Jesus came, this is what the saints’ focus was on. She wrote: ***“I know not how we came in possession of the knowledge that His coming was so near at hand, but we knew it, and all worldly work and cares were laid aside.”*** That does not say to me that the saints stopped working to support their families, but that their total focus was on Jesus’ coming soon. They were in constant prayer in their hearts: at work; at home, and in church. (See p. 23)

God tells the people, His people, His people are called by His name. Aren't we called by the name of Jesus Christ? Yes, because we have covenanted to do so. When He looks upon us He should see the countenance of His Holy Son, shining forth in all its radiant beauty.

It says that we've got to humble ourselves, and in this state of humility, it's a good time to pray to the Heavenly Father. There are so many different kind of prayers...we all have different needs, and even in that way we have different prayers, but He says if we'll do that and seek His face, and continue to do so, I don't think He's talking about just saying one prayer, then saying, *'Well, God didn't hear me so I won't waste my time anymore.'* Continue in prayer, and He will hear you from heaven and He will forgive you, and He adds a little bonus there, He will heal your land. Does our land need a healing? Wow, you can't turn any station on the TV or the radio that they're not talking about what just happened in the past few days. Another school shooting, and it just breaks my heart that those children went to school thinking that they were safe that day, and now some of them, 14 children, 3 adults, gone home to the Heavenly Father.

It's in a high school, Parkland, Florida. Do those families need our prayers? Absolutely. I want to

read from 2 Nephi. I'm sure a lot of those folks have never heard of Nephi, but in case if some of them might actually see this, from 2 Nephi 14: 4.

*“Wherefore, I said unto you, Feast upon the words of Christ, for behold the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do.”*

Isn't that true. Has that been your experience when you have a question and you read in the scriptures and you remember what happened to young Joseph Smith when he read the book of James? Just ask and God will answer. It's that simple if you've got faith.

*“Wherefore, now after I have spoken these words, if you cannot understand them, it will be because ye ask not, neither do ye knock,”* seeking, asking, knocking, receiving, those are all things that have to do with prayer, with the power of prayer.

You know, I got to the point, and I'm not bragging on me because it's not me, but I got to a point to where when we were getting our stuff together to gather into the Center Place from Oklahoma, which we thought was God's land, but He said, “No, it's here,” so we came here. I had a million things that would be problems for me to be able to leave my home, to resign from my job, which I'd finally got

a real job, I was working at a school and I loved it, but when we turned in our two weeks' notice that we were leaving, God just took over. He wouldn't do it before, until He knew that we meant we were coming. I'm telling you, I'm still astonished to this day, of the things that He caused to happen so that we could be here. I still don't know exactly why He wanted us here, but I'm glad I listened, and finally came, and we didn't so it instantly. He'd been talking to us about 8 years. We were slow to react, but we did come.

*It says, "You ask not, neither do you knock, wherefore ye are not brought into the light, but ye must perish in the dark. For behold, again I say unto you, that if ye will enter in by the way and receive the Holy Ghost, It will show unto you all the things what ye should do." And It will. "Behold this is the doctrine of Christ, and there will be no more doctrine given, until after He shall manifest Himself unto you in the flesh."*

These words were given by Nephi, the son of Lehi almost 600 years before Christ came and yet he's preaching about the atonement of Jesus Christ, the Gospel, the way of salvation. He's preaching about all these things; the same things that we preach about today. I'm going to repeat the next two

verses: 11 and 12. They've already been read here, but it bears repeating.

*“For if you would hearken unto the Spirit which teacheth a man to **pray**, ye would know that ye must **pray**; for the evil spirit teacheth not a man to **pray**, but teacheth him that he must not **pray**.”* So if that question ever comes into your mind, ‘I believe I want to pray’ and then another little voice says, ‘yeah, but you’re tired, you’ve had a big day, you can **pray** tomorrow,’ don’t listen to it. Hit your knees right then and **pray**, cause that’s the way the evil one works.

