

Don't Be Afraid; Just Believe

(Something's on the Boil; a discovery of prayer and healing, Volume 2)

Deeper into Prayer and Healing

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Healing prayers play out on the world stage.

Ariel Sharon, prime minister of Israel, suffered from a devastating stroke on January 4, 2006. He was placed under an induced coma by medical staff and would never recover. Ehud Olmert, the deputy prime minister, took over the prime minister's position. Sharon, later suffering from kidney failure and multiple organ failure passed away on January 11, 2014. He had remained in a coma for eight years.

President George W. Bush about Ariel Sharon says that both he and the first lady, Laura Bush, “. . . share the concerns of the Israeli people . . . and we are praying for his recovery.” January 5, 2006 ¹

Israeli Prime minister Ehud Olmert about Ariel Sharon says in his address to the United States Congress, “I pray, as I am sure you all do too, for his recovery.”² May 24, 2006

“Spiritual leader Rabbi Ovadia Yosef called on all Israelis to recite Psalms and pray for Prime Minister Sharon's recovery.”¹

Arab television aired live transmissions on the drama taking place in Israel. “MK Ahmad Tibi (Hadash-Ta'al), who spoke as commentator on al-Arabiyah network, said he did not believe Sharon would return to the post of prime minister.”¹

“Sharon cannot be assassinated by a man. He has too many guards and too much security around him. We believe in god, so we are asking god to kill him.”³
Michael Ben-Horin, activist.

Amazing.

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Preface

When writing *Something's on the Boil: A Discovery of Prayer and Healing*⁽⁴⁾, I was indeed writing about my discovery of how prayers may affect our physical bodies. I was fascinated to discover that prayer can work to help us heal ourselves physically because it affects the brain, nerve pathways, and hormones. We also know that prayer can calm us by offering some peace of mind psychologically and emotionally.

Deeper than those thoughts, though, is the thought that God is greater than all that. Surely prayer is more than thought or meditation. Since we know that prayer can affect us, then we can try to understand how prayer works, even though, in my opinion, if prayers are not directed to God then they are not much more than thoughts. Prayer really becomes interesting when we see it work through others. Our prayers can in some way influence a third person positively, moving beyond the boundaries of our own bodies.

Although many would have us think that prayer is the same for everyone regardless of religion, I would have to object. From a Christian point of view, there is only one God. Although He is not recognized as such by everyone, He remains God. Difficult, unfair, and egotistical as it sounds, prayers that are not directed to a Christian God cannot be categorized in the same way as Christian prayers. That is not to say that prayers not addressed to the Christian God have no value. Surely anyone who calls out to "God," not knowing who he is, may yet attract the attention of the Christian God.

We know from research evidence that the act of praying is beneficial when praying about ourselves. We also know that the Christian God certainly has enemies who also wield limited power in the spiritual and physical world. It soon becomes evident that other processes may sometimes be involved. The prayers of non-Christians must have a destination.

As Christians, when we encounter prayer, we need to realize that we are utilizing far more than deep thought. We are, in fact, utilizing God. We are communicating with Him, by petition, by way of conversation, and also by relationship. We may reason with Him, counsel with Him, and even argue with Him, but we should always recognize His sovereignty, yet so many of us still think that we are the sovereign ones. Nothing could be further from the truth. Blunt absence of response to prayer should be enough to make us realize that. If Christian teachings are true and Jesus is alive, then it must follow that the Holy Spirit is here amongst us. I don't know how you respond to that revelation, but

it makes me quiver at the thought. The Holy Spirit is available to us all as Christians! Wow!

The following pages help in understanding our relationship with God, Jesus, and The Holy Spirit. There is nothing common or usual about that. It is the most powerful bond on earth, and it is available to us as Christians in many ways, including prayers for our healing.

Introduction

Something's on the Boil: A Discovery of Prayer and Healing, was the start of a journey of learning about prayer and healing. By now we should know that we can at the very least ask for healing from God. After reading Justin's story, (see appendix one), we should also be aware that sometimes, wonderful things happen. Although we may try to reason how or why these things take place, we often find ourselves becoming tired from the chase. With God we do not need to try to know everything as a scientist does. (It is incredible to think that if we only knew less we could be so much farther along in our walk with God).

