

## “THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!”

In nineteen ninety three (1993) I had open heart surgery and at that I was surprised to know of the many Christians that took time to send cards, get-well wishes and above all prayers for me and my doctors. That was in 1993 and I am still gracing the face of the earth and am still preaching the Gospel. You just would not believe folks that took time to let me and my family know of their concern. I once heard a preacher, Church of Christ, say my people were not a praying people – I did not believe it then, and told him so, and I do not believe it now. I have evidence of those who care and offered prayers on my behalf. I am here today because of the prayers, good doctors and the help of God. **Your prayers worked** and my wife is fine from the surgery. **Thank you for your prayers.**

*“3 And another angel came and stood over the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should add it unto the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. 4 And the smoke of the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel’s hand. 5 And the angel taketh the censer; and he filled it with the fire of the altar, and cast it upon the earth: and there followed thunders, and voices, and lightnings, and an earthquake,”* Rev. 8:3-5. In this we see the prayers of the saints, ascend and goes up like the smoke of incense before God. **Who would dare to say the prayers of saints are not heard!** With this is a passage in Jas. 5:16, *“16 Confess therefore your sins one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The supplication of a righteous man availeth much in its working.”* God hath determined, *“prayers availeth much in its working.”* It is needful for each of us to have contact with God in our lives. Jesus is a perfect example of one keeping in contact with the Father. He constantly involved himself in prayer to God. It really is simple, **Prayer works.** It has worked in the past and shall continue to work in the future. **Thank you for your prayers. Your prayers and the Lord have helped us through some difficult times.**

The Lord teaches we can pray for **the forgiveness of a brothers sin**, Acts 8:22; We can pray for our **daily bread**, Matt. 6:11; We can pray **for those who are in high places, for kings**, I Tim. 2:2; We can pray that **we not be led into temptation, and deliver us from the evil one**, Matt. 6:13; We can pray for brethren **who are being persecuted**, Acts 4:31; We can pray **for those who are not of the same mind**, Phil. 4:1-3; Many other things could be cited for which we could pray; but, you get the message. We are a people of prayer and this cannot be removed from the life of a Christian. **Thank you for your prayers in time of need.**

There us a passage in I Thess. 5:17-18 that expresses the thought of prayer to those who are saints: *“17 Pray without ceasing; 18 in everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus to you-ward.”* I do not believe this passage is teaching we are to be in constant prayer; but rather, always be in a prayerful attitude and disposition. As was with us, brethren need to be ready to come to the aid of one another and to pray one for another. **It does work! Thank you for being there.**

The greatest factor of all is, the Lord said, *“5 ..... I will in no wise fail thee, neither will I in any wise forsake thee,”* Heb. 13:5. When we have the prayers of the brethren, the unfailing help from Jesus, what else is needed? We all give Jesus the credit with his unfailing help. **We are dependent upon “HIM,” our own prayers and the prayers of our brethren.** Caa .....

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