

The Lord has laid upon my heart lately the subject of prayer. With all the time that I have spent just lying in hospital beds barely able to move, prayer has become a far greater part of my life than it has previously been. For this I am very thankful, as I didn't realize how little I prayed before and what a privilege I was missing out on. Although I am just a babe in Christ and don't know much about prayer, it is an area I greatly desire to grow in and be effective in. I am writing this in hopes of edifying the reader in some way, and to try and encourage prayer. I am writing about the specific situation with my illness because it is something that is easy for me to write on due to the amount of time I have spent thinking about it, it is obviously significant to me, and I believe that the Lord would receive great glory from answering the many prayers to raise me up. The number of people, literally around the world, that have heard about all that has gone on with me is almost amazing. Countless doctors, specialists, nurses, pastors, churches, and many others scattered through out the world all have knowledge of my condition. I felt hesitant to write this at first because I thought it might be kind of selfish to write just about my situation but I believe that my motives are pure and I just want the Lord to heal me so that His name would be glorified and feared as it ought to be, in this land that seems to be spiraling to hell at an ever increasing rate. One of the reasons that I believe that my motives are pure is the fact that I can honestly say that I have learned to be very content in my present situation. The Lord has blessed me greatly and has already delivered me from so great a pit that I can only give Him praise and glory. If He left me in this present state I would have no grounds for grumbling in light of the goodness He has bestowed upon my life up till now. That being said I am also not content, not content in the respect that I don't see the power of God being lived out in my life and in the lives of those around me as I read in the Bible. Not content in the fact that I don't believe that I am walking in all that God has for me and all that His word and the promise in His word describe. I will not be content until I see the glory of God and until He uses my feeble life to bring the greatest possible glory to His name. I was also hesitant to write this because it is a step of faith for me to write the things that I am writing but I believe that I am taking a step out on the word of God, and if we cannot stand on His word, what can we stand on? I don't want to live my life scared of trusting in the word of the living God. As it says, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." I also believe that though I am writing about my situation many of the examples can be applied to many other situations and will hopefully encourage use to pray more about all things.

A brother, who I believe was hearing from the Spirit, recently was kind enough to give me a book on prayer. The author of the book is a man by the name of E.M. Bounds. He is clearly a man of God and knows about prayer. I have found it edifying anyhow. One thing that he said, and that has been, and often still is true in my life, is that the prayer promises in the Bible are so great and powerful that we stagger at them in unbelief. Unlike our father Abraham who himself had magnificent promises but did not stagger or waver in unbelief in regards to them, we have a hard time believing the promises that God gives us having to do with prayer. They are just so simple and potent that instead of just believing and praying accordingly, we seem content to settle for feeble, unbelieving praying which produce little results. I myself being the guiltiest of all. May God grant us all more faith in His great faithfulness.

One of my favourite promises is the one found in 1 John 5:14-15 which states, "This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him." This encourages me greatly and spurs me on in my prayers as I do not believe that it is God's will that I be forever unable to speak of His glory and to always be tied down to a feeding pump for many hours a day and restricted in my movements and ability to serve Him. I also don't believe that God wants this incurable muscle eating disease to be dwelling in His temple. Surely the temple the Holy Spirit is no place for the works of the devil to reside. Does it not say, "The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil." I don't think that anyone can deny that sickness is the work of the devil. I really believe that God can allow sickness into people's lives to accomplish His purposes but in the end it is a work of the devil, and should be destroyed by the Son of God, if I read the word correctly. Seeing as how I believe that the above mentioned things are God's will, I pray with increasing confidence because I believe that He hears me and that I have what I have asked for. I just need the endurance and perseverance to continue in faith until He fulfills His word to his servant in which he hopes.