*“But behold I say unto you, that ye must **pray always**, and not faint; that ye must not perform anything unto the Lord, save in the **first place ye shall pray** unto the Father in the name of Christ, that He will consecrate thy performance unto thee, that thy performance to you that your performance will be to the welfare of your soul.”*

I’m trying to talk fast, so we need to pray for, especially those people in Parkland, Florida, especially those who have lost their loved ones, for those who are still in the hospital, for those who were traumatized.



Some of them I've heard, I know we need news agencies, and we need reporters on the scene, but this person just lost her child and they come up with a microphone [saying] *'How does this make you feel?'* Well, how do you think it makes them feel! And some of the people replied, *'We don't need your prayers; we don't need your prayers!'* Do they need our prayers? Worse at this time than any other time because their hearts are broken and their spirits are contrite; and they are in a condition where God can reach them in a way that they've probably never been touched before, and yes, God can make something good come out of even this most horrific thing. In their immense pain and suffering, some are stating they don't need our prayers, they just want their children back. This can't happen. So I say, pray for them anyway. Only God can start the healing process that they need, and only if they will let Him.

It's hard to believe that this kind of evil and sickness could exist in our county in this modern day and age. But it surely does. *Only a people of God equipped with His power that comes upon a people who are consecrated totally to His purposes with no thought of the price that they may have to pay can overcome that much evil.*

This is still kind of a New Year, 2018. I don't know if you're into making New Year's resolutions, I make them all the time; I like to set myself up for failure (joking); I first start out thinking, '*Well if you don't set a goal you're never going to reach it,*' but seems like I set them and never reach them. I never seem to improve. Oh, I think I do a little bit, but never as fast as I need to, because we need the kingdom and we need it now.

But this year, a couple of things have happened. One of them was at the service in which the new presiding elders were set apart to serve in their roles; all four of them, I don't think they were all new. After the rousing set-apart service they had a little prayer service. I stood to pray and part of that prayer was directed by the Holy Spirit. I was directed to say that ***we should pray that this year will be the last time that we will actually need presiding elders.*** That they are charged with whipping us into shape so that Zion would be this year in 2018; Zion would be soon, and Zion would be because Jesus would return. \*

And at another prayer service at First Congregation I was sharing a testimony and was directed to comment **that we should work very hard and pray very hard for the Lord's Zion to come among us this year.** Twice now that I've been directed to say

something about the kingdom coming THIS YEAR, and Jesus' return.

*\* The saints knew about a year or so ahead when Jesus was coming to the church. See p. 25 (3<sup>rd</sup> Watch to set the church in order. Luke 12:42)*

Since it's still early in the New Year and my thoughts about the coming of our Lord and His Zion, have caused me to think about, and pray about many things that I've always thought have to come to pass first before Zion comes and the Lord returns; things like the sealed portion of the Book of Mormon, things like all nations coming against Israel to totally destroy Israel which probably includes us because I think the Lord looks at us as part of Israel.

In my searching I remembered a book that I have, the title of it is "*Hidden Prophecies in the Psalms.*" It was kind of popular a few years back; it's interesting reading, I don't go along with everything the author says, but I like to explore other's ideas of what's prophecy and what's not. I remembered that this author believes that the Psalms coincide with what year it is, like 2018 coincides with Psalm 118...that author believes that Christ's return will be this year.

When you really think about all the things that should come to pass before the [Glory Coming] return of Christ, we like to think, *'Well I still got another fifteen or twenty years, no way all this stuff will come to pass that quickly, especially by our past record.'* So the more I thought about it, the more I understood, *'Things could change in one day.'* What if somebody pushes one of those nuclear buttons, just one time and sends a nuclear missile to hit New York City, or something like that. Would that change our world? Would that motivate us to pray even more, and harder? I think so.

