



Healing prayer

by Rev. R.A. Shackles

Can prayer bring healing miracles to pass? This is a highly ambiguous area among Christians in our many variants of church life. Sadly, a misunderstanding on the subject has often encouraged what may create a dangerous conviction. Depending on miracles has tempted many people to ignore the wonders of modern medicine, including the contributions of psychology and psychiatry. Thus many have substituted prayer as the only answer, leading to "religious" refusal of blood transfusions or a belief system predicated on the doctrine that illness is merely a defect of thinking.

Based on the evidence of Scripture, there is no question that healing prayer, many times, historically, has indeed produced "miracles" of cure. Still, there are many, countless examples in which, despite intense prayer "campaigns," physical healing has not resulted. But, if we understand prayer rightly, that is no cause to lose faith, trust in our Lord's promise of the benefits of prayer. Often, if not to say for the most part, prayer in sickness is effective for its power to keep us open to the sustaining strength God gives us when we thus put our lives entirely in His love and grace.

As one currently in treatment for cancer, I am being cured by the discoveries of modern medicine and I am grateful. Even more, my readiness to trust the medical profession is made sure, as I have made faith the appeal of my prayers. Through prayer, I quickly lost my fear of "the dreaded C word." God has filled me with the confidence of His love that whatever is right for me in His sight is what prayer gives me courage to accept.

In other words, the results in exercising the power of prayer are able to be accepted as what seems appropriate to God's plan. In any case, the effective prayer is summed up better in trusting God's love to sustain and "carry us through" than in tempting our Lord and God by an attitude of "Heal me, God, or I will refuse to believe You." That is an antidote not of life but a dose of poison to truth. It is trite but appropriate to say, "Pray — and believe God loves you, no matter what." It works. •



Comforting words from Jesus

by Al Wezeman

Jesus was always showing His love for His people. While He was on this earth, He was especially concerned for His Apostles and disciples. By His words and examples, Jesus was leaving a legacy that would lead and guide Christians throughout the ages. By knowing Jesus' words, Christians can carry on the work of God's Kingdom. The work of the Kingdom is not in our own strength, but the work of the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised the third person of the Trinity would be with us, protect us, encourage us, teach and remind us, and guide us. We must constantly look to and ask for leading and guidance from the One who is always concerned for our well being.

Many times we are told in God's Word, the Holy Bible, that we have a permanent home in Heaven; that Jesus is coming back to get us; that Jesus has control over all things and that some day we will have glorious bodies just like His. What a comfort! What a wonder to look forward to!

Jesus ascended into Heaven and is at the right hand of the Father. We are always on the mind of Jesus. He is constantly advocating for us as we continue on our journey on this earth.

Our journey is in a sinful body in a sinful world. We need constant spiritual nourishment from God's Word. We must know what to do to combat Satan and our own sinful tendency. We must be diligent in our daily reading, study and meditate on God's Word. God wants His people to dedicate themselves fully to the things that are pleasing to Him. God knows we can be drawn into a world view if we are not constantly involved in what is pleasing to God. Satan is constantly looking for an opportunity to draw us away from God.

What a wonderful Savior we have, who was so concerned for us! He was willing to suffer the torments of Hell — God's wrath against sin so that we could be spared from eternal punishment!

We can be sure we have eternal life because Jesus rose again. We know He is always with us as He promised. Please read the following references. The thoughts of the article are based on these passages:

John 14:1-4; 25-27

John 17:20-26

John 16:5-16

Luke 24:45-49

Matthew 28:18-20

Luke 9:23-26

Romans 12:1-2

Philippians 3:20-21

Ephesians 6:10-20

I Peter 5:6-11

Revelation 21: 1-5

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

John 14:18. •

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CALVARY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



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Christian education pays

by Noel Berg

Twenty years. A lot has happened in 20 years, but it seems like it was just yesterday that I was standing on the gym floor my senior year of high school with the Homecoming Court at Calvary. So much about Calvary is different: The building and location, the dress code, the administration. But the most important thing is the same: The heart for raising kids who love Jesus.

