



PSALM 145:18-19

PRAYER MATTERS

HE IS NEAR

A Servant's Heart

Day 1

Today's Reading: Exodus 3:1-12

Philippians 4:13 *I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.*

As we go about our lives, God chooses the most ordinary times to call us to do something for Him.

The idea of doing something for Him and something big can be frightening. We must be encouraged as God told Moses, “I have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey.” (Exodus 3:8) He is the one who does the heavy lifting. We only have to avail ourselves to Him and allow Him to use us. God delivered the people of Israel. Moses was just the vessel He used to accomplish His plan.

Sometimes our own inability gets in the way and causes us to resist. God chose to use a murderer as the vessel to deliver the people of Israel. This is a perfect example of His grace. Sometimes we think we are unworthy to serve Him, but God calls us as well to show his great grace.

When God calls you to serve Him remember to trust today that if He calls you to it. He will see you through it.

Prayer: God forgive my sins and past transgressions. Help me to be faithful in the little things and to be ready when and if you call me to do something big. In Jesus name, Amen.

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A Servant's Heart

Day 2

Today's Reading: Romans 8:28

1 Thessalonians 5:18 *in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

Lynn cried as she sat in the hospital room with her dying husband. She could not understand how someone so young could be taken so soon. He had barely lived. She felt a sharp pain in her heart as she watched him take his last breath.

Years later she found herself ministering to other women who had lost their husbands. She never understood why, but her ability to trust God during that difficult time made it possible for her to help others as they experienced grief from the loss of a loved one.

God brings good out of all the tragedies in the Christian's life to work together for good, His idea of good. This means the hardships as well as the blessings. They all work together for our good.

One must understand that God is not the cause of the hardships, but He allows them. Many times the bad things are from Satan or the result of our sinful choices. Romans 8:28 says all things work together for good to them who love the Lord and who are called according to His purpose. The circumstances that we encounter can prepare us for the service of the Lord as it strengthens our faith in the source of our strength.

Prayer: Thank you God that you can take even the heartaches and tragedies and bring good out of them. I pray for those in our church family who are experiencing difficult circumstances. Comfort them today! In Jesus name, Amen!

A Servant's Heart

Day 3

Today's Reading: Joshua 1:1-9

Joshua 1:8 *This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.*

Joshua served faithfully under Moses. At the appointed time God called him to be the leader over the people of Israel. God spoke clearly to Him the instructions he was to follow. He taught Him that if he would keep His word, he would experience success.

How awesome to be a man or woman of God and hear His voice as He shares His vision for your life. Because Joshua was faithful under Moses and with the people as they wandered in the wilderness, he now would see the land of promise.

As we meditate on God's word and allow it to infiltrate our being and direct our path, we too can experience success as we follow God's will for our lives. It is not enough to know the Law but God said he also needed to practice it. It is not just in what we know of God, but in what we do with the word He has given us that bring about our victory.

Prayer: As I meditate on your word direct my path Oh Lord that I might find success. Help our members to meditate on your word daily. In Jesus name, Amen!

A Servant's Heart

Day 4

Today's Reading: Isaiah 40:31

Psalm 27:14 *Wait for the Lord; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the Lord.*

Waiting in line at the post office or any government office can be excruciating. In our microwave world no one really wants to wait for anything. We want it now.

What are the benefits of waiting? When we wait for a plant to grow, we get the nutritious goodness of it. When we wait for food to cook, we get a tasty meal. When we wait for a baby to grow in the mother's belly, we get a bundle of joy.

Patiently waiting allows for growth and maturity. When we grab hold of things before it's time, we may not be ready for what God has for us. Our time of waiting builds our faith and prepares us for the anticipated outcome or gift. Enjoy the time of waiting as God prepares you for His perfect plan. Remember they that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength.

Prayer: As I wait equip me Lord with the character I need to take hold of the blessing you have for me. In Jesus name, Amen!

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A Servant's Heart

Day 5

Today's Reading: 1 Samuel 3:10 - 14

John 10:3 *To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.*

An elderly lady found that no matter where she went people felt comfortable sharing their life stories with her. This oftentimes included their heartaches and pains. She knew she had the gift of encouragement because her mere presence made people feel safe to share their hearts.

