



## **FISHERS OF MEN**

**"And he said unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." - Matthew 4:19**

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*A Newsletter For and By Saints of Christ in Prison*

*Fishers of Men Ministries  
Jesus Loves You!*

### **No Prayer, No Gas**



Alright, so you have a nice new car sitting in your driveway. That's good; however, if it hasn't any gasoline in the tank, you're not going anywhere. **Consider this parody.** There are Christians with Bibles who are very knowledgeable, but have no prayer life. Much like that car without gas, they aren't going anywhere in their Christian walk. You have met these people. They can tell you just about where everything in the Bible is, but when it comes to application, again, they are out of fuel. My point is prayer is essential. It is your personal fellowship with the Lord. I'm only somewhat impressed with an individual who can quote scripture like the ABC's. I'm more concerned when I don't see them using scripture.

For example, do you when facing trouble or an irritable situation, call upon the Lord? Paul tells us in **Ephesians 6:18** to pray in all occasions, making our prayers and requests known to the Lord. In **Romans 15:30** Paul urged others to pray for him to help him overcome his struggles. In **Romans 12:12** Paul tells us to be hopeful, patient and faithful in prayer. In **Matthew 5:44** Jesus tells us to pray for those who persecute us and to love our enemies. In **Colossians 4:2** Paul urges us to be watchful and thankful, devoting ourselves to prayer. Jesus tells us in **Luke 6:28** to pray for those who mistreat us and Jesus also tells us again in **Luke 22:40** to pray so we won't fall into temptation.

In **Matthew 6:6-8**, Jesus lets us know how to pray. "But when you pray go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them for your Father knows what you need before you ask him." In short, don't pray to show off or say, "Hey, everyone look, I'm praying!" Your relationship with God is special and doesn't need to be rehearsed or lengthy.

We're even told by Paul in **Philippians 4:6** to be anxious about nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, let your requests be known to God. Paul, in **I Thessalonians 5:17**, says to pray continually in all circumstances. In the book of **James**, he tells us in **5:13** that if anyone be in trouble, he should pray and in **5:20** that we should pray for each other. My favorite example deals with Paul in **Acts 16:25**. Paul and a Christian brother named Silas had been arrested. They were stripped and then beaten and flogged. They were put in the jail in the innermost cell and their feet were fastened in stocks. Despite all they had been through and the fact the hour was past midnight, what do you think Paul and Silas were doing? They were praying and singing hymns! What faith and trust in the Lord. Many of us would be complaining, but not Paul and Silas.

The verses I have cited are merely a few of hundreds dealing with prayer. I centered my reflections on Jesus, Paul and James, but there are many other men and women mentioned in the Bible who were faithful prayer warriors. I tried to cover all situations in these few short verses to illustrate that prayer is for everyone and for all occasions. It is for the good times as well as the bad times.

**I Peter 3:12, Acts 10:31 and Jeremiah 29:11-13** are just a few verses where prayers were heard or answered by the Lord. In **2 Corinthians 12:8-10**, Paul even pleads to the Lord three times to remove a thorn from him (not literally a thorn), but the Lord answered no. The Lord said, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." How true! We've all heard the saying, God answers all prayers; He says yews, no or wait; again, how very true. Be thankful if the Lord says, "Yes;" faithful and trusting in God's plan for you if He says, "No;" and patient if He says, "Wait." Don't get down on yourself or God if you think your prayers aren't answered. Ask God for the forgiveness of your sins, He will hear your prayer and answer according to His will and glory. Not thy will, but God's will be done!

*In His Precious Name, Brother Mark*

## A Message from MOMM



If this newsletter has been given to you by someone else, write Fishers of Men Prison Ministries, c/o Bethany Church, 5403 North Second Street, Loves Park, IL 61111. Include your name, number and address; and you will be added to the FOM mailing list. Our request is that when you finish reading your newsletter, please pass it on to someone else for their enjoyment and spiritual food. If you enjoy writing and have a desire to share a message with other inmates, we welcome Biblically and faith-based articles also mailed to the above address. No matter where you are or what your situation, God can bless you this month. Tell your family to visit the website at: [www.fishersofmenprisonministries.com](http://www.fishersofmenprisonministries.com)

*Love in Christ, Mamm*

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### JUST A NOTE



Greetings to you in Jesus' precious name! I would like to thank everyone for participating in writing articles for this newsletter. We appreciate your time and effort which is used to glorify the Lord.

