



Growth Ministries Inc.

*As Iron Sharpens Iron, So One Person
Sharpens Another. Proverbs 27:17*



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Words to Grow By – The Power of Prayer!

Never doubt the Power of Prayer.

One small prayer can change your life forever.

There is NOTHING that is impossible to or for our God.

Our God can heal the sick and work situations out in our life that seem overwhelming to us.

There is absolutely NOTHING that is too hard for God.

He is The Way Maker!

Don't worry about anything; Instead, pray about everything.

Tell God what you need and thank Him for all He has done and all He will do.

God is Bigger than any problem you might have.

But...don't just take me at my word...Just try Him for yourself.

Pray, Praise Him in advance and Believe.

There is Power in Prayer!

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Women Empowering Women – When Prayers Go Up

Food is going up,

Gas is going up,

Rent is going up.

But when Prayers go up, God's Blessings come down!

When in doubt,

Pray it out!

Because when Prayers go up, Blessings come down!

Keep Praying!

Keep Believing!

And Keep God First! *Matthew 6:33*

"Some of God's
greatest gifts are
unanswered prayers."

—Garth Brooks

Why Do We Suffer Sometime?

This life is mysterious to me. I've never understood how some people seem to suffer so much, through no apparent fault of their own.

Suffering is an undeniable reality. Yet, Jesus said he came that we might have abundant life. He wants our joy to be full. Joy and suffering appear to be antithetical, opposites, mutually exclusive. Yet...

If we look closely at the life of Christ, we see something very interesting. "For the JOY set before him, he endured the CROSS" (Hebrews 12:2). There is an implicit idea here that somehow joy and suffering are related.

Isn't it true that there would be no resurrection without the crucifixion?

And, notice, the suffering of the crucifixion wasn't only endured by Jesus.

Imagine yourself as Mary, Jesus' mother.

What must she have been thinking as she wept at the foot of the cross?

The angel Gabriel had appeared to her!

She had PROMISES!

But in the moment of the cross she suffered. She probably felt as if her entire life's purpose was yanked away, it had all been for naught.

Imagine yourself as John the Beloved.

Jesus commissioning you to basically receive Mary as your own mother (last request of a dying man, "friend, do me a favor and take care of my mom when I'm gone!")

John BELIEVED Jesus was the Messiah.

John watched Jesus raise others from the dead.

John experienced the transfiguration of Jesus.

So many miracles.

He had HOPES founded upon multiple experiences.

And at the cross, he probably felt shattered, his life suddenly destitute of purpose and a future.

Was all of it for nothing!!! (Imagine the anguish...)

In our darkest moments we do NOT see the resurrection. Our experience *in the moment* is the death of dreams and hopes. It may even be the despair of powerlessness.

In those moments what keeps us going?

What gives us a resilient spirit?

What can possibly renew our hope?



Why Do We Suffer Sometime? cont.

Romans 8:38-39 says, "Nothing can separate us from the Love of God."

No experience has the power to cause God to withdraw his love from us.

No behavior, no guilt, no shame.

Not even what other people do to us, to bully and to beat us down, has the power to cut us off from the Love of God.

ONLY our OWN belief that we are abandoned can create-- in our imagination-- the experience of God turning His back.

Our suffering is designed to reveal to us the provision of God.

If we will allow it to do its redemptive work, suffering will crack open parts of our heart that have not yet received God's love. Our weakness we've hidden, even from ourselves, gets to come into the light of love. The fears of being alone and utterly abandoned get to meet the unconditional, inexhaustible love of our Creator.

Suffering brings us to the end of our self.

We realize we cannot persevere; we cannot take the next step...

And there! Right there! When we are at the end, we discover God's provision in a new way. His strength is perfectly revealed IN our weakness.

On the other side of all our dark nights, there is deeper joy. A stronger connection. A more fulfilling and abundant awareness of how deeply we are loved and cared for by God.

But that joy came with a price.

Jesus paid that price first by choosing to submit himself to the deepest suffering possible....

We follow in his footsteps when we too soften our hearts under the inevitable suffering of life.

It is a choice.

We can pretend to be a victim.