We need to be more like children and less like adults so that we don't suffer the "paralysis of analysis". Matthew, Mark, and Luke all quote Jesus saying, "It's harder for a rich man to get into heaven than it is for a camel to get through the eye of the needle." (Matthew 19:24, Mark 10:25, Luke 18:25) If this little bit of news were not important for us to know, then surely it would not have been repeated three times. When we combine that wisdom with "the first shall be last" (Matthew 20:16) and "unless we become like children" (Matthew 18:3), then we soon see that a humble attitude is very important in heaven. We should remember that when we pray.

Although there are many concepts of prayers for healing and also commands for healing in the name of Jesus, we must always remember that our attitude should be a humble one. We may have a warrior's heart, but before the King, we must all bow in humility. We should bow not out of ritual, routine, or reverence for an existing hierarchy but out of love of Jesus in the recognition that we would all be found guilty if it were not for Him. We would do well to remember that when reading the following pages.

The following pages contain thoughts and concepts of prayer. When prayer is discussed for the purpose of this book, it is generally used in reference to healing. Although here the word "healing" is primarily used to describe physical healing, it should not be forgotten that we might all need healing in one or more aspects of ourselves. Even when we disguise our pains, we all hurt somewhere. God may at times push on our sore spots and ask, "Does it hurt here?" I suppose if He asks us that loaded question, we should know that we can only answer "yes." Then, being the Great Physician that He is, I imagine the next words out of His mouth would be, "Right. Well, let's take a look at that, shall we?" At that moment, we will all realize that we are in for some healing.

In my first book, I tried to keep some of the concepts broad and light. I didn't want to bore you with cumbersome details about prayer. I also didn't

want to scare you out of reading the book. Remember, it was a discovery of prayer and healing. Because I am neither a theologian nor an academic, I have tried to bring concepts and thoughts to your mind. Now that your mind has been somewhat expanded, you may be seeking more information. In this book, we can go a little farther and a little deeper. I hope that you enjoy the challenge of learning more.

Chapter 1

Flip-Flop: This Is Spiritual

As soon as I saw her, I knew it was spiritual. Ms. Welsh walked into my office with her arms flip-flopping uncontrollably. “What’s all this?” I asked.

“I think it the Parkinson’s again,” she said. As she took off her winter coat, she told me that people at the bus station had asked her if she was coming off drugs because her hands and arms were out of control.

Ms. Welsh had a strange history. She had spent some time under medical care for depression and there was talk of Parkinson’s disease, although there was no firm diagnosis for her condition. As we talked, I couldn’t help being distracted as her arms and hands just flip-flopped and trembled out of control. Ms. Welsh attempted to disguise her trembling arms by trying to hold them beside her and gently pinching her pant leg. In this way, she could keep her arms straight and minimize the shaking behavior. As a chiropractor, I could only offer her chiropractic care, but somehow I had the feeling that just wasn’t going to be enough.

As she lay face down on my treatment table, I noticed that she could not keep her hands still on the armrests; she appeared to swim or dog paddle in the air. I say I knew it was “spiritual” because I have come to a point of recognition that out of control may mean literally “out of one’s control”. Ms. Welsh, although in control of her faculties, was not in control of her arms. With Parkinson’s there is often a resting tremor or by medical definition a “pill rolling tremor”. This means that when resting, a Parkinson patient’s hands will shake, but when they reach for something intentionally, the tremor stops.

I gently massaged her right shoulder and started to pray in my mind. It is quite unusual, even for any experienced chiropractor, to feel the muscles vibrating, jerking, and turning under his fingertips. It is a bit frightening. As I touched Ms. Welsh, I found myself doubting that there was anything I could do to stop the tremors. With that thought confirmed by the vigorous trembling and twitching, I had to stop myself from sinking into a deeper sinkhole of doubt and despair. I have found that the only firm ground a Christian has to stand on during times like these is the ground of basic beliefs.

The basic beliefs that we must have are really quite simple and yet they are steadfast. We need to know that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died on the cross for our sins but then rose again. As Christians our allegiance is to Him. Those are the basics. Following that, we simply need to grow in that belief because when we believe and grow we come into a relationship with the most