Listening is a hard thing to do, but when people trust you enough to share their heart, it is a great honor. God called to Samuel in the night. Samuel had never heard the voice of God before. He mistakenly thought it was Eli. God trusted Samuel enough to tell Him what he was about to do. Samuel was faithful in his commitment to God and for this reason God gave him a revelation and called him into the ministry as a prophet to His people. This revelation marked the beginning of Samuel's ministry. When God speaks to us it is a great honor. We do well to listen.

Prayer: God help me to block out the noise of life and hear your voice today. In Jesus name, Amen!

A Servant's Heart

Day 6

Today's Reading: Psalm 119:105

James 1:5 *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*

Ever use a navigation system. The best feature is its ability to reroute you when it is aware of a slowdown due to heavy traffic or a wreck. It calculates the time each route takes and sends you on the fastest route.

Sometimes it even recalculates during the course of your journey because traffic conditions have changed.

The psalmist recognizes that as we travel on this journey called life, God's word is our navigation system. The scriptures give us the information we need to determine God's will. The good thing is that God is all knowing. There is no need for Him to recalculate the plan, because He knows all things.

Knowing God's will can help us avoid pitfalls and tragedies and help us stay on the right path for our lives.

Prayer: God help me to be determined to follow your word. In Jesus name, Amen!

A Servant's Heart

Day 7

Today's Reading: Esther 4:1-14

Jeremiah 29:11 *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

Just as Mordecai said to Esther, “And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?” God places His people in situations to accomplish His plan. We must trust that we are where we are today because He has a greater plan. Sometimes we may be wondering around in the wilderness, but God can use our wilderness to prepare us for the promise land.

Esther became the queen. Her position helped her to speak for her people when annihilation was planned. Where does God have you today? You may be in this place for such a time as this?

Prayer: Thank you God that you know the plans you have for me. Show me how I can be used by you for your glory! In Jesus name, Amen!

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A Servant's Heart

Day 8

Today's Reading: Hebrews 11

Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

If we are to do great things in the kingdom of God we must have faith. Faith is being confident that God will do what He said He will do.

We put faith in our roof that it will not collapse. We put faith in our cars that they will get us from point A to point B, even though sometimes the car has broken down in the past. We know what it means to trust. When God calls us to do something we do not understand, do we trust Him enough to step out on faith? By faith Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham allowed God to use them to do some miraculous things. What can God do through you by faith?

Prayer: God I want to trust you enough to walk by faith and do whatever you call me to do. Help my unbelief.
In Jesus name, Amen!

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A Servant's Heart

Day 9

Today's Reading: Acts 9

John 8:32 *And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

Often times we walk in darkness and cannot see truth. We are blind. We may be deceived and convince ourselves we are right. God's word is a light and can give us sight as He did Paul.

Paul, a persecutor of the saints, was set against the truth of Jesus our Christ. One day on the road to Damascus He had an encounter with God that opened His eyes to a truth he could not explain. As he went on to proclaim Jesus some were afraid of him because his reputation as a persecutor of the saints preceded him. God used Paul once he could see the truth. Have your eyes been opened to the truth by God's holy word?

Prayer: God help me to no longer walk in deception but allow the truth of your word to give me sight. In Jesus name, Amen!

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A Servant's Heart

Day 10

Today's Reading: Romans 12:2

Hebrews 4:12 *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

Is God the priority in our lives? The world we live in has created so many different grey areas or blurred lines. If we are not rooted in the word of God we will not be able to recognize truth. When we allow the influences of evil people, television, songs and print publications to dictate our thoughts we become more like the world. As we drench our minds in God's word we become transformed and no longer like the world.

Our will becomes God's will.

As we read His word our lives up with His will we began to look different from the world and more like Christ. Jesus said his food was to do the will of the one who sent Him. How about you?

Prayer: God help me to be transformed as I meditate on your word. In Jesus name, Amen!

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A Servant's Heart

Day 11

Today’s Reading: 1 Peter 4:10

1 Corinthians 7:7 For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that.

Sally watched as James opened his birthday gift. He was her godson and she really wanted to give him a gift that would impact his life. After all he was four now. James tore the red polka dotted paper with cute little puppies sprinkled on it and ripped open the box to find four picture books. Samantha knew these would be great for his mommy and daddy to read to him at night.

Upon seeing the books James exclaimed, “Books? Where are the toys?” threw the books down and grabbed another gift.

