



SOUTH JACKSON BEACON

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The Power of Short Prayers

Dan Jenkins

Sometimes you hear Christians say, “I do not know how to pray.” If by this they mean they could not pray the long, flowery prayers we sometimes hear, there is a sense in which this is a blessing. Remember what Jesus said about praying. “And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words” (Matt. 6:7). Long prayers are not wrong, unless they are filled with empty words or unless the one praying them thinks the length of the prayer is a measure of how powerful a prayer is. Consider some of the powerful short prayers in the Bible.

“Lord, save me.” The apostles had just been part of one of the most astounding miracles of Jesus. He had taken five loaves and two small fish and fed 5,000 men (not counting women and children). That night (actually it was during the fourth watch—somewhere between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m.) their boat was about to sink because of the storm. When they saw Jesus walking to them, Peter asked Jesus to bid him to walk to the Lord. It was an amazing step of faith which started his journey, but when he took his eyes off of Jesus and looked at the waves, he began to sink. His prayer was, “Lord, save me” (Matt. 14:30). It is the shortest prayer in the Bible. It was all that was needed.

“God, be merciful to me a sinner.” Two men entered the temple to pray at the hour of prayer. One prayed “with himself” and the other prayed “unto heaven.” The first told God what

a good man he had been and how righteous he was. The other's humility would not even allow him to raise his eyes toward heaven. He pounded his chest as a sign of his distress and simply prayed, "God, be merciful to me a sinner" (Luke 18:13). Think of the power of this short prayer.

"Lord, increase our faith." Jesus had just described how His followers must forgive a penitent brother who sinned against them seven times in a single day. We may struggle to forgive a person who wrongs us once in a lifetime, or at best we may think, "Three strikes and you are out." However, the Lord looked at seven events in just one day. The apostles' response was, "Lord, increase our faith" (Luke 17:5). His response to them was to describe how the smallest faith can cast a mulberry tree into the sea. Having trouble dealing with your life? Their prayer should be your prayer.

Want to enhance your relationship with the Lord? Think of these short prayers (or others that fit your particular situation) and pray them throughout your life. We sing about the "Sweet Hour of Prayer," but it might help us all to spend more time in those "sweet minutes" of prayer in which our short prayers have such power!

Congregational News & Notes

Prayer Requested

Members

Mary Bolen, Luther & Jo Merritt
Ron and Nadine McDonald,
Sandra Epperson, Sue Harris
Fredie Stewart, Cindy Kidder,
Roberta Donaldson, Lisa Dukes,
Doug Crouse, Carolyn Callis,
Margie Montgomery,
Betty Mosely, Teriyaki Anderson
James Morris, Freeman Kidder,
Andy Vaughn, Pearl Johnson,
Paula Wadley, Judy Ellis
Jerry Crabb, Karen Chance,
Mary Lewis, Roberta Donaldson
Gaylon & Betty Cooper

Friends & Family

Horace Yearwood, Shirley Bolin,
Beverly Martindale,
Glenn & Trydy Lovell,
Gladys Gowan, Diane Hubbard,
Brandi Rogers, Corey Allen
Kenton Lancaster, Roger Callis,
Caraline Rogers
Justin Puckett, Ruby Malone

Today's Sermons

AM - Can You Hear Me Lord
Psalm 5:1-2

PM - Deacon Hazel Speaking

Happenings

Men's Business Meeting

November 17 following AM
services

South Jackson

Cards to Send

Jerry Crabb
530 North Church Street
Jackson, TN 38301

Sandra Epperson
37 Soouthside Drive
Jackson, TN 38301

Weekly Record

6 AM	4
Bible Class	45/11
AM Worship	70/12
PM Worship	46/15
Wed Bible Study	47/8
Contribution	4105
Budget	4014

Those Privileged to Serve

Nov 10 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - J. Butcher, R. Pack

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Read Scripture:

Jerry Butcher

Opening Prayer:

Marion Thomas

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Van McConnell

Communion: Joe Venable

Contribution:

Jeff Bliss

Nov 17 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - J. Smith, M. Wages

Lead Singing: John Smith

Read Scripture:

Costel Ghimpu

Opening Prayer:

Mike Wages

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Joe Venable

Communion: Paul Hatcher

Contribution:

Jonathan Orr

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: John Smith

Opening Prayer:

Mike Wages

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Joe Venable

Communion: Greg Long

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Greg Long

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Jerry Butcher

Communion: Mike Wages

Nov 13 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: John Smith

Opening Prayer:

Joe Venable

Devo - Ray Pack

Nov 13 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Marion Thomas

Devo - Mike Wages

South Jackson Church of Christ

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(731) 437-9501

Service Times

Early Worship	6:00 AM
Gospel of Christ - WBBJ	5:00 AM
Sunday Bible Class	9:30 AM
Sunday AM Worship	10:30 AM
Sunday PM Worship	5:00 PM
Midweek Bible Study	6:30 PM