The way the nations are all set up, it looks like something like that could come to pass, the coming forth of the sealed portion of the Book of Mormon, that could happen any day. Some people claim it's already happened. I don't know; but I think all of these things can come to pass very, very quickly. But even though it can be very scary and the Lord tells us that even His very elite will be deceived, if we still hold to our guns, I'm talking about the guns of prayer, and fasting which gives power to our prayers, then we won't be deceived. It still may not be a pleasant time to be alive, but you've got to keep your focus on the kingdom. No matter how bad things might get, our focus must be on the kingdom and the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thinking about the Lord's return; does that scare you? First thing you think, 'I'm not ready.' You probably never will feel like you're totally ready; but when He gets ready to come, He will come. I hope that as you think about His coming, that perhaps this would motivate you to do your best to be the very best Latter Day Saint that you can possibly be. It should motivate the greatest prayer life ever seen in the Church of Jesus Christ. You know how important that is? I hate it that it always takes something very horrific to happen in our lives to get us on our knees. It shouldn't come to that.

I've got a testimony here that I want to read...Some of you may have already heard this. The title of the testimony is, "A Circle of Prayer." This happened to a friend of ours, a local girl down home who was in Darlene's class.

## **A CIRCLE OF PRAYER**

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"On August 8, 1990 I was kidnapped at gunpoint from my home at Blackgum, Oklahoma at 3:45 a.m. by my husband's ex-wife. I was bound and gagged and put in the back seat of my car. She drove me into Cherokee county, wrecked my car and poured gasoline on me and my car. I begged her to not strike that match, but she did.

“I was taken to Tahlequah Hospital, then on to Hillcrest Burn Center in Tulsa by helicopter. The doctors did not expect me to survive with second and third degree burns over 90% of my body. However, my family never gave up. I never gave up. My mom never left the hospital for 54 days. I remember quite a bit about ICU although most people do not. I knew people were praying for me; people I didn’t even know. I was in such pain and I was so terrified over all that I’d gone through, but I never wanted to die, yet I knew if I did, I would be in heaven. (Rita is a good Baptist friend of ours.)

“I actually didn’t know how badly I was hurt. I trusted no one except my family. I was sure that even the nurses and the doctors were going to hurt me. I remember Dale (Dale Ridder was the pastor of the Blackgun Baptist Church; he’s also my double cousin); I remember Dale coming in to see me, and always praying with me. I remember my cousin, Frankie, reading from the Book of Psalms. It was the most soothing thing.

“I had developed an infection; one that most burn patients die from. I was given a lot of medication and I had a lot of different dreams or thoughts go through my mind. I will never forget this one special dream. I thought someone had kidnapped my daughter Sherrie. Joe, my husband, was with me at

the time and I asked him to go call Dale. It was late, too late to call, but Joe did as I asked him to. I knew Dale would know what to do about getting people together to pray.

## THE CIRCLE HAD TO BE FORMED

“I remember a nurse giving me my medication. I was fighting it; I couldn’t give in; I couldn’t go to sleep. I would never wake up if I did. I could feel evil all around me hovering over me, and it was getting closer and closer; it was suffocating me. I could feel it, but I could see people forming a circle: a big circle; people I had never met. They continued to pray. **When the circle was completed, when those last two people held hands,\*** I felt all that evil disappear and peace was with me. I gave into a peaceful sleep. I let the medication take over and I was without pain for a short time.

\* See the circle of the Native American’s testimony, and the large prayer circle where the fire of the Holy Ghost was burning in the center on pp. 25-27.

“The infection I had one day was gone the next. My doctor calls me his “miracle lady.” He told me the day he discharged me from the hospital that there was no medical reason that I should have survived. He knew that God had a reason for me to live. I

know God was always with me, always watching over me, always helping me. When those two women were going to put me in the trunk (of her car), the key bent and they were unable to get it open. When I was burning and my ankles were still taped together I jumped out of that car and my feet just came untaped. The three men that helped me were 15 minutes late for work that morning.”

THREE MEN?

“I don’t know why this tragic thing happened to me. I don’t ask why. I may never know why, but I know that God is a loving and all powerful God. I know that He has given me the courage to face each day, and to face everything. Life is very precious to me. I thank God every day of my life. She took my outward appearance by burning me, and I can’t change that; I’ll always be scarred, but God made me stronger inside, and inside is where it counts.