We can buy into bitterness, rage, or deep depression....

Or we can soften.

We can ask God to reveal to us His comfort and provision.

We can surrender our right to be angry.

We could simply weep in our pain without having to make sense of it all.

Giving up the need to know what it all means is difficult, but a very real and powerful option.

We can be like Mary, who wept at the foot of the cross.

But unlike Mary, we have the assurance of joy on the other side.

Jesus did that for us, and for her.

He turned the tables on Death and on Suffering... now they are redemptive and have become portals through which we can receive God's grace, love, and provision...

IF we allow God to meet us in our pain and confusion.

What Does God Want From Us?

Micah 6:8 (Part Three) Walk Humbly

This month, we will finish our study as we look at the third and last of the questions stated in Micah 6:8, "What does God want from us"... to walk humbly with your God!"

This may be the most challenging part of the verse but stick with me. The third part, 'Humbly,' is the most difficult of the three and may undoubtedly cause the most controversy.

We know the Word of God challenges, corrects, and rebukes. This verse does all three.

"Walk humbly" is the heart's attitude and evidence of our relationship with God. Sometimes, we take pride in what we bring to God and His Kingdom. But God's people must depend and rely on Him rather than our skills, talents, gifts, power, or even education. *"But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."* James 4:6 We must humbly recognize and understand that no amount of personal sacrifice and work can replace a heart committed to justice and mercy.

We are told to walk in humility – the constant recognition of the reality that we absolutely positively need God. Walking implies direction, intention, consistency, and activity. It isn't passive, docile, or surrendering. Performing good deeds and following the rules is not as valuable in God's eyes as a humble heart that does what is right. We can never do enough or be enough by ourselves.

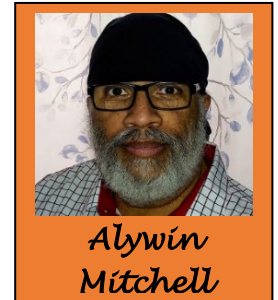
The message of Micah is still pertinent today, as it was 3000 years ago. God's people today must continue to desire justice, mercy, and humility before the Lord.

In our culture and society, the critical question about life has changed. The question one hundred years ago used to be, "What is true?" That question changed fifty years ago to, "What is honest and real?" Both questions are answerable in Jesus Christ, but today's critical question is, "What is good and right?"

Jesus Christ, as our example, is humble. He did so humbly when He came to earth, seeking to serve. He was willing to die sacrificially so that we could live free.

Our active faith must be exercised in walking humbly WITH God, relying on His wisdom and direction in every moment and decision. In that dynamic relationship, we gain a greater understanding that we have nothing without His grace and mercy.

How can a person seeking justice show mercy? How can a person seeking to show mercy live in humility? How can a merciful person enthusiastically see the fulfillment of justice? The answer comes from leaning fully into the wisdom and direction of God, where we find perfect examples of all three traits as part of the character and nature of our God.



What Does God Want From Us? cont.

To walk the way of humility is never going to be easy, but it will always be the way God calls us to walk. The one who walks humbly with the Lord does so modestly and without arrogance.

Humility is one of the hardest things for us to show. We live in a world that glorifies the strongest, the smartest, the most talented, the richest, and the best. Consequently, humility runs counterintuitive to everything we are taught to hold important or significant.

We must walk with Christ in humility, not running ahead, not standing still.

Jesus explained that anyone who wants to be great must do the opposite of what the world calls greatness. *"Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord."* Jeremiah 9:23

Many Christians become prideful and feel they are better than non-Christians after they accept Jesus as their Savior. But we must instead be humble. We didn't earn anything. Because we were, and everyone else is, in desperate need of a savior.

We can do nothing of ourselves, powerless to do good. *"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."* John 15:5

We are wholly dependent on God. *"In him we live and move and have our being"* Acts 17:28.

A man's pride will bring him low, but a humble spirit will obtain honor. Proverbs 29:23

The reward of humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, honor and life. Proverbs 22:4

Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling. Proverbs 16:18

Micah 6:8: "He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?"

What is required of us? Justice... you must DO it! Mercy... you must LOVE it! Humility... you must WALK it!

