



Parents' Corner

Keep Praying

By Edwina Neely



The theme for this newsletter edition is “Keep Praying.” Praying is talking to God, and that’s what we need to do! Never, never stop praying! God’s word reminds us to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17 KJV).

That’s easy to do when we remember to talk to God about everything: eating, driving, doing the dishes, taking a bath, walking, sitting, exercising, playing and the list goes on.

By praying without ceasing we establish a sense of God’s presence by continually conversing with Him. As parents we model praying to God. Our children learn to be thankful by praying “thank you” prayers all the time.

While you are walking, thank God for feet to walk; eyes to see the flowers, trees, grass; ears to hear the birds sing, etc. This draws the minds of the children to God, the Giver of all things!

Before we eat we pray for God to bless the food, but do we pray for the people who grew the apple trees, picked the apples, boxed them, put them on trucks to get to us? There is always so much to pray about.

When we don’t know what to pray for, the Spirit intercedes for us (Romans 8:26 CSV). Isn’t that amazing!

When we teach our children to pray about their problems they develop faith in God. When I was seven years-old, I walked in my sleep. One night I was about to walk out of the house, but my mother stopped me. My mother said, “Edwina, we need to pray about you walking in your sleep.” I prayed, God answered, and I stopped walking in my sleep. That experience increased my faith and from that day on I knew I could pray about anything.

Here are a few scriptures reminding us to Keep Praying:

Ephesians 6:18

Colossians 4:2

Luke 18:1

1 Peter 4:7

James 5:13

Philippians 4:6-7

...and many more -- as many as 35 Bible verses on Prayer.

Remember: God always answers prayer. Sometimes He says “Yes,” sometimes “No,” sometimes “Wait a while.”

I'd like to share a true story of how God heard a child's simple prayer:

Stuck in the Mud

With God all things are possible. Matthew 19:26 (NKJV)

It was the end of summer and the fall breezes brought cooler days. The garden had produced her last crop, and my children wanted to be sure we'd gathered every last bit of it. We had rented a garden plot a few miles from where we lived, so I loaded the four children in the car and drove to the garden. The night before had brought a flood of rain. As I drove I wondered how muddy the garden would be. The garden plots were located in a big field, and our plot was toward the middle.

When we arrived, I could see my concerns were valid. The garden appeared to be very wet. When I turned in I could hear the slosh of mud splashing everywhere. I continued slowly and carefully toward our plot and after stopping the car, the children jumped out. I could hear their shoes tracking through the mud. The pickings were slim. One found two tomatoes. Another migrated to a green pepper and some withered collard greens.

After a few minutes we all climbed back into the car, leaving muddy footprints everywhere. I started the engine and put my foot on the gas. I heard the wheels spinning and watched as mud sprayed all over the car. After a few spins I decided to get out and take a look. The once tan car with four wheels now appeared to be a brown polka dotted car with no wheels. Low and behold, the car just sat there, stuck in the mud! I announced, "Children, we are stuck, stuck with a capital S."

"Someone will have to push us out of the mud," I told them. We have to get some help."

To my amazement, they chorused in unison, "Jesus can get us out!" *Oh, the faith of children,* I thought.

One child prayed, "Jesus, You know we are stuck. Pleeaaase help us get out of the mud."

While we waited for help I thought I would try again. Pushing down on the gas pedal, the car rocked back and forth. Then, suddenly the car lunged backwards, as if being pushed by an unseen hand. Yes. Backward! The children screamed and started to chant, "Jesus got us out of the mud! Jesus got us out of the mud!"

As I drove home I thanked the Lord many times for answering a child's prayer of faith.

Prayer: Dear Lord, may I have childlike faith and trust You. I know that with You all things are possible.