

Weekly Inspiration - February 2017



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Week Of February 6, 2017

Theme: Grow in Prayer

I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame.

PSALM 34:4-5

Perhaps prayer has never been your strong suit. But, if you are willing, you can change that by making it a habit to spend quality time with every day.

As you grow in prayer, God will reveal more of himself to you, breathing more of his life into your spirit. Mark my words, that will be the most fulfilling and rewarding part of your experience with prayer, more so even than the answers to prayer you are sure to receive. Fellowship with God, trust, confidence, peace, relief — these wonderful feelings will be yours as you learn how to pray.

JOURNAL: Describe your current relationship with God. Is it as close and intimate as you desire? This week think about what changes you'd like to see in your relationship with him.

Week of February 13

Theme: Help in the Battle

Moses said to Joshua... "Go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands." So, Joshua fought the Amalekites... and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning.

EXODUS 17:9-11

Moses discovered that day that God's prevailing power is released through prayer. When you begin praying in earnest, you will discover the same thing. It boils down to this: if you are willing to invite God to involve himself in your daily challenges, you will experience his prevailing power — in your home, in your relationships, in the marketplace, in the schools, in the church, wherever it is most needed. That power may come in the form of wisdom — an idea you desperately need and can't come up with yourself. It may come in the form of courage greater than you could ever muster. It may come in the form of confidence or perseverance, uncommon staying power, a changed attitude toward a family member, changed circumstances, maybe even outright miracles. However, it comes, God's prevailing power is released in the lives of people who pray.

JOURNAL: This week write a prayer asking God for his strength and power in your life.

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Week of February 20, 2017

Theme: Prevailing Power

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

PROVERBS 3:5

It is hard for God to release his power in your life when you put your hands in your pockets and say, "I can handle it on my own." If you do that, don't be surprised if one day you get the nagging feeling that the tide of battle has shifted against you and that you're powerless to do anything about it.

Prayerless people cut themselves off from God's prevailing power, and the frequent result is the familiar feeling of being overwhelmed, overrun, beaten down, pushed around, defeated. Surprising numbers of people are willing to settle for lives like that. Don't be one of them. Nobody has to live like that. Prayer is the key to unlocking God's prevailing power in your life.

PRAY: This week spend time praying about specific situations where you want to unlock God's power in your life.

Week of February 27, 2017

Theme: Deep Needs

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus.

EPHESIANS 3:20-21

Most of us should admit that we don't pray that often about our deepest needs. We get faint-hearted. We begin to pray, but we soon find our minds wandering, and we realize we're using empty phrases. We start to feel hypocritical, and soon we give up. It seems better to live with almost any difficult situation than to continue to pray ineffectively.

We reach out to God, because we know he is holding out loving arms toward us. But then we often fall back and try to face our difficulties in our own power, because at some basic and perhaps unconscious level we doubt if God really can make a difference in the problems we are facing.

It is well and good to believe that God loves us and wants to help us. The question remains: is he able to do so? Because if he isn't, all the good will in heaven and earth will make no difference.

PRAY: What needs do you find difficult to bring to God? Do you find yourself doubting that he's able to change your situation? This week, pray about any such needs, despite your doubts.