

## Ladies Prayer International Newsletter



United Pentecostal Church    March 2018

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### Patience in Prayer

By Karen Hatcher



Patience does not come naturally to me. It is a learned behavior. One of my earliest memories as a child is my father quoting Luke 21:19, "Karen, 'In your patience possess ye your souls.'"

The Bible is clear; we must have patience to receive the promise. "For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise" (Hebrews 10:36). The Bible is equally clear that trials help me learn patience. "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope" (Romans 5:3-4).

When I give my problem to Jesus, I am trusting Him. Being patient with God proves I trust Him. Do I trust God to take care of my situation the right way and at the right time? When I completely let go and turn something over to God, why should I stress and worry? Wonder, perhaps, but not worry!

Sometimes our children make wrong choices. No matter how far they have gone from God, as long as they have breath, we must pray for God to continue to nudge, deal with, show mercy, and give them opportunities to repent. Do not give up. Should our death come before our child repents, our prayers are a memorial before God (Acts 10:4). He still acts on prayers prayed.

Do I trust God with my children? Wait! Aren't they His children? Didn't God trust me to raise them? Can I trust God enough to lay my wayward children at His feet? When they were young, my children would cry over a broken toy and expect me to fix it. Once they handed it to me, they whimpered, but never tried to snatch it back or throw temper tantrums while waiting. Why can't I trust God like that? Didn't God put the universe in place? Didn't He create the food chain? Didn't He think of everything when He created the human body? Why do I think He can't handle my problem?

Didn't God anticipate and think of a redemption plan before one was needed? Didn't God take care of His prophets when they were persecuted? Doesn't God know when a sparrow falls? Why do I think He doesn't care about my problem (I Peter 5:7)? I may not know how or when He will answer. What I do know is God: 1) is in control; 2) has my best interests at heart; 3) will answer; and 4) will do right by me. "Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved" (Psalm 55:22).

Note: Karen (Bernard) Hatcher was raised in South Korea by missionary parents. She began teaching Sunday school at age ten and church band at sixteen. She and her husband, Charles Hatcher, pastored until retirement in 2009. Karen currently owns A Better Mail Service and is very active with the city of Gonzales, Louisiana. The Hatchers attend Centro de Vida in Gonzales.

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## Be Patient in Prayer

By Anne Johnston



"Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh" (James 5:8).

We live in a world that wants everything instantly. No time to cook anymore, so pop something in the microwave and it is ready immediately. Can't wait for the coffeemaker to perk, so try some instant coffee, or use a pod. In traffic, impatient drivers honk their horns if we don't step on the gas the second the light turns green. No matter that they are just going to the next gas station or coffee bar.

Patience is something that few people have today, and sometimes this can affect our prayer life. We come to God with a request and we want immediate answers. We don't want to take time to wait on Him and trust Him to show us His way, or to supply that urgent need we have. When we don't get an answer right away, we think God doesn't care or that He is not listening to us.

God gave Abraham and Sarah a promise that they would have a son and from him would come a great nation. But as they became older without seeing this come to pass, they became impatient and tried to work it out their own way. As a result, Ishmael was born, but he was not the one God intended. In His good timing, Isaac was born. How much better life would have been for all of them, if they had just waited patiently on the Lord.

When Rebekah bore her two sons, the prophecy was given that the older would serve the younger. Jacob was not willing to wait for God to work out His plan, and schemed to obtain the birthright from his brother. His mother also became impatient and planned a way that Jacob could receive the blessing from his father. How much better if they had waited patiently for the Lord to work things out rather than trying to hurry God.

So many times, we come to God in prayer for our children, asking the Lord to keep them safe and to have His way in their lives. Often, they drift away from the things we have taught them, and we

wonder what God is doing. It seems the devil tries his hardest to keep them from serving the Lord. We remember the day that we dedicated them to the Lord and asked Him to save them, but now they seem to have no interest in the things of God. Keep on praying.

James 5:16 says, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man (or woman) availeth much." If God has given you a promise, stand firm on that, knowing that God will move heaven and earth to accomplish what He has promised.

Note: Anne Johnston is a graduate of UPBI (now Northeast Christian College) in New Brunswick and a minister's kid who has been involved in various aspects of gospel work most of her life. Anne attends West Island United Pentecostal Church in Pointe Claire, QC, and works with The King's Translators. She is the mother of three and grandmother of six.

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## Falling in Love with Jesus

By Debby Sanford



"Falling in love with Jesus,  
Falling in love with Jesus,  
Falling in love with Jesus,  
Is the best thing I've ever, ever done."  
(lyrics by Jonathon Butler)

Falling in love with Jesus is the answer to many struggles we often face in our lives. When we truly fall in love with Him, He becomes the focus of everything we do.

When I fell in love with my husband, he became the person I most want to spend time with. He is the first one I want to share important news with. His is the opinion I most value, and he is the one I run to when I need advice or comfort from the stresses of my day.

When we fall in love with Jesus, we seek to commune and spend time with Him. Prayer is not a burden, but a privilege and an honor as we come into the presence of the One our soul loves and longs for. "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?" (Psalm 42:1-2). When we truly love Him, prayer is no longer something we must work in to our day - just one more commitment on our to-do list that we hurriedly work through. It becomes the highlight of our day - even an attitude and a mindset that we carry with us all day long.

When we fall in love with Jesus, His opinions matter most to us. We seek to please Him in our lifestyle choices. It is not a burden to allow our lives to reflect the precepts in His word. "When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek" (Psalm 27:8). When we love Him, our obedience to His Word will truly come from our hearts.

When we fall in love with Jesus, we have a direct connection to a strength and a power like none other. "I will love thee, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies." (Psalm 18:1-3).

We want to share this love and this power with others - especially our children. As we pray for them, let us make sure we are modeling how falling in love with Jesus affects our daily lives. Let them see the excitement, the peace, the strength, and the joy that comes from truly loving Him. Let

them know that without a doubt, "Falling in love with Jesus is the best thing I've ever done."

Note: Debby is a pastor's wife, mom, grandma, Ladies Ministries president, teacher, and many other things. She is currently involved in the adventure of a lifetime as she and her husband, Reverend Dale Sanford, plant a church in Clayton, New Mexico.

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## From the Editor



### God is doing mighty things!

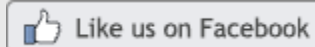
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Who we are . . . Since 1999: Ladies Prayer Intl. is made up of women worldwide, who meet on the first Monday of each month to unite in focused prayer for their children and the children of the local church and community.

Our Mission . . . We are committed to the spiritual preservation of this generation and beyond and the spiritual restoration of previous generations.

Our Need . . . Committed women who will join together on the first Monday of each month and pray focused prayer for their children.

Three Priorities of Prayer...

- The salvation of our children (Isaiah 49:25; Psalm 144:12; Isaiah 43:5-6).
- That they take ownership of the faith at an accountable age (1 John 2:25-28; James 1:25).
- That they enter into the ministry of the Lord's harvest (Matthew 9:38).



**Ministries we support...  
TUPELO CHILDREN'S MANSION**

Children live in an environment with opportunity to grow spiritually, physically and emotionally.



**NEW BEGINNINGS** Maternity care for birth mothers considering adoption and child placement for adoptive couples.

**HAVEN OF HOPE** A program for girls ages 13-16 with behavioral and emotional issues.

**LIGHTHOUSE RANCH** for BOYS Healing broken and hurting lives of teen boys.



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