It's Homecoming again, 20 years later, and I see my son who is now a junior, (and taller than me, I might add) all dressed up with a date, and I remember the close friendships I formed in those years.

I see photos of my almost 13-year old daughter wearing all blue and gold and being crazy while Mrs. Mann is taking her picture (and by the way, Mr. Mann was my basketball coach 20 years ago... wow, that's dating him!) I love those crazy middle school girls, and I remember being one of them.

My 8-year old's teacher was my study hall teacher my junior year of high school at Calvary, and I've known her most of my life. I love that when my little guy is memorizing scripture verses, I know most of them because I learned them at Calvary Christian School and still to this day I have them locked in my memory for easy access.

The things I remember are the same things my kids are now enjoying! I love that!

My kids started at a public school. Christian schools are expensive, and I'm not sure I realized what an impact Calvary had in my life until Jesus became so real to me a few years ago after a crisis. I realized what is most important in life, and I can look back and thank so many of my Christian teachers and administrators (and parents, of course) for giving me the strong Christian foundation that I have been able to lean on.

The number one, biggest reason, that I send my kids to Calvary is that I believe that the MOST important thing in All of life is to bring glory to God, and that is what my kids are learning; in sports, in friendships, in science class. God is not only for Sunday....He is the reason we live and breathe. I want my children to learn to live with an eternal perspective every day, and since they are in someone else's care for most of the week, I love that Calvary is teaming with us in teaching the same principles.

When I was a middle schooler, I learned a song that I will never forget and I think it so applies. It says: "Christian education doesn't cost, it pays.

Pays eternal dividends in so many ways. Give a Christian education, surely you will find, Return for your investment in a godly mind.'

That has happened in my life, and I pray that my kids will be able to say the same thing someday. •

Calvary Associate Student Enrollment Program (ASEP)

by Cindy Sevens

When Lindsey, my home-schooled daughter, decided to pursue cosmetology classes at Booker at the beginning of her junior year, I considered enrolling her under the umbrella of a public school. Due to the fact that she was homeschooled, it was necessary for her to be enrolled at an "official" school in order to attend the Career Tech Center.

However, because I had never been associated with the public school system, I was hesitant and unsure of what to do. As I considered the public school options, a RED FLAG went up in my mind causing me to rethink my next move. I knew from my past experience that when God raises a red flag, it signals "danger ahead." So I must be careful and steer away from whatever it is I'm considering.

In the meantime, as I began to look elsewhere, God orchestrated events such that I found myself talking to Mrs. Saum about ASEP (Associate Student Enrollment Program) and the possibility of coming under the umbrella of Calvary Christian School. They offered a program to homeschoolers who wanted to participate in the Career Tech program, but there would be a cost which included two classes at Calvary.

Even though I knew the monetary cost would be greater if I went under their umbrella, it didn't take us (my husband and me) long to choose Calvary. We were certain the spiritual benefits (Christian atmosphere and education) plus our "peace of mind" that Lindsey was in a good place would far exceed the monetary cost of sending her there. For that reason we made the decision to enroll her at Calvary in the fall of 2012 as an ASEP student.

She started her junior year first semester at Calvary, taking only one class, also attending Booker, and homeschooling the rest of her classes. After getting to know the kids and staff at Calvary, Lindsey felt more comfortable, and by second semester she was taking two classes.

This spring, Lindsey will be graduating as a homeschooled senior, but because she has made wonderful new friends at Calvary over the past four semesters, she actually considers Calvary her school. I attribute all of this to Calvary's friendly students and the wonderful staff, several of whom I've met and enjoyed getting to know. The incredible reception we have received at Calvary has been hugely instrumental in helping us to be confident that, without a doubt, we made the right decision.

God has really blessed our family over these past 27 years of homeschooling. Partnering with Calvary has been the "icing on the cake," and has given me a real sense of "finishing well." Thank you, CCS! •