“I love all of you and I thank you for your prayers and support. Please continue to pray for me and my family.” Rita Jo Whitmire’s story is on the internet. ([newsok.com/article/2326861](http://newsok.com/article/2326861))

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Rita is the gal's name, and Darlene and I and most of our church members down there were part of that prayer circle. Is prayer powerful? Absolutely. ***We have no idea the strength that is contained in a circle of prayer like that.*** And that's why we're always crying for unity in the church because that builds up that circle to such strength and power that Satan has no power against it at all.

Miracles happen, and miracles still happen in the church, I would say almost daily. A lot of our people don't like to talk about them; those things that are their own private testimonies. Some day they may stand to their feet and share their testimonies of healings. I know of many, many healings, but I can't talk about those until the people that it happened to, who experienced it, stand to their feet and give God the praise for His power of prayer.

God bless you. I tell you, I was praying all day yesterday, I was thinking about, I may just stop my sermon and just pray for the people here because I wanted to pray. Lo and behold, they had a prayer service this morning. I got to pray. I got to pray. God is an awesome God. Let's be on His side. ***Let's pray to Him. And let's accomplish His purposes.*** God bless you.

Patriarch Leland Collins



## **It Pays To Pray**

Hand in hand at the altar in tears of celebration  
We'd never seen them smile like this before  
She'd spent her life a praying  
On bended knee a stayin'.  
And this morning he surrendered to the Lord.  
There's a message in their story  
Only God can get the glory  
When a child of His keeps knocking at the door.

It pays to pray; it pays to call upon His name.  
It pays to pray to see a miracle displayed.  
You'll forget the word "Impossible"  
When you seek the Savior's face;  
You'll know He will make a way.  
It pays to pray.

You're tempted to quit praying;  
You feel He's never listening,  
The time has come and you must make a choice.  
Do you stop believing? Forget what you've been  
seeking,  
Or do you resolve that Jesus hears your voice?  
He will hush the angel praises  
Just to hear what you are saying  
And at any moment now you will rejoice.

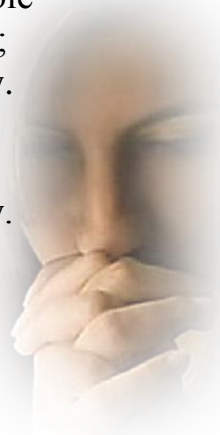
It pays to pray; it pays to call upon His name.  
It pays to pray to see a miracle displayed.  
You'll forget the word "Impossible"  
When you seek the Savior's face;  
You'll know He will make a way.  
It pays to pray.

You'll forget the word "Impossible"  
When you seek the Savior's face;  
You'll know He will make a way.  
It pays to pray.

Prayer is just as big as God is.  
Prayer is just as strong as God is strong.  
Prayer can reach as far as God can reach,  
Don't ever give up, just pray.

It pays to pray, it pays to call upon His name.  
It pays to pray to see a miracle displayed.  
You'll forget the word "Impossible"  
When you seek the Savior's face;  
You'll know He will make a way.  
It pays to pray. It pays to pray.

You'll know He will make a way.  
It pays to pray. Pray, just pray;  
It pays to pray.





## Rodney Griffin Composer of “It Pays To Pray”

“14 years ago I wrote down the name of the most impossible person to ever get saved. I wrote Reggie \_\_\_\_\_.

I started to pray every day, so for 14 years now without missing a day, whether we went to Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Ohio, California, sometime during the day I stopped what I was doing and I said, ‘Lord, it’s going to take a miracle, but You can save Reggie \_\_\_\_\_. Would you save him?’

“14 years. I figured it up the other day; that’s over 5,000 times I stopped what I was doing and asked the Lord to save my father-in-law. Nothing ever happened. It just felt like it was me praying to the ceiling.

“In 2008, one day Reggie couldn’t breathe. They took him to the doctor and the doctor said, ‘*Reggie, you have congestive heart failure, and you need an immediate bypass surgery. It’s very possible, Reggie, that you’ll never wake up from this surgery or see your family again.*’

“So the family gathered around there, the Critical Care Unit in Lexington, KY., then left him alone for surgery. Now it was just Reggie in the dark lonely room, and the Lord. Now I don’t know if it was prayer number 1 fourteen years ago; or prayer number 2,500 seven years ago, or maybe prayer number 5,000 that morning. All I know is that there in the darkness, fearing death and separation from God for eternity, the Lord began to reach down and soften the hardest of hearts that I’ve ever known.