First, I would like to apologize for recent non-Christian information which was passed on through the newsletter. Second, I want to make it clear that this is a Christian newsletter meant to lift up

Jesus Christ and to edify the saints, and by doing so, let our light shine in this present darkness. If anyone is inclined to write for other belief systems, they are welcome to do so. We will, by the grace of God, strive to edit and peruse more carefully the articles submitted herein. Please pray for this ministry for it is obviously growing and the enemy is doing his best to destroy it.

I'd also like to let you know that we have a website for the Fishers of Men Ministries and would like to include testimonies to share what God has done in our lives, even in prison. By sharing our testimonies, those who are in the world can look up the website and see that miracles are occurring even in what the world thinks is one of the darkest places on earth.

So if God puts it on your heart to do so, please share your testimony with this ministry and we will put it on the web site for the entire world to see! Thank you and God bless you in Jesus name.

*Christ Above All,  
Associate Editor, Walter*

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Continuation of The Foundation, a basic Bible study, *written by Brother Adrian* which he designed to reach both the young and old in Christ establishing a sure foundation in Jesus "THE" Christ.

### Half-Way Test Questions

1. When does the change of new birth take place?
2. What three (3) things am I given when I'm born again?
3. How does one obtain salvation?
4. What are the three (3) main steps to obtaining salvation?
5. Who is satan to Christians?
6. Where did sin come from?
7. What is prayer?
8. What is satan's view of me as a Christian?
9. Is being tempted sin?
10. Name three (3) types of prayer?
11. What does satan desire for us as Christians?
12. Will God overlook sin? (Example: Stealing to feed my family)
13. How often should I pray?
14. Is there any sin God will not forgive?
15. Explain the difference between temptation and sin?



16. What makes me a Christian?
17. Can a person live a holy life without being born again? Why or Why not?
18. List two (2) small sins and two (2) big sins?
19. What is baptism? Is this done for salvation?
20. What is communion? Is this done for salvation?
21. What does it mean to intercede?
22. What does it mean to live in holiness?
23. Why do I have to remove my hat when I pray? Explain.
24. Who do we pray to?
25. If I can live without sin, how is that possible? Explain.
26. What is the purpose of being given a new heart?
27. When does temptation become sin?

**Next Study: "The God Head" Read Romans 1:7; Hebrews 1:8; Acts 5:34**

### *WE ARE HIS*

He has no hands but our hands to do His work today.  
 He has no feet but our feet to lead men on His way.  
 He has no voice but our voice to tell men how He died.  
 He has no help but our help to lead men to His side.

*Contributed by Brother Omar*



### **LIMITATIONS OR NO LIMITATIONS?**



What are the miracles? Where is the living active faith that moves mountains? Why are these things such a rarity when there are so many believers in this world? There are three main areas of limitations which answer these questions. They are:

***We have a wrong perception of God.*** By this I mean that we, in our own minds, have made God out to be like us – i.e. limited; this is actually idolatry.

God is eternal. He created all things. Is there anything impossible for God? Of course, not! **Isaiah 55: 8, 9** tells us that God's thoughts and ways are not ours and that His thoughts and ways are higher than ours.

***Next, we have allowed sin to interfere in a holy union with God.*** We are distracted from God and our holy calling by desires that cause us to be selfish and self-serving instead of selfless and servants – to God and our neighbor. How can we adequately be God's vessels and advocates of our own selfishness at the same time. **Isaiah 59:1,2** says, "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you that He will not hear." Sin cuts off the flow of life that is supposed to go through us to others.