Cultivating and nurturing an intimate, passionate, personal relationship with God provides the wisdom, direction, grace, and mercy to accomplish all three!

Father God, I pray that whatever circumstances we find ourselves in right now, you will help us walk humbly with you today. Father God, may our lives reflect your nature and character by doing justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with you. Amen

Jesus's Destiny or Demonic Rule?

Do you ever wonder why you just can't let go of your past failures? Have you ever heard the old saying you will keep repeating the same lesson over and over until you get it right? Well, hot off the press, those thoughts, feelings and sayings are all coming directly from hell to your mind. Trust me when I say this. Every time you have a bad feeling about yourself, an overwhelming thought, a negative thought, thoughts of harming yourself or others or anything that is not pure, good, and full of beauty, it is NOT coming from God.

God gives you all good things and His word will come to pass as is stated in Joshua 21:45 "Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass (NKJ)". This was before Jesus ever came to earth and died for our sins.

He rose from the dead, descended into hell, stole the keys to death, sin and the grave and was resurrected on the third day. He then ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. Just imagine how much more we are covered by the blood covenant of Jesus' death! God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. His word will never fall to the ground without coming into the fullness of its meaning. So where does that leave us right now? We must realize that ever since the upper room, we are in the last days. That means we have to spread the good news of the Lord. We are ALL called to follow the great commission Jesus spoke to His disciples about. Every single one of us has been given a destiny that Jesus wants us to fulfill. I don't know about you, but I knew I was a sinner. However, I didn't realize that my sins opened up opportunity for demons to rush right in. When I look back on my life, I realize how much time I wasted, not walking in my destiny, but instead fighting one demonic battle after another. I knew Jesus but had no personal relationship with Him. Therefore, I had no idea of my destiny that Jesus placed inside me. I spent most of my life just wandering around making mistakes. Then I would try to fix the mistakes I made and wound up making the same mistakes again!

This brings me back to my original question. We don't just repeat the same things over and over until we get them right. The same things keep **happening** over and over because the same demons are attacking us in our weakest areas. They know how to keep us in bondage so that we don't even try to move out of the pit of hell that we are in! They cannot create anything new. They are legalistic and must conform to the rules of God. That means if you are operating in known sin, liking it and unwilling to repent then they have the legal right to steal, kill and/or destroy whatever door you have opened up to them. A great example of this would be anger. If you cannot control your temper, the demonic realm has a legal right to cause you chaos through any words or actions that you have done in anger. Then the demon of anger can gain not just a foothold in your life, but can become a stronghold. That means the demon starts to control you instead of you controlling the demon. I don't know about you, but I don't want that! I finally decided I was tired of being sick, depressed, alone and broken. God will meet you exactly where you are. All you have to do is ask. It simply takes a measure of faith, something as small as a mustard seed, to make the work Jesus wants to do in your life start to manifest. Once you reject Satan, all his works and all his empty promises, the Holy Spirit can work in your life. At that point, ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to remove and deliver yourself from these demonic attacks. Don't fool yourself by thinking it's just the luck of the draw. Throughout all of the scripture in the Bible, everything that is unclean, unholy or causes us pain is demonically related. "Satan has bound this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, for 18 years—shouldn't she be untied from this bondage on the Sabbath day? Luke 13:16 CSB." This is simply one example of how everything in our lives boils down to the spiritual first.




Jesus's Destiny or Demonic Rule? cont.

That is why ALL of us can hear the Lord God speak if we have ears to hear. Our spirit being needs fed so that our soul falls in line with what the Spirit of God is telling us to do until our spirit becomes aware of our destiny in Christ Jesus.

