

Purpose of Faith and Prayer.

Here is a small story from the Readers digest which was written by Connie Lavoie a woman told me about her favourite spot it was at the local zoo.

In the zoo was an exhibit called the House of Night.

It was a place where you could see creatures of the night that would crawl and fly about but because it held only creatures of the night the exhibit was nearly totally dark.

She said that one very bright day outside she stepped into the exhibit and of course she was instantly plunged into almost total darkness.

Almost immediately a small hand grabbed hold of mine she said.

Startled at first then looking down and smiling she asked And who do you belong to?

A little child in a very quiet voice said I'm yours till the lights come on.

I thought to myself wow what a picture that story just drew in my mind only sadly the picture was not of a night zoo exhibit it was of this earth and guess what we are the exhibits which creep and crawl around in the darkness and there are some people on this earth who prefer the darkness and who can see in the darkness not because they have special night vision goggles or any special artificial devise which may enable them to see you see they follow the world and worship the things in it but because we that's you and i we have within us a special light which we shine forth and it radiates outward from us and lights up our path the path which we chose as Christians to follow.

But to obtain that special gift we must like a power lead be plugged into a power source which lights up the eyes in our hearts this then illuminates our path this light enables us to see in the dark where the blind of this world hopelessly grope and crawl.

We are like the little boy or girl the young child in that story we need to be plugged into LORD Jesus because He and **He alone** is our light source like the child we must take the LORD by the hand and trust that He will safely lead us through the dark zoo of this Earth and believe me this is a dark world that is getting darker by the day remember what Jesus said in **John 8:12-20** and **Jesus spoke to them again, saying, I am the light of the world the one who follows Me shall never walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**

That is why we who follow Jesus can see in the dark because we have His light within us not only that if we have LORD Jesus' light in us then we also have His light of life shining in and through us.

Sadly when we go out into the world the world cannot see our light because most of the world **rejects** that glorious light from the LORD and consequently they are blind like the bats in the zoo exhibit because whenever someone tries to share their light with them they flitter away like the flying bats of the night who rely upon the prince of the power of the air to be their guide.

What was the reaction of the Pharisees that day to the LORDS words **I AM the light of the world** well they were like the blind bats and their reaction **reflected** their blindness.

John 8:13 therefore the Pharisees said to Him, You are testifying about Yourself, Your testimony is not true.

The Pharisees were certainly plugged into another power source. After witnessing the events around the world in the past 18 or more months i can see blindness everywhere spiritual blindness and this spiritual darkness i feel is the kind of thick blindness which blanketed Egypt just before the exodus.

Exodus 10:21-23 says and the LORD said to Moses, stretch out your hand toward the heavens, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, so that it one may even feel the darkness. and Moses stretched stretched forth his hand toward heaven, and there was a thick darkness over the land of Egypt 3 days, they did not see one another, nor did they rise from their place, for 3 days, but the children of Israel had light in their dwelling.

Can you imagine how dark that darkness was i have read that even if there were a candle lit in their house the darkness was so thick that the light of the candle was totally veiled from human sight.

Also we must remember that most households back then had their fireplaces burning 24 hours a day the coals would be kept hot enough to at least give off a glow why couldn't they see the glow there was not a fire switch which they flicked to instantly light their fires so the home fireplaces were always kept glowing.

To actually feel the darkness now that would have been scary people today live in darkness but they feel the darkness in a different way today's darkness is the kind of darkness which caters for peoples needs as long as **their needs does not include allowing just a tweeny weeny bit of the Lords light to shine in their life.**

Luke 16:13 teaches us **no servant is able to serve 2 masters, for either he will hate the one, and he will love the other, and he will hold to the one and despise the other, you cannot serve HOD and mammon.**

I admit and i would be lying if i said differently i **enjoy** turning on a light switch and i **enjoy** watching a movie on TV i **enjoy** living under a roof and having modern convinces all around me just flick this or press that and its done yes i **enjoy** turning on an ignition switch in my car and driving wherever i want to go and not having to walk or like my ancestors having to ride on a donkey yes things are certainly different now than they were in Egypt but **the darkness is still here today** maybe not as thick as in was in Egypt but an eerie darkness is still blanketing the whole world however you and i **do not allow the things** of this world to turn us away from LORD Jesus we **do not allow** ourselves to serve the things of this world and we **do not allow** them to dim our lights or turn off our lights or cause us to hide our lights from others we are to shine our lights to others **even** if we are **ridiculed for shining our lights.**

Luke 16:14 now when the Pharisees who were covetous heard all these things, and they ridiculed Him.

