

YOUTH PRAYS-GOD ANSWERS!

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Name: _____

Date: _____

Lesson 11

AFTER THIS, WHO COULD DOUBT?

WELL, THIS is it, for me," thought Helen when she heard the fateful words.

The kindly doctor returned and patted her hand as she tried to control the growing fear that threatened to engulf her.

"I'm sorry, " he said. "It seems you've had your share of trouble. But the X-rays are proof of what I've been suspecting for some time. You've had several surgeries, so you're acquainted with the medical term, sarcoma of the small bowel.

"I know what you're thinking, Helen. But let me encourage you to go to the Great Physician. Jesus can give you peace of mind and help you through this trying ordeal. And remember, I'll be praying for you."

During the long nights that followed, Helen lay awake for hours at a time. The tranquilizers, to which she had had to resort for several years, failed to give her the expected relief.

"What will happen to my children? Will others be patient with my teenage sons who need their mother's love and understanding? What about the younger ones? They're growing out of babyhood, but to me they're still babies. Why, God why?" So ran her worried thoughts as this young mother faced a dark and dismal future.

In her heart Helen was not blaming God. She just could not understand why this doom was pronounced on her when her children needed her so much. Yet it did seem unjust and unfair. But since God holds the master plans and allows calamities and trials to guide each life in the right direction, Helen decided to accept His will.

Helen's home was not a happy one. The uncontrolled temper of a non-Christian husband kept things upset and tense most of the time. But in spite of her weakened condition, and constant pain, Helen attended church as often as she could.

The first Sabbath after her doctor's report, I had been invited to be the guest speaker at the church which she attended. Both Helen and I feel it was providential that she was there that Sabbath morning when I presented the A, B, C's of receptive prayer.

As she listened to one experience after another of how God was answering prayer for young people and older ones alike, Helen felt as if a whole new world was opening up before her. She felt that in the power of the prayer of reception lay the answer to her immediate problem. She had faith that God could, and would, answer her prayer if she surrendered herself completely and claimed His promise with unswerving faith.

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Helen thought much about what she had heard, and then decided to step forward in faith. It was a very important decision she made. She phoned her pastor and a few friends whom she felt were sincere, consecrated Christians, and asked them all to pray at home. The ministers offered prayers of commitment as we do for the sick, since we cannot know whether the sick have fulfilled the conditions to healing.

Because "the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy" (James 5:11), and because He has promised in Psalms 50:15, "Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me", God heard and answered the prayers presented to Him in faith and submission, in Helen's behalf.

When I talked with her later, she said, "I prayed at home, claiming I John 1:9. I wanted my heart to be right with God. I wanted nothing to stand between me and God to prevent His answering my prayer. As the Holy Spirit came into my heart, and His presence filled my body, I prayed, with tears streaming down my face, claiming Psalm 103:3-5: "Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; . . . , who crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies; who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's."

Helen continued, "Oh, what wonderful blessings God is waiting to bestow upon us if we but ask! I had felt completely at loose ends, not knowing which way to turn. But after that prayer, an entirely new feeling entered my body. The terrible feeling of heaviness and discouragement lifted, and a peace like I'd never known before filled my soul. I fully trusted in God, believing all would be well."

On Helen's next visit to the doctor, a second set of X-rays was taken to verify the first. Several days of waiting followed, during which Helen prayed constantly for guidance.

Once more a diagnosis was made. Finally the day came for Helen to go back for the doctor's report. As she entered his office, a smile spread over his face. Even before he spoke, Helen knew what the verdict was; her faith in answered prayer had never wavered since the day of special prayer.

"We see absolutely no further indication of the sarcoma we saw in the first X-rays," the doctor said.

Again, in her own words, I quote: "The dreaded sarcoma was gone! God had performed a miracle for me! What a wonderful thing to have experienced! My heart is full of thanksgiving. I want to shout it from the housetops, as it were, and tell what God in His loving-kindness, has done for me. I try to share this experience with others whenever I can, that His name may be glorified."