“Before the night was over, Reggie found himself surrendering his life to Jesus, asking the Lord to save him; forgive him of his sin.

“We hear of the emergency prayers, and often times when the emergency is over that person goes back to their old self-centered ways. Can I tell you tonight, not so with Reggie. I called up there just a couple of weeks when he got home from the hospital. Nobody was home on a weeknight. I got ahold of him just a couple of hours later.

*“Where have you guys been?”* I asked.

My mother-in-law said, *“We’ve been down the end of the road. There’s a little church having a revival.”* She said, *“Reggie wants to go to church*

*every revival he sees. He wants to go to church on Sunday mornings, Sunday night, Wednesday night.”*

I said, *“Glory be to God. Only God can change the hardest of hearts.”*

“And then after a complicated gall bladder removal surgery, with a tube hanging out of his body, Reggie took some tape and taped up that tube, stepped down into that river with a preacher because he wanted to be baptized, identified with One he had rejected all those years.

“Two months before any of this happened, just me and the Lord, no victory in sight, prayer after prayer, after prayer, the Lord gave me a song to encourage me to keep on praying for Reggie.

“I sat down and imagined what it would be like the day Reggie got saved. I began to write these words. Two months later I got to see it happen, and it taught me a great lesson: it pays to pray, Amen? I hope this encourages you.” ([www.godtube.com](http://www.godtube.com))



**Pray Until Something Happens**

# Jesus Comes to His People in His Church Before His Glory Coming

by Emma Burton



On the night of April 1, 1904, I dreamed that my husband Joseph and I, together with a company of saints, though not a large gathering, were waiting the coming of Christ.

I know not how we came in possession of the knowledge that His coming was so near at hand, *but we knew it*, and all worldly work and cares were laid aside. And we were all standing together in the open air, looking with a solemn, wistful sort of feeling, first to one part of the heavens, and then to another, not knowing from which direction He would come.

All one day and one night we continued steadfastly watching and waiting. In the morning of the second day a change came over us, a feeling of peace, slight at first, but nevertheless distinct. It was daylight, but in the midst of the daylight there came another light, whiter than that of day. And like as the feeling of peace, it was just perceptible at first, but both gradually increased as does the light of morning, the

peace filling our hearts, and the light filling the atmosphere where we were, until neither could contain more.

Then out from the brightness burst forth the Son of Man standing upon the earth directly in front of us. It was as though this light had been to Him for a covering which shielded Him from view until He stood upon the earth; then He threw it off as a garment, revealing Himself to our view, smiling pleasantly and genially. In appearance there was nothing that would distinguish Him from other men; that distinguishing feature was the exquisite happiness His presence imparted.

While the light was increasing, and the feeling of awe also, for we knew He was drawing near, I began to tremble and fear within myself lest I should be rejected of Him. I recounted my many imperfections, aye downright faults, and felt unworthy; yet I said within myself, I will not put myself away, but will stay right here by Joseph until He comes and puts me away. And O the joy, when He extended His hand to me also. How I wished in my heart it might never be withdrawn.

After shaking hands with the people, He spoke concerning the delay and slowness of His coming, that it was needful for us, that we might have our



thoughts withdrawn entirely from all other things and fixed upon Him and His coming; otherwise we could not receive Him. And as if in answer to the thought of my heart of how different was His appearance from what I had thought it would be, He said, "*This is not the final coming, but to help the saints prepare for it, for without such help they would not be ready.*" (*The Saints' Herald*, August 24, 1904)



## The Power of Circle Prayer

In 1979 I had a dream about a **circle of saints**, which means people who are spiritually connected to the Lord—people who seek to follow the goodness in all things—who desire a closer relationship with their Creator. It isn't any man's religion that qualifies him to wear the wedding garment and be called a saint; it's his heart. And these kinds of people are worldwide, in every belief or religion, and nation on earth; but they will not stay separated. They will unite by the power of the Creator, and bring peace to the world, being led and guided by Him as He gathers them all together in one big circle. And they will come to Zion.