I mentioned the word ridicule before as did Luke what is the definition of ridicule well to ridicule someone is the act of using words gestures images or other products of expression to evoke laughter or contemptuous feelings regarding a person or thing it is being the butt of amusement or mirth it is language or behaviour intended to humiliate or mock to make fun of, mock, or deride to **taunt.**

To **ridicule** someone is to make fun of either playfully or with the intention of humiliating.

I have been made fun of and the butt of jokes for my beliefs i have been called a bible basher in jesting i hope by my brother and if this is the only ridicule that i will receive while alive then i count it a blessing because many Christians will face and have faced death for their faith in the LORD.

Yes the forces of darkness are working overtime at this time in world history because we have now arrived very close to the closing stage of God's plan we must remain diligent we must keep spare oil for our lamps and we must stay awake alert and ready.

There are a lot of people who are scared of the darkness of night but love living in the darkness of sin.

Children are notorious for their fear of the dark but parents teach them to follow their ways **even** if their way is the way of spiritual darkness sadly many children who have been taught the way of light and life have wandered off doing their own thing and doing what is right in their own eyes unfortunately what their eyes see is not good for them.

Many people fear the dark i used to fear the dark as a child because the dark is filled with the unknown dark i was told is where the boogy man lives i was scared to go into a dark room because of this silly anxiety which i built up inside of me just as uncertainty in ones life builds up anxiety as well.

Remember back a few months i spoke about the S.A.D. syndrome or seasonal affective disorder i said then that scientists have even found that if a person spends too much time in the dark he or she can suffer with this SAD syndrome.

That's an appropriate acronym because those who suffer from it often become moody and depressed.

Seasonal affective disorder is more frequently diagnosed in winter when it is darker cold and damp.

There is a strange power in darkness very strange.

Darkness is when sinful people choose to carry out their devious deeds.

This is when Satan the prince of darkness gets into the minds of people the most because lots of people plot sin in their dreams.

Sin and persecution are lovers they are bedfellows they go out together when it is dark hand in hand one with the other.

Remember when the LORD was wrongfully arrested and then persecuted we read in.

Luke 22:52-53 and Jesus said to those who had come out against Him, the chief priests and captains of the temple elders, have you come out, as against a thief, with swords and clubs, when I was with you daily in the temple you did

not stretch out your hand against Me, but this is your hour, and the power of darkness.

Jesus mentioned the power of darkness this is your hour, and the power of darkness.

When it is dark the power of darkness works the hardest this is when Jesus was arrested and persecuted.

When Jesus taught in the daylight He was not arrested but when night time came and under the blanket of darkness **then His persecutors** chose to arrest Him.

With darkness brings the power of uncertainty anxiety and fear.

Pain is always the worst at night have ever notice that.

It is during times of darkness when we cannot sleep that our minds play funny tricks on us we hear noises which we cannot associate anything with we see scary shadows and we may find ourselves trapped in something we can't control.

The athlete in Africa said he heard noises so he panicked and shot unfortunately he killed his wife i am not judging him but the black of night does funny things to us at times it makes the mind think strange thoughts so what we need to do is get our thoughts back on Jesus that is where study is great study helps us in times of uncertainty and we must remember by turning our noses up at the feast of God's Word **we are starving ourselves to death** and **we are allowing ourselves to become scared to death.**

When Jesus was tempted when Jesus was worried when Jesus was anxious or even possibly uncertain about some things remember **LORD Jesus even though He was God in the flesh** He was still part human and that part that human part **within Him** experienced human emotions human dreams human pain human suffering and even human thoughts just like us otherwise how could Jesus moderate for us on our behalf if He did not experience and understand these different emotions thoughts and fights which we constantly war against in our minds.

So what did Jesus do or to rephrase that what would Jesus do what do we know that Jesus **did** to ease His fear His anxiety His uncertainty His mind running wild with human thoughts and emotions.