God gives all of us gifts. These gifts are not earned or bought, but God decides what we need to be used for His purpose. Our spiritual gifts allow us to operate as a whole, and they are to benefit the body of Christ. With this in mind, we should use our gifts to help build the local church body. We are not to be boastful or brag about the gifts we have. God desires for us to utilize these gifts to edify His kingdom. When we neglect our gifts, we are showing our lack of appreciation towards God. We must be thankful for our gifts and use them for God’s glory.

Prayer: God help me to recognize that my abilities come from you and should be used for your glory. In Jesus name, Amen!

A Servant’s Heart

Today's Reading: 2 Chronicles 15:1-7

We should be strong and courageous in all that we do. God has not given us a spirit of fear. We should not be afraid of “putting our hands to the plow or getting a little dirty.”

We must ensure that the work we put out will glorify God and edify the body of Christ. God does and He will reward us for our work!

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A Servant's Heart

Day 13

Today's Reading: Romans 12:9-13

Romans 12:11 *not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;*

Why is it that we give one hundred and ten percent to our jobs? Why is it we do not have the same amount of energy for our families. When it comes to God and the work we do for Him, we put it on the back burner? We tend to exhaust all of our energy for others before we give God our best. He typically gets whatever is left over. Many times He is an afterthought.

Imagine if we were an afterthought in God's eyes? What would that look like? Where would we be? God has us in mind regardless of what we are doing. We should be enthusiastic to give God our very best always. We should remain prayerful and joyful in all we do. Let's keep our spirits high and keep God centered in our lives. He should be our priority.

Prayer: God help me to give you my very best and not just my leftovers. In Jesus name, Amen!

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A Servant's Heart

Day 14

Today's Reading: Philippians 2:1-4

Philippians 2:4 *Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*

There was a church who did a lot for their community, church members, and they were great at giving. After the Pastor passed away, the church leaders became disgruntled with each other and could not come to an agreement on who would run the church. Each leader wanted to take over for personal benefit. Their self-ambition caused the church doors to close. They each had an idea in mind that would benefit them by a worldly standard. The church doors never re-opened; instead the church was ruined by selfishness.

Have you ever asked yourself the questions, “What is the real reason I serve others? Is it for my own benefit? Do I expect something in return? Am I helping in a manner that glorifies God?”

Scripture teaches us to do for others without considering our own personal gain. We should practice humility within ourselves. As we serve others it should be in humility and not for our own glory.

Prayer: Father, thank you for your selflessness, and blessing us by giving Your only son to die on the cross for our sins. Help me to do things for your glory and not for selfish gain. In Jesus name, Amen!

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A Servant's Heart

Day 15

Today's Reading: Proverbs 11:14

Proverbs 15:22 *Without consultation, plans are frustrated, but with many counselors they succeed.*

Do you ever wonder why we have to go to others for advice? Why can't we make our own decisions? Is this a sign of weakness?

The answer is simple. If we don't have guidance, we may go in the wrong direction.

Yes, we can make our own decisions, but consulting the Bible and counselors who will pray for us and give us biblical advice helps us to make the right decision. Sometimes, we may be struggling with a big decision that must be made, and it is foolish to neglect the counsel of God's people. It does not mean we are weak; it only means we need guidance to help us make the right decision. Proverbs 24:6 tells us that it is foolish not to ask for advice. When we are in the midst of difficult decisions sometimes we cannot see clearly.

There was a man traveling down a road. He saw signs that said detour, but he knew the way and it was the fastest route. He saw others take the detour. One man blew his horn at him and beckoned him not to go that way. He ignored the signs and went the way he knew. As he entered the bridge, he drove over it as he had done before. What he did not was that the bridge had recently suffered structural damage. The signs were just put up and transportation crews were on their way to block off the bridge. As he reached the center of the bridge, it collapsed.

We may think we know the right way, but wise counsel can help us see the pitfalls we may be unaware of.

Prayer: Direct my decisions by your word and godly counsel, Oh God I pray. In Jesus name, Amen!

A Servant's Heart

Day 16

Today's Reading: Galatians 6:7-10

Galatians 6:10 *So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.*

Do you need to be acknowledged for your work in order to keep doing a good job? We all enjoy being recognized for the work that we do. It makes us feel good about ourselves. We enjoy the praises others give us. In fact, we thrive on it.