***And finally, we allow doubt to cripple us.*** Doubt is a lack of trust in God. Basically, the Scriptures will tell us on thing (from God's perspective) and we in essence do not trust what He says, i.e. we doubt. For instance, **Matthew 21:18-22** (Jesus cursing the fig tree) Jesus said to 'have faith and doubt not' and you could cast a mountain into the sea. **Mark 11:23** says the same thing, 'and shall not doubt in his heart.' Where is the limitation -- in God or our faith? Doubt cripples the act of faith.

In the Scriptures there are multiple examples of believers who give witness to what can happen when faith in God is real and living in an active lifestyle (Jesus, Elijah, Elisha, Peter, Paul, Stephen). God hasn't changed and faith hasn't changed. So, if we have a correct perspective of God (His eternity) and our lives are lived out in holiness – through union with God; and doubt is replaced with living faith – then the possibilities that exist in life are as endless as our God. **Mark 9:23** – All things are possible to them that believe.

*Christ Above All,  
Your Brother Walter*

## JUST A THOUGHT

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**“Be still and know that I am God.” Psalm 46:10a**



Have you ever noticed that this command from God is among the hardest to follow? We can spend more time in His word, more time in prayer, more quiet time with God, more time praising, studying and worshipping; then, “BAM!” something comes along and rocks our boat. In that time, you tell yourself: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” - **Philippians 4:13**; “The battle belongs to the Lord.” - **2 Chronicles 20:15b**; “For the Lord did not give us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, of love and of sound mind.” - **2 Timothy 1:7**; as well as many other scriptures relating to our situation.

A while later, we talk to so and so to find out what happened and why. Our human instinct jumps in and wants to solve whatever it was that has just come against us. You may be reading this thinking, “I already know all this and I know what I’m supposed to do.” Maybe so, but then again so did I... then, “BAM!” I felt the whole world crashing down on me. Within a matter of a week, I went from feeling so blessed, never feeling closer to God, full of joy and love, peace and happiness... to feeling utterly shattered, displaced, alone, frustrated and angry and having the discomfoting feeling that God seemed so far away.

I cried, prayed, talked to God, yelled at the devil and then at one point went into the bathroom and threw a temper tantrum telling God, “I’m not angry,” but turning around and telling Him, “who am I kidding, I am angry, I am bitter, why do you feel so far away when I need you most.” I’ve struggled with this for the past two weeks and I am now beginning to see **Romans 8:17** (“Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory,”) at work in my life.

My point is we all go through good times and feel that nothing could bring us down, then something happens and it seems that this time is worse than we’ve ever experienced. In fact, it may be the worst and it might be that God has allowed us to be tested if we are to rise to a new level in serving Him. Although the following scripture is meant towards financial and material things, we can also apply it to our faith.

“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?” **Luke 16:10-12.**

Think of it this way – if we crumble and cease to pray and trust in God, when little things come against us, will we curse Him when a lot bigger things come? How then can we share in His glory? Would we dare to be untrustworthy with God’s word (someone else’s property)? Because when we can overcome the trials that come against us by learning and trusting in Him, we may have more to face down the road, but we are moving from glory to glory and are promised to share in His glory. Just another quick thought! I’ve read the end of the Book, and guess what...we win!!! Praise God!

*With love and prayers to you all,  
Your sister in Christ, Missi*

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## GOD’S CALL TO INTERCESSORY PRAYER



According to the Apostle Paul in **2 Thessalonians 3:1**, asking the intercessions of others is Biblical as far back as the first century. “Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified even as it is with you.” **1 Thessalonians 5:25**, “Brethren, pray for us.” **Colossians 1:9**, “For this cause we also, since the day we heard it; do not cease to pray for you and to desire that we might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.” This is where we as Christians in the 21<sup>st</sup> century get our confidence to say to our brothers or sisters, “I hold you in prayer. I will pray for you, etc., etc.”

It is my sincere desire that these words are of some help concerning this matter. I hold you in prayer and I ask for your prayer for me, too.

*Peace and Love in Christ  
Brother Omar*