I'm not saying this is an easy thing to do. Spiritual warfare is around every non-believer and every believer all the time. If you ask for discernment, get into the Word of God and ask how to fight this spiritual war, you will get the answers you need. Even today, no matter how good things are, my husband and I get spiritually attacked. Spiritual warfare comes in something as simple as people getting offended by what you say or don't say. Anything that Satan can do, to get you to move away from Jesus the Word, the Spirit of the Lord, the Lion of Judah, the King of Kings and the Way Maker, he will do it. If he can put a shred of doubt in your mind about your salvation and what God has in store for you, the foothold has begun, and he will start playing games with you. So, shout against it! Praise Jesus' mighty name and stop the warfare right in its tracks. Plead the blood of Jesus over yourself and bind every demonic spirit coming against you. Never be double minded and try to serve two masters. That will open a door you can't close until you choose to surrender fully to Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

Every day I get stronger and understand more about how to fight against principalities and powers of darkness in high places. For we don't wrestle against flesh and blood. Most people you meet don't even understand that demons are attacking and destroying their destiny. Most people think what goes around comes around.

I'm only 5'4" tall, but in the spirit world I'm 30 foot tall! (LOL) I won't let anything stop me from fulfilling my destiny that Jesus has set forth for me. Man has nothing to offer me. This world has nothing to offer me and demons have no authority over me in Jesus mighty name! Everything here is fleeting but EVERLASTING life is real. I won't choose to burn when I can choose to soar in the destiny Jesus has for me!



*Most people live in offense,
bitterness and unforgiveness.
Unless you get rid of those
three, you'll never be set free.*

Closing Words –Waiting on God

Psalm 40:1-3 KJV ¹ *I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.* ² *He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.* ³ *And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord.*



*Lonnie
Johnson*
GMI Executive
Director

In today's world we have been spoiled by convenience, comfort, and quick delivery. We have microwaves that cook meals in a fraction of the time a normal oven would take; we have Amazon who can deliver packages next day, and in some cases the same day; we have Uber Eats and DoorDash who will drop food on our doorstep so we don't have to get dressed or leave our house. So quite naturally we get frustrated when we ask God for something, and it takes longer than we want and sometimes comes with some agony or inconvenience.

We could stand to take some tips from King David, the writer of Psalm 40. David starts by saying he ***waited patiently***. It doesn't say how long he waited, but it must have been long for it to require patience. Sometimes God may require us to wait for an answer. There may be a lesson we need to learn; there may be some character building that needs to happen; and sometimes he wants us to know, without a doubt, it was Him that delivered us, and not ourselves. It was after David waited, patiently, that we see God ***inclined to him*** (turned to David and gave him the attention he desired).

Right after that David said the ***Lord heard his cry***. Sometimes we have to humble ourselves and cry out to God. There is nothing that gets a parent's attention more than a genuine cry from their child. No parent can resist stopping everything and seeing about their needs. We cannot go to God arrogantly, proud, or puffed up with an attitude that God owes us something. Crying out is a posture that says I am in a situation that is causing me agony and I don't know what to do. I NEED HELP!

We see that God eventually ***lifted David out of his pitiful situation*** that he described as a horrible and miry pit. Imagine when a baby is crying and lifts up their arms gesturing that they want to be picked up. That is what I see in this part of the scripture. David was crying and God put his hands under David's armpits and lifted him up. Not only did God lift him up, but He put him on a solid foundation, established his goings, and put a new song in his mouth. No longer was David stuck, but he was ***headed in the right direction***. No longer was he crying but ***he was praising the Lord***. Finally, it says that ***everyone will see what God has done, be amazed, and now they will trust in Him also***. WOW!

Maybe you are depressed and waiting to find joy and purpose. Maybe you are worried about a job, and you are waiting to find work. Maybe you are sick, and you are waiting for healing. Maybe you are single and waiting to find your soul mate. Maybe you are a parent of a prodigal child and waiting for them to come home. Maybe you have some kind of appeal or legal process you are waiting on.

Cry out to our Father. Lift your arms and ask Him to lift you up. Wait patiently knowing that he will do what you need Him to do, and more.



Habakkuk 2:2 ESV

And the LORD answered me: "Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it."

Write Us – We want to hear from you. We enjoy hearing from you. Here are some things you can write about.

- **Tell us about our magazine**

We want to know what you like about our magazine. What are some of the articles you want to see more of? Are there any specific types of stories that inspire you?