I think [Luke 22:42-44](#) holds the key to answer that question and we should also take hold of that key and place it somewhere close to us where it is readily available for us to use.

When the power of darkness and the feeling of helplessness takes hold of us think of Jesus Who also had to face this same power and see what He did to overcome it and His overcoming was not easy.

Verse 42 starts with LORD Jesus saying, Father, if you are willing to take away this cup from Me, nevertheless, not My will, but Your will be done, then An angel from heaven appeared to Him and strengthening Him, And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became as great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

So what did Jesus do well those verses tells us that Jesus **prayed when He was in agony.**

What are we to do pray **that is what we are also to do pray.**

LORD Jesus knew that in just a few short hours

He is going to be put on trial not once not twice but 6 different times.

Count them there were six parts to LORD Jesus' trial three stages or parts in a religious court and three stages before a Roman court.

Jesus was tried before Annas the former high priest then before Caiaphas the current high priest and then before the whole the Sanhedrin.

Jesus was charged in these religious trials with blasphemy claiming to be the Son of God and claiming to be the Messiah.

The trials before Jewish authorities the religious trials showed the degree to which the Jewish leaders hated Him because they carelessly disregarded many of their own laws.

There were several illeg-alities involved in these trials from the perspective of Jewish law

(1) No trial was to be held during feast time.

(2) Each member of the court was to vote individually to either convict or acquit but Jesus was convicted by acclamation. which is An uncontested election won by default or Enthusiastic approval.

(3) If the death penalty was given a night must pass before the sentence was carried out however only a few hours had passed before Jesus was placed on the Cross.

(4) Remembering that under Roman rule the Jews had no authority to execute anyone.

(5) No trial was to be held at night but this trial was held all through the night until dawn.

(6) The accused was to be given counsel or representation but Jesus had none.

(And 7) The accused was not to be asked self incriminating questions but Jesus was asked if He was the Christ.

Now the trials before the Roman authorities started with Pilate as we read in [John 18:28](#).

Notice that the charges brought against Jesus were very different from the charges which He was charged with during His religious trials.

Jesus was charged with when putting the trials together as found in several gospels as being an evildoer by inciting people to riot forbidding the people to pay their taxes and claiming to be a King.

Trial 1 Jesus was sent to Pilate but Pilate found no reason to kill Jesus so Pilate sent Jesus to Herod as we read in [Luke 23:7](#).

Trial 2 Herod had Jesus ridiculed but wanting to avoid the political liability sent Jesus back to Pilate [Luke 23:11-12](#).

Trial 3 This was the last trial as Pilate tried to appease the animosity of the Jews by having Jesus scourged then crucified.

The Roman scourge is a terrible whipping of 39 lashes but in the LORDS case this may have been increased by the mocking soldiers.

In a final effort to have Jesus released Pilate offered the prisoner Barabbas to be crucified and Jesus released but to no avail.

The crowds continued shouting louder crucify Him Crucify Him as they called for Barabbas to be set free and Jesus to be put to death.

Pilate granted their demand and surrendered Jesus to their will as recorded in [Luke 23:25](#).

The trials of Jesus represent the ultimate mockery of justice.

LORD Jesus Christ the most innocent man **in the history of the world** was found guilty of **no crime by Pilate** but was sentenced to death by crucifixion.

The uncertainty of life in the Lords case breathing one morning and then dead in the afternoon why for loving the people who He came to save for telling the truth for taking our rightful beating and for taking our place on that cross.

6 mock trials accompanied by **6 painfully long hours nailed hanging helplessly upon a cross** until He gave up the ghost that's one hour's surrering per trial.

LORD Jesus was not weak as many people think He was because He died so fast when compared to others LORD Jesus endured more pain blood loss and suffering both mental **and physical** in the hours from His unlawful arrest unlawful questioning unlawful beating unlawful sentencing and unlawful crucifixion until His unlawful death than most strong men could **ever and i do i mean ever endure.**

If you are against Jesus as so many are today then you might be counted as one who was in the crowd at the LORDS trial as one chanting **crucify Him** because you are following in the precariously dangerous footsteps of the Prince of cunning the Prince of darkness and confusion the father of lies as Jesus called him in **John 8:44** *you are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you desire to practice, he was a murderer from the beginning, and he has not stood in the truth because there is no truth in him, whenever he speaks a lie, he is speaking from his own self, for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

Why do people tell a lie i remember as a child i told some real big porky pies but when i was found out to be a liar boy did i cop it and after a few lies my mother did not know if i was lying to her or telling her the truth.