If you read the gospels I don't think you will be able to find one example of someone who came to Jesus in faith for healing and did not receive what they asked for. In many places it says that He healed all who came to Him. Even in Acts it states in at least one place that all the people from the cities surrounding Jerusalem were bringing their sick to the apostles and they were all being healed. We also know that when Jesus sent out the apostles to go ahead of Him and preach the gospel that they were also commanded to cleanse the lepers, heal the sick and raise the dead. Clearly the ministry of Jesus is not just to destroy sin but to destroy all the works of Satan that keep people chained. Now that Jesus is no longer in the form of a man but has been exalted to the right hand throne of power and has had angels and authorities and powers subjected to Him, what has changed? Does He no longer heal all that come to Him? Or is He, "... the same yesterday and today and forever." I choose to believe the word, and that He is the Lord and He changes not.

There are two promises in John that also give me great hope. The first is John 16:23-24: "Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in my name, He will give it to you... ask and you will receive, that your joy may be made

full." It is almost too good to be true, He will give us anything that we ask the Father for in His name just so that our joy may be made full. I don't know about you but I can say that if the Lord totally restored my body that my joy would be made full to overflowing. Surely He is a good Father. The healing of my body would also bring Him great glory which is the reason that Jesus gives for answering our prayers in the second promise found in John 14:13-14: " Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in my name I will do it." These two promises fit very nicely into my present predicament because they would both be fulfilled if the Lord healed me. Do we really believe His word? If we do I think we can pray with great zeal and confidence with promises like these and expect results. "God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man that he should repent: hath He said and He will not do it? Or hath He spoken and He will not make it good?" Need I say more?

Thinking about what would result from the Lord raising me up gives me great desire in my praying. The privilege that it would be to have a testimony of the Lord not only raising me from spiritual death, then saving me from physical death and then restoring my body, is almost too great for me to comprehend. To be able to share with the hopeless people of this world about the resurrection power of God and to see it give hope and bring life is my great longing. Truly it would be powerful and cause the word of the Lord to be heeded and exalted in many who would hear. It is the desire of my heart to see the devil pushed back and his minions defeated, to see death be turned to life, darkness be turned to light, unbelief be turned to faith, hopelessness to hope, wickedness to righteousness and division to unity. I really want to see God demonstrate His power as He did in days of old and is still doing in various parts of the world today. North Americans are so laden with unbelief and are so caught up with this natural world that it would be a great privilege to see peoples eyes be raised to heaven and to see them giving glory to God, if He healed me. Being totally healed, and then going to talk to the surgeons and doctors that never thought that I would live through my time in the hospital, and that did the fancy surgeries to remove my stomach and esophagus, and who are closely acquainted with my incurable condition would be joy inexpressible. They would have no possible excuse to not immediately repent and believe in the power of the living God. Incurable diseases don't just disappear and stomachs don't just grow back, except by faith of course. This is all very possible because Romans say that we serve a God, " who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist." Oh, Lord God do it for your name sake! As I have said these things are the desires of my heart and I believe that they are good desires. " Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart (Psa. 37:4) " and again, " He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him (Psa. 145:19)" More hope! Keep praying!

There are many other verses that you could apply to my situation and be used as the grounds for prayer. "No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly" and " Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers Him out of them all" and " He is a rewarder of those who seek Him" and "Who pardons all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases" and " ask, and you will receive, seek, and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you...If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give what is good to those who ask Him." I think that a stomach, esophagus and a disease free body are good things. In the old covenant it was also promised that those who keep the covenant would have all sickness removed from their midst and that God would lay none of the diseases of Egypt on them because He is their healer. We have a better covenant with better promises don't we? And we cannot easily forget the parables on prayer that Jesus laid out in Luke chapter 11 and 18 encouraging us to pray and not to lose heart, to be persistent in our petitions to God, and that He will not delay long over His saints' cries. So many promises, each one enough for us to use as grounds for believing in healing or any other request that we have for God. In almost all cases there are mountains that seem to be blocking our path from obtaining the promises of God and from walking where He word say His saints are entitled to walk. Or in my case maybe a whole mountain range is blocking. Nevertheless we have the sure promise of Jesus when He says, " Have faith in God. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ' be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in His heart but believes that what He says is going to happen, it will be granted Him. Therefore, I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them and they will be granted you." By faith we must persist in fervent prayer until we see these mountains moved. All these promises are so all inclusive and blunt that even writing about them I fell part of me say, " Yeah but", as if there must be some other conditions added on that I don't see. As I heard a man say once, " goats but, sheep follow". I don't want to be a goat and "yeah but" Gods word. I want to be a sheep and in simple faith believe in the goodness of God and His word and see it perform its work in me and get my requests granted. Doesn't He say that we should open our mouth wide that He can fill it?. I realize that there has been many saints who have had diseases that they were never healed from, and people are always quick to point that out as a reason why God probably won't heal someone, but I really want to just believe in what I read in the word. I don't pretend to understand all of Gods ways but I know that He rewards faith. There is no limit to Gods resources and it is not more difficult for Him to help you remember a verse in time of need then it is for Him to raise the dead. We really need to believe that it is Gods will to do great things and in so doing those great things to glorify His name. Let us not limit the Holy one of Israel as the Israelites did in their journey across the wilderness through unbelief. Or tie Jesus' hands from performing miracles as the people of His home town did through their unbelief. Instead let us ask great things from God and expect great answers. What do we have to lose? " By awesome deeds you answer us in righteousness, Oh God of our salvation... (Psa.65:5)"

