

Prayers for the Righteous...

When you pray for someone to be healed but the opposite happens, you sometimes wonder if your prayers weren't good enough or if you aren't righteous enough or your faith tank is too low. Other times you wonder why some people get that wow-God, triumphant miracle story while you sit there still praying, still waiting, changing up the words you pray to find that perfect key-fit to unlock the miracle. When it comes to God healing or choosing not to heal, I know the right answer in my brain, but my heart doesn't get it and keeps asking, 'why?'

One day while I was pondering that, a very wise friend, said this and in one fell swoop, called a truce between my head and my heart. Here's what she said about God sometimes choosing not to heal:

"Wait what? God doesn't always heal? I disagree! Prayers for healing are the safest prayers we can pray because God always says 'yes'. Now...let's define 'yes'. If he heals you here, your healing is temporary. It's still good and amazing, but it will not last forever. You will get sick again. You will die. I've never met a 2,000 year old Christian! But if he releases you from your mortal body, and heals you in THAT way, then, you are healed forever! No more sickness, no more pain, no more tears. The problem isn't, sometimes God heals and sometimes he doesn't, the problem is, we've begun to cherish 'temporary healing' over 'eternal healing' so much so, we now dismiss eternal healing as any type of healing at all."

I hope that helps you as much as it did me. -author unknown

THINGS ASSOCIATED WITH THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK

O The feast of Pentecost (Lev. 23:15-16) O The resurrection of Jesus (Lk. 24:1, 13, 21, 46) O The baptism of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4) O The beginning of the church on Pentecost (Acts 2:41-42, 47) O The observance of the Lord's Supper in Troas (Acts 20:7) O The collection of the saints (1 Cor. 16:1-2) O John's vision of the Lord in the midst of the lampstands (Rev. 1:10-20)

These things reveal why the Lord's people graduated from Sabbath keeping to rest in Christ, and why Christians began immediately after His resurrection to meet together on the first day of the week. Some claim that the Roman Catholics changed the meeting day from Saturday to Sunday. Before there ever was a Roman Catholic church, the disciples met together on the first day of the week. The Spirit guided the disciples to that practice, and additionally, the Spirit forbids people from judging us regarding sabbaths, new moons, festivals, and the food laws that had been part of the Old Testament system (Col.2:13-16).

We are not to be judged regarding Sabbaths because Jesus fulfilled that Old Law, and took it out of the way, and He is the "substance" of which the sabbath had only been a "shadow". We are not to trade the substance back in for the shadows. The "substance" is Jesus. We have all we need in Him. He is the head of the church and the head has guided the church to meet on the first day of the week, and has instructed that no one is to judge us regarding sabbaths, festivals, and food laws that characterized that old system. That should settle that issue. The Lord settled it long before there ever was a Roman Catholic church. -Terry Benton

We constantly hear about our standard of living going up --- but not our other standards.

Exercise daily. Walk with the Lord.

News/Notes/Quotes.

THE SICK. ...Pat Spencer (Jerry's mom)was able to attend our gospel meeting last week. We are thankful that she is feeling some better... Max Ward (former member here) is in ICU at St Bernard's Hospital, room 3327...Karleen Sheets' aunt, Leota Wren, has gone home from the hospital and will not have to go to Encompass...The Lands are trying to get Steve's mother, Lila Lands, into an assisted living facility..... Creed Moody is scheduled to have another hearing test.....Remember Virginia Bishop is still having health Challenges.. Courtney Harbin continues to be challenged with her a broken collarbone...Charles Wayne French (Nola Christenberry's brother) continues to battle cancer. Sandra Stubblefield surgery on her hand soon... Remember our shut-ins: Madonna Vines is confined at home...Bob and Jean Evans are also confined at home...Gail Brooks and Rita Kieffer are both at St. Bernard Village...Shirley Coots at Lawrence County Nursing (hospice care)... Joyce Riley is at St. Elizabeth's Place... Remember all of these in prayer.

IDENTIFIED! We are happy to welcome **Logan** and **Jessica Sawyers** as members of the Stone Ridge congregation. If you haven't met them, be sure to do so. Their contact info is: 617 Larkspur Lane, Trumann AR 72472. Phone: (870) 926-4035; Email: I.sawyers.Logan@gmail.com. Birthdays: Logan 6/1; Jessica 4/6

GOSPEL MEETINGS (Mark your calendar!)

April 16-18 - Blytheville (13th & Main) - Caleb Daniels April 16-20 - Jonesboro (Northside) - Jacob Holman April 23-28 - Kennett MO (Westside)) - Mike Prestininzi April 28-30 - Mt. Home (Hwy 5) - Bruce Reeves June 4-9 - Village Creek (Paragould) - Daniel Sanders

<u>PODCAST!</u> Hear a lesson from God's word each morning from John Mundy on Facebook & YouTube, 8 am.

<u>GREAT MEETING!</u> We had a gr3eat gospel meeting last week! We hope you took advantage of the great lessons.

Been taken for granted? Imagine how God feels.

We don't worship God according to our creative ideas. We worship God according to His clear instructions.