Helen shared her healing experience with her neighbor lady next door. "This is the kind of prayer life I want," she said, "would they allow me, too, to enroll in their prayer class?"

Helen has shared her experience with all who are interested, and God is using her to bring courage and help to many discouraged ones.

"Faith is the key," says Helen, "but we must sincerely believe."

There is no limit to our usefulness in the hands of God, or to His blessings upon us, if we live humbly before Him.

One of the students in the prayer class was afflicted during the lesson study.

"Oh, if my back would only stop aching," thought Alma as she sat listening to other prayer students relate their experiences.

The tired muscles in her back were really beginning to give her trouble. Realizing that she was sitting in a straight-back chair, and knowing from past experience that, after a hard day at work something more serious might develop, Alma began to pray.

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Immediately the promise found in Psalm 37:5 came into her mind, "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass."

The ache in her back became more intense. "Oh," she thought, "this pain is nearly killing me! How can I concentrate on this promise?"

But the Lord came to her rescue, and as she repeated the Bible promise over and over again in her mind, the troublesome pain began to lessen. This was something that had never happened before, and her heart was thrilled!

By the time the meeting was over, the pain was completely gone. Truly, "God does stand back of every promise that He has made." (See Christ's Object Lessons, page 147.)

Whether it is for the conversion of a soul, or a broken heart, a barbiturate addict, or an aching back, God is near and ready to hear.

Another example of answered prayer was that of Sonri. Although Sonri tried to conceal her emotions, she must have been the most unhappy person in the prayer class. Somehow, and for reasons unknown to her at the time, her thyroid gland had become infected. Not wishing to miss the prayer class, she decided to make the long drive with the others who also attended. She did not regret doing so.

No one can feel depressed in the midst of a happy group of Christians who are rejoicing and praising the Lord for answered prayer. Sonri was much encouraged, and when she joined her prayer band group, she told them of her problem. They immediately decided to petition the Lord and ask for healing for Sonri, claiming the Bible promise:

Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases." Psalm 103:3.

Wednesday evening was Sonri's appointment with her physician. As she talked with him, he explained how the disease affected the gland, sometimes destroying it. There was not really too much that he could do for her.

At the first opportunity given for relating her experience to the prayer class, Sonri had this to say:

"On Thursday I was feeling better, and by the following Monday the infection was completely gone. I feel God has definitely answered our prayers."

Everywhere we go we find fresh evidences of God's wonderful powers and willingness to answer prayer through Jesus our Lord. One very fine lady wrote after we had conducted a prayer series in her city:

"After fourteen years of praying, you have shown me how to claim victory through faith in God's promises. One night my husband took the car and went for a short drive for his smoke before going to bed, I knelt by the living room sofa and prayed, 'Dear God, You have promised that if we bring our tithes and offerings to You, that You would rebuke the devourer for our sakes. Lord, I claim that promise. I believe You will do it. I believe You will help my husband to stop smoking. Thank You, Lord.'

"With that I went to bed. In a little while my husband came home. I expected him to announce as soon as he entered the door, that he had quit smoking and that he would never again touch a cigarette, But he didn't say a word when he came in.

"As I lay in bed, I thought, 'Lord, is it too soon?'

"Two days later my husband came home from work, it was on a Friday. When he walked in, he smiled real big and said, 'I haven't smoked all day. I'm through with them from here on out.

"Immediately I breathed a 'Thank You' prayer to the Lord for what He had done for my husband—victory through faith." Then she went on to relate a second experience:

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"One morning, after my husband had left for work, I was suddenly taken ill. I was all alone and I didn't know what to do. So I prayed, 'Dear God, please send me some help.' As I finished my prayer, I heard a knock at the door. I invited whoever was there to come in.

"When the lady entered, I realized I had never met her, but knew that she lived just across the street from me. 'Thank God you came,' I said, 'I am in need of help. I've just become very sick.'

"In reply she said, 'I must tell you the experience I just had. I was getting ready to go to school (she was a high school teacher), and realized that I was already late, so I was just getting something hot to drink. As I raised my cup to drink, it seemed that a voice told me to come over here. This is the strangest experience I've ever had. I don't understand it. What can I do for you?"