I had a dream and *saw that circle*, although when it was received I was very young, and didn't fully un-

derstand it. Now that I hear what the Native Americans believe with such a passion, unity of the circle of mankind, the four colors, I understand it more.

In the dream we were going to join hands in an "unbroken circle chain." I was aware of **someone in front of me who was not in line yet, and must be included so the chain would be complete.** I reached forward and included that person also, and the circle chain was then completed...After we joined hands a huge fire was burning in the center of the circle which represents power of the Holy Ghost. I saw to my left that *the group was formed into a circle* which was so large that I couldn't see how far it extended. The dream ended. I believe it is God's people praying worldwide.

In the dream I spoke of the **POWER OF THIS CIRCLE**—that when the circle chain is solid, unbroken, the people from the Church of the Firstborn in heaven will come down among us on earth. That's the Everlasting Covenant fulfilling:

*"When thy posterity shall embrace the truth, and look upward, then shall Zion look downward, and all the heavens shall shake with gladness, and the earth shall tremble with joy; And the general assembly of the Church of the Firstborn shall come down out of heaven, and possess the earth, and shall have place until the end come. And this is Mine Everlasting Covenant, which I made with thy father Enoch. (Gen. 9:22-23).*

# North American Indian Hopi Prophecies



The quote is from Lee Brown, 1986 Continental Indigenous Council, Tanana Valley Fairgrounds, Fairbanks, Alaska. Photo of Lee Brown above in 2012.



Here is what the Hopi elders teach about the power of the circle.

“The elders knew that peace would not come on the earth **until the circle of humanity is complete**, until all the four colors sat in the circle and shared their teachings, then peace would come on earth.”

# **PUSH—The Circle Prayer**

## **(Pray Until Something Happens)**

When Daniel was in Babylon “...he went into his house; and, his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees *three times a day*, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God...” (Dan. 6:10)

### **It Pays To Pray 3 Times A Day**

*“If My people which are called by My name shall **humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.**”*

Building Zion, God’s city will heal this land of America. “I was directed to say.... that we should **work very hard and pray very hard for the Lord’s Zion to come among us this year.** Twice now that I’ve been directed to say something about the kingdom coming this year, and Jesus’ return.” Patriarch Leland Collins



# Will you join the **PUSH Prayer Circle**

praying 3 times a day  
*for the Lord's Zion to come among us this year?*

If so, go to the [www.emfi.org](http://www.emfi.org) website and click on the PUSH Prayer Circle List link and you can add your name to the prayer circle list of saints uniting around the world. At that link, you can also read the names of those who have joined the circle. You can also send an email or call the following number if you have any trouble accessing the website. Phone number: 1-816-228-0042  
Email: [jandh@emfi.org](mailto:jandh@emfi.org) or [jandanh36@gmail.com](mailto:jandanh36@gmail.com)

When you reach for the door knob to leave your room in the morning, think of this hymn: “Ere you left your room this morning, did you think to pray?”

## **Did You Think To Pray?**



Ere you left your room this morning,  
Did you think to pray?  
In the name of Christ, our Savior,  
Did you sue for loving favor as a shield today?

## CHORUS

Oh how praying rests the weary!  
Prayer can change the night to day;  
So when life gets dark and dreary,  
Don't forget to pray.

When your heart was filled with anger,  
Did you think to pray?  
Did you plead for grace, my brother,  
That you might forgive another  
Who had crossed your way?

## CHORUS

When sore trials came upon you,  
Did you think to pray?  
When your soul was full of sorrow,  
Balm of Gilead did you borrow  
At the gates of day?

## CHORUS:

Oh how praying rests the weary!  
Prayer can change the night to day;  
So when life gets dark and dreary,  
Don't forget to pray.