That is what happens when you get away with one lie you think you can get away with lying again and again.

What the Pharisees accused Jesus of were not harmless little white lies as some people prefer to call a lie.

Those who preach a lie are telling a lie and if they continue preaching a lie and getting away with preaching the lie then they become more bold why **because no one reads their bible today to question the lie.**

I know one thing for absolute certain if i spoke an untruth from up here i know you would pick it up instantly because i know you study your bibles.

There are those who know right from wrong yet willingly choose to go with what is wrong just like those who sit in judgment and sadly judge unrighteously and there are a lot of examples which i can use but one example really stands out above all others being the 5 judges who changed

the course of American history forever on **July 26th 2015** when the bible the word of God the truth of God was changed.

Just as Satan moved Judas Iscariot the night when Jesus was arrested Satan also moved the Pharisees Sanhedrin Herod Pilate and the soldiers who joyfully carried out Pilates orders Remember Satan can enter the minds of people who are not tuned into Jesus.

Jesus was tuned into the Father when He was tempted by Satan and Jesus used the words of truth to defeat Satan remember Jesus was God in the flesh and being God in the flesh He was vulnerable more vulnerable than at any other time to Satan's tricks so Yes even God was tempted by Satan but refused.

One of LORD Jesus' answers to Satan was in **Matthew 4:4** man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.

How do you think those same words would have made Satan react if they had came out of the mouth of Adam to the serpent.

Interesting question i think.

Is it any wonder that LORD Jesus was in anguish as He prayed to the Father knowing what was going to happen to Him.

Knowing this It's little wonder Jesus prayed "If there is ANY WAY for this cup to be taken from Me please let's do it now because Jesus was part human and that human part of Him i feel would have been at war in His mind at that time **His emotions would have been working overtime**.

It's little wonder that when Jesus prayed His sweat was like great drops of blood.

Now my point is this Jesus was facing a time of crisis.

An hour of darkness.

And it's a situation that even He as the Son of God God manifest in the flesh could not change if He were to save mankind.

Why? because the stakes were too high.

This was a situation which affected not just Him but also those closest to Him His mother His step brothers His disciples and His friends Lazarus Mary and Martha and every person whose name was and would be written into the book of life.

How Jesus had to face that that crisis and how Jesus dealt with that darkness

He couldn't change this fact tells us a lot about how we can deal with our own personal times of uncertainty and darkness.

Galatians 4:6-7 teaches us what Jesus did it says **do not be anxious about anything, but by prayer and supplication with thanks giving, let your requests be known to God in everything, and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, shall guard your hearts, and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.**
By prayer and supplication **that's the answer.**

There are 2 basic principles for how we can face situations that we don't seem to be able to stop or change.

The first principle is in **Luke 22:40** **And when he arrived at the place Jesus said to them Pray that you do not enter into temptation.**

And in verse **46** is the second when Jesus repeats His advice **arise and pray, so that you do not enter into temptation.**

What was the 2 principal's you pray you get down on your knees and pray for strength.

Question who did Jesus tell His disciples that they should pray for? .

Well the answer is Not for Him but for themselves.

Jesus said Pray that **you you** do not enter into temptation.

What possible temptation could the LORDS disciples be facing?

Possibly after they witnessed with their own eyes what was about to happen over the next 24 hours the temptation i feel was they felt that God had abandoned them as well as Jesus.

Abandonment is a horrible feeling.

Uncertainty and total abandonment by GOD this could have opened the door **wide up** for Satan to weave his Satanic spell in their minds.

In **Hebrews 10:35-36** we read words of encouragement for times when we are feeling down **do not cast away your confidence which is bringing great reward, for you need to have endurance,** so that, after **you** have done the will of GOD, **you** may receive the promise.

There's the **you** word again we need endurance in our faith with which we will overcome that uncertainty in our life overcome that that feeling of abandonment remember Jesus said I will never leave you and He will not.