We are part of Christ's body. Does Christ want His body to be decrepit and hindered by physical disabilities from serving Him? If we are truly in Him and part of His body, will He deny His own body and not heal a hurting limb? Would you not do all you could to heal or mend one of your injured members? How much more God who is love. There are many other things that we could bring up and say on this subject but I believe that this will suffice

I also take heart in thinking on Gods dealing with Israel in the desert. Never once did He not have a plan to deliver His people in all their incredible trials. It was always Gods desire for His people to look to Him alone for their salvation and to trust in Him for all their needs. I believe that it is still the same today. He is and wants to be our provider, our soul source of sustenance in every circumstance and for every need. Oh, I need more faith! Just think of all the times and all the mighty acts God performed in delivering Israel and take heart. He even looked over their rebellious acts and still delivered them just for His name sake. Lets cry out to Him to do it again, for His glory.

Another thing that I have learned lately is the value of meditation before prayer. Before praying just sit and think for a while of the power of God, of His willingness and ability to supply all our needs, of all the promises in His word, of the desperate state of those we know going to hell, of the mighty acts of God in the word, of the love demonstrated through Christ's death for us, of the coming judgment, of all our needs and desires that are pure. I find that in doing this great faith and desire are birthed in my heart and that I really start to cry out to God from my heart rather than just mindlessly going through a list of things to pray about and having my mind wander. When we spend our day out in the world, I find that it can have the effect of causing us to have a natural mindset. This is no mind set to be praying in. By meditating before prayer it can cause us or remind us to see things like they really are and not just as we see them with our eyes.

In conclusion I urge you, brothers and sister in Christ, to offer up prayer and petitions to God with great faith and urgency. Not only for me but for all things that will advance the kingdom of God on this earth. Pray that He will anoint us to destroy all the works of the devil; sin, sickness and anything that chains people. Pray that He will give us not only His peace and joy but let us share in the things that grieve Him and cause Him pain, that we might truly know Him and manifest Him in this earth. We surely cannot be denied when we stand on the promises of God's word and do not lose heart, when we come to Him with pure hearts walking blameless before Him and present our requests. I also thank you for the prayers that you have offered on my behalf and cannot tell you how grateful I am for them, don't stop now! Nothing is impossible for those who believe! I have great hope that God is going to do great things. In regards to my healing I see this as such a great opportunity for God's name to be lifted up that I simply cannot let it pass by. I will not let go of God until He blesses me and I will give Him no rest until He is aroused to come to my rescue! If by chance I am understanding God's word and will wrong and, like in the example of Paul's thorn in the flesh, it is not Gods will to heal or deliver me, I rest assured that it is for my own good and great benefit. If I die in faith, so be it. Although I do not believe this to be the case. One thing I know for sure though, that if the Lord does not restore my stomach and esophagus to me, that the marriage supper of the lamb will be particularly sweet for me! May God count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill your every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you and you in Him. If there is anything that I have written that you believe is inaccurate please let me know. I am very young in the faith and I know that I have not seen things properly in the past. I desire to rightly divide the word of God. I hope this edifies you in some way. Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us!