- **Send us something to publish**

Do you write poetry? Do you have a powerful testimony? Do you have a particular scripture that you want to share why it inspires you? Maybe you are an artist and want to share a drawing. Send it to us and let us check it out. If approved, we will publish it for others to see. Please refrain from any inappropriate material. We are a Christian organization and will not publish anything that is unsuitable for our readers.

- **Send us your prayer requests or issues you are dealing with**

Are you going through something right now. Write us so we can pray with you. We will respond to your letter with a prayer, scripture and guidance on your issue. We all need someone to touch and agree with us when we are faced with life's challenges.


Growth Ministries Inc.

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Changing the World One Life at a Time



Just For Laughs!

On Palm Sunday, the Sunday School teacher asked her class, “So, why did Jesus ride a donkey?”
A voice piped up from the back: “Because he wanted to.”

At the end of the age when all the believers were standing in line waiting to get into heaven, the angel Gabriel appeared and said, “I want all the men to form two lines. One line will be for the men who were the true heads of their households. The other will be for the men who were dominated by their wives.”

Gabriel continued, “And now we need all of the women to report to Mary and Martha on the other side of the gate.”

The women left while the men hurriedly formed two lines. The line of men who were dominated by their wives was seemingly unending. The line of men who were the true head of their household had just one man standing in it.

Gabriel said to the first line, “You men ought to be ashamed of yourselves. You were appointed to be the heads of your households and you have not fulfilled your purpose. Of all of you, there is only one man who obeyed.”

Then Gabriel turned to the lone man and asked, “How did you come to be in this line?”

The man sheepishly replied, “My wife told me to stand here.”

A pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: 'I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program.

The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets.'



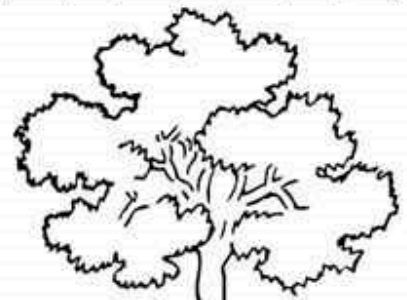
FALL WORDSEARCH

Find the words in the grid below.



- Acorn
- Brisk
- Chilly
- Coat
- Cold
- Cool
- Corn
- Cozy
- Cranberry
- Crisp
- Fall
- Feast
- Football
- Harvest
- Hay
- Hayride
- Haystack
- Leaf
- Leaves
- Nuts
- Pumpkin
- Quilt
- Raincoat
- Rainy
- Rake

Z	V	R	Q	V	Q	F	D	J	P	S	V	F	B	Z	R	U	C	A	H
Y	O	A	O	W	B	U	A	E	V	U	L	T	L	E	A	F	S	T	S
O	Z	I	C	A	F	R	I	L	M	C	M	N	O	I	T	M	E	S	W
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S	G	I	A	A	P	O	E	F	D	O	S	P	A	Y	C	P	H	S	H
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C	D	T	T	J	Q	T	R	N	U	J	A	L	S	O	B	E	L	M	Y
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C	X	C	R	A	K	E	B	L	L	J	N	J	W	D	W	I	N	D	Y



New Testament Books

M A T T H E W O G H L L G V G F X	Thessalonians
N C O L O S S I A N S B G Q B X P	Corinthians
O L Z Q Q E P H E S I A N S V K P	Philippians
P N C L W P H I L I P P I A N S H	Revelation
O W C J H E B R E W S W O Q J W I	Colossians
T H E S S A L O N I A N S K A H L	Ephesians
H O L H M A R K O O S O H R M T E	Galatians
Q H K Q O Z J B V P E X K E E A M	Philemon
Y L X U Z F U V A E J T K V S L O	Hebrews
V V L P W G D P X T Y I W E V N N	Matthew
P Q K A B G E H O E I T W L J E F	Timothy
L R O M A N S E K R A U K A O T P	Romans
U C O R I N T H I A N S D T H M Q	James
K G M V M W B B I X K P W I N J K	Peter
E O X T I M O T H Y D W A O B X O	Titus
L E A C T S D F N R F W W N O K Y	Acts
J G G A L A T I A N S R E B N K L	John
	Jude
	Luke
	Mark