Sometimes, we will hesitate on doing a good job because we just can't see any results from our good work. As Christians we should know that we may not often see results from our work. Just because we don't see these results does not mean we should stop working. Never give up on doing good work; you will have eternal rewards if you keep doing well while you have the opportunity to do well.

Cynthia was always doing well in everything she did. She worked hard, and did not stop until the job was done. Every job she completed, she was always told what a good job she had done. One day she was asked to help out on a time sensitive project. She had two days to work on her portion of the project when the others had been working on it for a month. She stayed up late; she worked long hours, two days straight and finally finished her portion. After turning it in, her boss didn't tell her she did a good job, he just accepted it.

She continued to work just as hard, and she put her all into her assignments. Her boss had noticed her hard work all along and offered her a promotion.

Prayer: Lord, we ask that You will bless our hands as we continue to work for You. Lord, help us to remember all that we do is for You and no one else. In Jesus name, Amen!

A Servant's Heart

Day 17

Today's Reading: Hebrews 13:17

Hebrews 13:18 *Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a good conscience, desiring to conduct ourselves honorably in all things.*

Does our conduct give our leaders a reason to report joyfully about us?

Our leaders are a vital part of our ministries. It is important that we cooperate with them and follow their leadership. Our leaders are the ones held accountable for us and the work we do. If we are continually non-compliant and give them grief about the things we are instructed to do, they will be burdened.

God established leaders to guide us as co-laborer in the work of the Lord. We are to support our leaders by doing our best.

Prayer: God help me to be a great follower. I pray that you would comfort our church leaders today as they strive to do your will and lead your people. In Jesus name, Amen!

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A Servant's Heart

Day 18

Today's Reading: Psalms 100:2

Psalms 100:3 Know that the Lord Himself is God; It is He who made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Ask yourself, do I really serve the Lord with gladness? God deserves our ultimate praise. When we worship Him, we should realize that He is always in our presence. It is a privilege to serve Him. It should be a great honor to glorify His name.

Serving the Lord with gladness means that we acknowledge that He is the best of the best, what He asks of us is never too much; He is our Savior, and our creator. Serving the Lord with gladness means, we serve Him with sincerity.

His grace and mercy towards us is another reason we should rejoice when we serve the Lord. Whatever it is we are going through, whatever trial we may face, God is our way maker, our redeemer, and our healer. Find joy in your heart as you serve the Lord for He is a deserving, all knowing, all-powerful God.

Prayer: Father, we come to You today thanking You for allowing us to serve You. We acknowledge who You are, all that You do, and all that You are going to do. In Jesus name, Amen!

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A Servant's Heart

Day 19

Today's Reading: Matthew 20:26-28

Luke 22:26 *But it is not this way with you, but the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant.*

Have you ever asked the question “What makes a good leader?” or “How can I become a great leader?” In Matthew 20:26-28, Jesus tells us exactly what we need to do in order to become a great leader. Jesus tells us that a true leader has a servants’ heart. Instead of using people we are to serve people. When you serve others, as a leader, you learn to appreciate their worth. Jesus loved serving others so much He gave Himself as a ransom for us. He gave His life to free us from the bondage of our sins.

Have you ever taken the time to ask someone how you can best serve them? The world's kind of leadership is selfish and arrogant. If you are leading according to the way God is telling us to lead, you will be a servant leader. We serve on our jobs, in our churches and in our homes. Let's do so as Jesus has modeled for us.

Prayer: Father, thank You for all that You teach me through Your word. There is so much for me to learn about You. Thank You for serving others, giving Your life to free me from my sins, and teaching us the foundation of being a great leader. In Jesus name, Amen!

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A Servant's Heart

Day 20

Today's Reading: Matthew 27:1-32

Today reflect on the passage. Read it more than once and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you today. Jesus was our example of a servant. Reflect on what you can learn from Him as you position yourself for His service.

Prayer: God Jesus was betrayed by the very people He helped. Help me to be willing to do for those who do not appreciate my service. Keep forever in my mind that my efforts are for you and not man. In Jesus name, Amen!

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A Servant's Heart

Day 21

Today's Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

Today reflect on the great commission. God has called us all to make disciples. How is He calling you to do this?

Prayer: God help me to be sensitive to your leading. How can I be a part of making disciples and teaching believers to keep your word? Show me how I fit into your plan to save others. In Jesus name, Amen!

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