"I told her that I understood it perfectly. I told her how I had just prayed that God would send someone to help me. I told her that I knew it was a direct answer to the prayer of faith.

"Of course my neighbor lady gave me the help I needed, and I soon was feeling better. This is only one of many blessings that God has bestowed upon me in answer to the prayer of reception."

Is God interested, even in our adopting children? Listen to this.

"My husband and I were worried. It had been two years since we had adopted little Kimber and still she wasn't our own," said Minnie Porter, a member of the prayer class.

"Kimber was four months old when we first got her. Our attorney was having difficulty locating the real mother, in order to obtain her signature on the adoption papers. A whole year went by before it was secured.

"Then it seems, no matter what we did, or how many times we contacted him, the attorney kept putting off the signing of the final adoption papers. We had tried everything humanly possible to bring about the signature, but for another whole year we were being put off. This procedure should have taken a maximum of six weeks after the signing of the adoption papers. We were still waiting after two years!

"I was getting desperate," Minnie continued. "Suppose Kimber's father should come and try to claim the baby. I couldn't give Kimber up now. She was the light of my life. If only there was something I could do to force the attorney to act.

"About this time, Elder Coon conducted a series of meetings on prayer in our church. I was thrilled when I heard the first study. I wanted to learn more, but found that the class being taught on The Prayer of Reception was restricted to the young people. My husband suggested that we begin claiming promises by ourselves, but I simply told him that I didn't know enough about it to do it intelligently.

"Then we heard of another class that was being opened in La Sierra. This one was open to all age groups, so my husband and I both signed up immediately. There we learned HOW to claim promises and pray the prayer of reception.

"In the morning we had our morning devotion and I was claiming the promise for 'life' for the party chosen by our prayer band. While in prayer, the thought came to me, 'Why not claim a promise for our little Kimber? God knows how much we love her and want to keep her.' So I started searching my Bible for a promise that I could claim.

"My eyes fell on the text in Psalms 37:5, 'Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.' I placed my finger upon this text and prayed, 'Dear Lord, Thou knowest that I have fulfilled the conditions laid down in this promise. I have committed my way unto Thee, and I do trust in Thee. Now I ask Thee to bring it to pass as Thou hast promised. Provide a way so that the final adoption

papers may be signed and our little Kimber will be truly ours. I believe that You are providing a way, and I thank Thee for it, in Jesus' name, Amen.'

"I wasn't off my knees for five minutes when the phone rang. It was the attorney saying, 'Come in and sign the final papers, and I will arrange for your hearing before the judge.'

"It was hard to believe. I had waited so long. But God was ready to fulfill my prayer in a matter of minutes. Kimber is ours now, and I could not be happier."

Our God is able! He is ready and willing to take care of small problems as well as the large ones. It is we who prevent His doing all He is willing to do.

Let us reach out by faith for all He is offering us.

Quiz 11

1. What is one reason why the Lord permits sickness and suffering at times? (Read James 1:3 and Isaiah 48:10.) _____.
2. Complete: God holds the master plans and allows _____ and _____ to guide each life in the right direction.
3. Complete: Helen felt that in the _____ of the _____ of _____ lay the answer to her immediate problem.
4. Complete: The ministers offered prayers of _____ as we do for the sick, since we cannot know whether the sick have fulfilled the conditions to healing.
5. What two texts did Helen claim?
 - a.
 - b.
6. What results were there to Helen's prayer? _____.
7. Thought question: Do you suppose the Lord perhaps allowed the sarcoma, at first, so Helen would need to exercise faith-thus her faith would grow as she exercised it?
8. Complete: "God _____ of _____ promise He has made."
9. True or false: A healing that occurs over a period of time, is every bit as much a healing as one that occurs instantaneously. _____.
10. What promise did one lady claim for her husband to quit smoking? _____.
11. True or false: It is circumstances around us that prevent God's doing all He is willing to do. _____.