Hebrews 11:6 now without faith it is impossible to please God, for it is mandatory for the one who comes to God to believe He exists, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Many people who call themselves Christians even though they attend Church do not fully believe that God exists they are seeking something that this world can't give them and that something is eternal life but the way to eternal life to them is unclear the Greeks required a sign Thomas needed to see and to feel before he believed but the LORD will work with **you if you believe** and that **IF** is the stumbling block for many.

There are times when we ourselves feel alone and abandoned and **we just like the little child in the zoo night house need a reassuring hand that we can take hold of.**

We adults just like when we were a little child need the reassuring smile and its ok your safe like our mothers and fathers reassured us with.

What does a little child do when they're in bed and suddenly they become afraid of the dark What do they do well they run and get in bed with their Mother and Father.

They seek out an adult.

Just like what that little child did at the zoo.

As long as a child is with their parents or an adult they're not afraid any more. And do you know why that is that's because the adult represents power and protection that even the dark can't overcome.

As adults we tend to forget that there is someone out there Who is bigger older and wiser than we are and far bigger than the darkness we face here on Earth.

We face many uncertain times when darkness seems to surround us and this darkness is going to get thicker and thicker as time moves forward towards the LORDS return we may even begin to feel this darkness but we must remember nothing but nothing can overpower is if we believe and **nothing but nothing can take away the love that the LORD has for us if we believe** and **If we believe** then we are wearing the full armour of the LORD and LORD Jesus will light up our path because He is the light of the world and only in Him in His precious name is there life.

If you start to feel uncertain about your future or abandoned when things get tough around you then do as Jesus told His disciples to do Pray just get down on your knees and pray.

1 Peter 5:7 says **casting all your cares on Him, because He cares for you.**
Yes He does care for you and for me far-far more than you or i will ever realize.

If i forget that He is near the power of darkness can overwhelm me.
So at times of stress fear and uncertainty we need to reach out and take hold of LORD Jesus' hand when life becomes dark.

When faced with a situation we can't handle take hold of the LORDS hand through prayer.

Remember the words to that wonderful song put your hand in the hand in the hand of the Man from Galilee.

You may not realize it but **prayer is faith in action.**

Prayer is the **act of looking to** and **reaching out to** and **trusting in the God who answers our prayers.**

Prayer is the declaration that God has the POWER to help me and to help you walk through the darkness.

But our LORDS prayer didn't change the outcome.

He still endured the mocking the trials the beatings the nails the humiliation and ultimately the wrath of God upon all the sin of all mankind.

So why pray?

Why would Jesus bother to pray?

Because prayer for Jesus was taking hold of His Father's hand.

And it was at this point in that garden when the darkness was so intense that only the comfort and power of prayer was going to help Jesus get through this trial.

These are the only words we read in Scripture of the 3 prayers Jesus prayed in Gethsemane

"My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me, nevertheless, Not as I will, but as You will."

My Father, if this cup cannot pass from Me Unless I drink it, Your will be done.

And The Lords 3rd prayer is recorded as being the same as the second.

Those words **Not as I will, but as You will** is a prayer of submission to do the Father's will.

Jesus i feel maybe saying Father now that I am here I really do not like this plan.

Or Father I don't really want to go through with this plan.

Father this is really going to be painful both physically and mentally and i don't know if i can stand it.

But then Jesus realizes that this plan no matter what happens no matter what pain is involved in this plan **He must go through with it He must stick with the plan** because if He does not all mankind is hopelessly lost that is why i feel Jesus prayed as He did Our LORD'S human side had to come to the complete trust and complete submission to the will of the Father.

You see when we choose and that is the operative word choose we must willingly choose to trust in and to follow God we you and i have to believe that God has a plan.

Yes that plan may be painful and yes it may be hard to understand and it may even be scary.

But there is i believe a plan and there is a reason behind that plan and that is why we are here because we willingly chose to follow that plan.

Even when we are in the darkness we can pray just like Jesus prayed but maybe without the blood dropping from our brows when we pray we are surrounded by the LORD'S plan for us just like Jesus was surrounded with the knowledge and understanding that there is a plan.

I strongly urge all of you please do not stop praying never give up remember above all things the Father loves us and LORD Jesus gave His precious life for you so trust and pray. **5074**