Pray Very Hard



*“Behold, I have come unto the world to bring redemption unto the world, to save the world from sin: therefore whoso repenteth and cometh unto me as a little child, him will I receive; for of such is the kingdom of God.”*  
(3 Nephi 4:52; Matthew 18:2-3)



# **The Power of a Grandmother's Prayer**

## **Erlyne Prayed 26 Years for Her Grandchildren and then...**

*“I didn’t want my grandchildren not knowing there is a God,” she said, “and so I started praying for them.”*

Erlyne Gress has just witnessed the faithfulness of a loving Heavenly Father who hears our prayers and answers them in His time. All the puzzle pieces have to be in place before a picture is completed, and God puts those pieces together until He can answer our prayers.

Erlyne and Dick Robinson were disappointed when their son, David, fell in love with Kelly Neuber whom he had met as they worked together in a handicap camp. David was attending the University of London in Ontario, Canada, and Kelly was in a University nearby. Kelly caught his eye with her athletic skills as a US Olympic gold medal winner in swimming, and they began dating. When Erlyne



and Dick heard of the marriage they were very concerned because of Kelly's anti-god upbringing.

Kelly's father, Fred Neuber, was a former Nazi spy in Germany, and at the end of WWII when the Nazis were being brought to trial, Fred fled with his family to Canada to escape. Fred raised his family with the firm command that there would be no religion in his house for he did not believe there was a God.

David had become disappointed in the apostasy of the RLDS Church and seemed to have fallen away. He didn't oppose his wife's "no religion" in their home either. Their three sons grew up without a belief in God. And Erlyne prayed.

Luke, Mitchell, and Alix grew up never talking about religion or their beliefs with their grandparents. But in 2018, after 26 years of praying, those prayers were answered.

This year Kelly's sister died as Kelly sat beside her in the hospital. Erlyne got a phone call from her daughter-in-law asking her, "*Are there such things as angels?*" Kelly said that when her sister died her face changed so drastically she looked like an angel. Erlyne was able to tell Kelly, "*Yes, there are angels, and there is life after death.*" She told Kelly she would see her sister again. And what joy that had to

bring to Kelly! A whole new world opened to her. Erlyne was able to tell Kelly much about heaven and God's loving relationship with His children and the eternal world.

Today, February 23, 2018, Erlyne told me her story. She said all of this had just happened. Erlyne said she was in a restaurant with David's family, and for some reason the subject came up about the Book of Mormon. Luke said he believed in the Book of Mormon, then his younger brothers both said they did too. To Erlyne's tears, Kelly added her total belief also.

David told his mother what had happened. When Kelly saw the angelic face on her sister at death, she went home asking questions. David could remember the teachings of his parents—of the Joseph Smith Restoration story—of Moroni's visit to Joseph when he had prayed for the truth, and of being shown the Book of Mormon plates on Hill Cumorah. He remembered it all because his parents had been faithful in teaching him when he was a little child.

This is the promise of the Lord: that when we teach our children it's like programing information into a computer, and in later years, the Lord can bring forth that information from our computer brains

when nothing else can reach us. God touched David's computer memory in his brain and brought the Lord into the lives of his own family because of his parents' teaching and prayers.

Tears of joy were streaming down Erlyne's face in that restaurant as she saw the answers to her prayers. Those around them saw her tears and came to inquire of her story which she was able to share. And from there it will be repeated bringing many renewed hope in the power of prayer.

Erlyne said that many times she was discouraged, wondering if her prayers would be answered; sometimes not really wanting to live anymore. She couldn't say anything, but putting the timing in God's hands totally, she remained faithful in petitioning the Lord. Erlyne wants everyone to know that this kind of discouragement comes only from the power of darkness, and don't give Satan the time of day—just pray.

Erlyne purchased three Book of Mormons for her grandsons, and took them to the Book of Mormon Foundation office in Independence, Missouri to have their names printed on them in gold. The office manager, Sue Manning, asked her why and Erlyne told her the story. She asked Erlyne to write her story and it will be printed in *The Witness* soon.

The message is to keep on praying no matter how long it takes; it's called **PUSH: Pray Until Something Happens**. And it will. Jesus taught us **there's Power in Prayer**.

**Scientists are now proving the power prayer has on the brain.** Check out this website for a video advertisement on how prayer prevents mental decline, strengthens your brain, and the 47 health benefits of prayer.



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