

PRAYER UPDATE

PHYSICAL ILLNESSES & SURGERIES this past week

Hayden Jilka (7 yrs old), son of Nate and Sam The family will be traveling to Stanford everyday for 4 more weeks for radiation and chemo. Hayden has developed mouth sores from the radiation and he is not wanting to eat. Please pray for his health and stamina and protection from illness. To follow Hayden's journey, follow this link: posthope.org/hope-for-hayden

Gene Cutler Please pray for a miraculous healing for Gene and for strength and patience for Ginni. To follow Gene and Ginni's journey, follow this link: youcaring.com/medical-fundraiser/the-gene-cutler-pepsi-challenge-twist/229911

Karen Whitcomb had a heart attack on December 16th and is recovering slowly. She should be transferred to rehab at Dominican this week. Please pray for strength and healing. The family is grateful for the visits and prayer support during this difficult time.

HOME WITH THE LORD

During this holiday season please continue to pray for the many that have lost loved ones in the recent months.

Laura Roth's Dad, Bill, who lives in Florida, passed away unexpectedly on Christmas Day. Please keep her family in prayer as they come together during this difficult time.

Andy Breda, a regular attender of TLC, was welcomed into heaven on Christmas Day. Please remember his family in your prayers during this difficult time. A service will be held on January 5th at the Santa Cruz Memorial Chapel.

We are in great need of drivers to take amazing individuals to their cancer treatments. If you are available and willing, please email care@tlc.org or contact Carrie Clark @ 465.3368.

We would love to visit your loved ones in the hospital. Please contact Carrie Clark at 465.3368 or care@tlc.org

A complete prayer list is available at the information desk.



EMPOWERED

WHAT ARE YOU EXPECTING?

JANUARY 3 & 4 // RENÉ SCHLAEPFER

SERIES OVERVIEW:

I am powerless in many areas, but I can be empowered by God!

THIS WEEK:

An often forgotten key to being empowered by God:

"According to your faith will it be done to you." Matthew 9:29b (NIV)

"And he did not do many miracles there **because of their lack of faith.**" Matthew 13:58

THREE APPROACHES TO LIFE

- _____
"Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" Numbers 14:3
- _____
"They lead my people astray, saying 'Peace' when there is no peace... when a flimsy wall is built, they cover it with whitewash." Ezekiel 13:10
- _____
"I live in **eager expectation** and hope that I will always be ready to speak out boldly for Christ **while I'm going through these trials here...** for to me, living means opportunities for Christ, and dying—well, that's better yet!" Philippians 1:20a,21(LB)

It _____

It _____

It _____

FOUR STRATEGIES FOR EXPECTING EMPOWERMENT

1. INITIATE _____

“In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait **in expectation.**” Psalm 5:3
(See Psalm 118:24)

2. MEDITATE _____

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper and not to harm you; plans to give you a hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11 (See Romans 8:28)

3. ELIMINATE _____

“Do not let any **unwholesome speech** come out of your mouths, but **only what is helpful for building others up** according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” Ephesians 4:29

“**By our speech we can ruin the world**, turn harmony to chaos, throw mud on a reputation, send the whole world up in smoke and go up in smoke with it, smoke right from the pit of hell.” James 3:6 (Message)

4. CONCENTRATE _____

“We were really **crushed and overwhelmed** and **feared** we would never live through it. We felt we were **doomed to die** and saw **how powerless we were** to help ourselves; **but that was good** for then **we put everything into the hands of God**, who alone can save us, for he can even raise the dead. And He did help us... yes, and we expect Him to do it again and again.” 2 Cor. 1:8b-10

“**Not that we are competent in ourselves** to claim anything for ourselves, but **our competence comes from God.**” 2 Cor. 3:4,5

“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that **this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.**” 2 Cor. 4:7

WHAT AM I EXPECTING GOD TO DO IN _____ IN
THE NEXT _____ ?

THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE:

“Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish than we might ask or think.” Ephesians 3:20 (NLT)

DAILY MEDITATIONS

MONDAY Read Psalm 5:3, Psalm 118:24, and Mark 1:35. Do you consider yourself to lean toward optimism or pessimism? List the two most biblically optimistic people you know. What can you learn about a positive outlook from them? As you initiate your day, think of things about today that are gifts from God. *Thank God for today! Ask Him to help you see things all day long in which to rejoice! Ask Him to give you a spirit of “eager expectation.”*

TUESDAY Read Numbers 14:1-10. This is a fascinating story about the Israelites. They had an opportunity to go into the land of Canaan. But there was disagreement about what the future held there! Who displays pessimism here? Who shows biblical optimism? What makes Caleb and Joshua biblically optimistic, not just blindly optimistic? Do you think you would have sided with Caleb and Joshua, or the rest of the people? Why? *Ask God to help you see not just the challenges of the future, but the God-given opportunities!*

WEDNESDAY Read Jeremiah 29:11, Romans 8:28-29, and 2 Corinthians 1:8-11. What do these verses tell you about God’s power? What do they tell you about God’s plans for those who love him? List one area of your life that currently has you pessimistic. What would biblical optimism look like in this situation? How can you move in that direction today? *Meditate today on the power of God. Thank Him for His power.*

THURSDAY Read Ephesians 4:29 and James 3:5-6. Think back over the last 24 hours. How would you characterize your speech – as harmful or helpful? What role does negative speech, said to others or even just to ourselves, play in pessimism? How have you experienced this personally? How have you experienced positive speech leading you to a more positive outlook? *Ask God to help you bring your speech – even your self-talk – under control. Let it be positive!*

FRIDAY Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-11. How do these verses help you cope with your present difficulties and anxieties? You have God’s power available to you even when you are powerless in yourself! Think back: How have you seen God’s power demonstrated in your times of weakness: Answered prayer? Healing? Special insight or guidance? Victory over sin or habit? People brought to Christ through your illness or other struggle? *Thank God for His strength demonstrated in your times of weakness. Now ask God, your help in ages past, to be your hope for years to come!*

SATURDAY Read the memory verse, Ephesians 3:20. Meditate on this verse for a while. How have you seen God surpass your wildest dreams? What are you expecting God to do in and through you today? This weekend? *Give your expectations and plans to God right now. Ask Him to give you an optimism based on His promises and power. Please pray for the weekend services. Thanks!*