

# Prayers of Jesus

Written by Allan Wilson

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## **Jesus led by example and we should follow that example**

In this report we will be looking at the prayers that Jesus offered up to the Father.

As you go through the Scriptures you will quite often find where the Lord Jesus Christ himself went apart from the crowd, went into his own private place and prayed. We read Scriptures where he got up a great while before morning... We read scriptures where he prayed all night... We read Scriptures where he went up into a mountain place to pray alone.

And we as human beings, whether we be in the Lord or not, are basically lazy creatures, ill disciplined... and sometimes it doesn't hurt for us to go back through the basics of Scripture again and realize just how important it is for us to have an effective prayer life.

If it was important for Jesus Christ to pray, who could do all things, who is far greater than you and I... then how much more important is it for us to pray as well?

Now this isn't going to be a study on prayer as such... there is a lot of Scripture on prayer and how we should be praying but today we will be just looking at the prayers of Jesus Christ himself. And as always he is the captain of our salvation... He led by example and we should follow that example...

And we'll start in...

Mark 1: 21-22

And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught. And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.

An amazing thing happens to us when we come to the Lord. We read here that Jesus was different. When he got up to speak he spoke with authority, he spoke with this confidence, he spoke about things he knew of. And when we come to the Lord and get filled with his Holy Spirit all of a sudden we know many of the things of God and when we talk we can talk with a certain amount of authority.

This is what set Jesus apart from the Scribes and Pharisees – or the religious rulers of the day. He taught with authority, he spoke with a difference and people sat up and took notice.

## Setting the scene

Mark 1: 23-29

And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, Saying, Let [us] alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God. And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him.

And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him. And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine [is] this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.

And immediately his fame spread abroad throughout all the region round about Galilee. And forthwith, when they were come out of the synagogue, they entered into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.

Now I'm just setting the scene here... Jesus had a big day. And we all can have a big day or a busy day. We all have a busy and hectic life. However when you go through these Scriptures you will continue to see that no matter how busy or how hectic the days that Jesus had he still found the time to pray.

We are going to see how Jesus disciplined himself to go and find a private place to commit himself to God in prayer. We are going to see that Jesus had extremely busy days and that if anyone could say that they're tired, that all they feel like doing is lying down and sleeping, then it would have been the Lord. However so much so did Jesus demonstrate to us the importance of prayer that we will see in these examples of Scripture that it didn't matter how big a day he had, he still found time to pray.

Mark 1: 30-31

But Simon's wife's mother lay sick of a fever, and anon they tell him of her. And he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them.

## Jesus had busy days

She prepared food for them. There are a lot of times we think about this ministering as some sort of getting up and preaching sort of thing. However we can minister to each other by just delivering food to a brother or sister in the Lord or something like that. That is ministering to each other... taking care of one another's needs.

Mark 1: 32-34

And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils. And all the city was gathered together at the door. And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.

So once again I want to remind you of the BIG day Jesus is having - I'm still setting the scene for you here... It is such a big day it is even continuing into the night. This is not taking into account what happened in the days before hand, so all day long he has been dealing with people and situations and it is continuing on into the night. So much so that the whole city is at the door – it is a big evening.

Mark 1: 35

And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

Now that is an example for you and I. Like I said before if Jesus Christ found it important to do so... to stay on top of things by having an effective prayer life how much more do we need an effective prayer life also?

And what an example here... It's gone all day and into the evening and we read here a GREAT while before morning – however long that was I don't know but a great while before morning he has gone away on his own to pray, ready to tackle the next day.

Mark 1: 36-38

And Simon and they that were with him followed after him. And when they had found him, they said unto him, All [men] seek for thee. And he said unto them, Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth

## Sometimes we should move on

I found this Scripture a little bit interesting... Everyone's after him, he's preached the gospel, healed their sick and tended to their needs. He's gone and found a solitary place to pray, people are still looking for him, people are still inquiring about Jesus Christ, his disciples come and find him. Lord all these people want to see you, all these people are after you, and he says.... It's time to move on boys. Time to press on into the next town.

The Lord wasn't distracted... he had his mission... he had his purpose and I found this very interesting. Sometimes you can perhaps undo things by going over ground that has already been covered. Jesus had already preached the word to these people. Sometimes we can interfere too much with peoples walk in the Lord... sometimes we need to be like the Lord here... it's time to move on – those people have been taught the word, those people know about Jesus Christ. Now it is their turn to show some fruit, you can't do it for people all the time. In fact by trying to do it for others you ruin their walk in the Lord.

Now parents are the worst at that and we as parents are probably all guilty of it to one degree or another. You want to what's best for your kids... but you can't do it all for them. They've got to learn how to eat for themselves – don't they? It would look pretty bad at 20 years of age and you're still feeding them because you never let them get a mess over themselves. Silly – but we can get in the road sometimes.

People have got to take responsibility for their own walk and their own actions. When people are new in the Lord... yes... lay it on thick, we have to nurture them along... but they've got to learn to do things for themselves. We've got to get to the stage where we don't continually go back to do it for people all the time. They've got to be able to eventually look after themselves.

And that's important. It's a fine line – especially when you're a parent. When to let go or when you are doing too much or when you're not doing enough... it's the same with our brothers and sisters in the Lord. Do not try and walk their walk for them, don't meddle, don't intervene, don't interfere... we can tell them, we can advise them and we can show them but we can't do it for them.

There's a big difference and so that's why I like this example of Jesus here... All these people were after him but he was moving onto the next town. It is the same with us, we have a mission and that mission is to preach the gospel. Our fellowship looks after things, fellowshiping with one another helps to encourage one another however we can interfere too much in someone's life – that's the point here – we don't have to be meddlers. We can show them the way then let them get on with it.

## **The Lord provides our needs**

Mark 6: 34-44

And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.

And when the day was now far spent, his disciples came unto him, and said, This is a desert place, and now the time [is] far passed: Send them away, that they may go into the country round about, and into the villages, and buy themselves bread: for they have nothing to eat. He answered and said unto them, Give ye them to eat.

And they say unto him, Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat? He saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? go and see. And when they knew, they say, Five, and two fishes. And he commanded them to make all sit down by companies upon the green grass.

And they sat down in ranks, by hundreds, and by fifties. And when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave [them] to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all.

And they did all eat, and were filled. And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes. And they that did eat of the loaves were about five thousand men.

Quite an amazing miracle here... Jesus had showed his compassion upon them and supplied their needs. And an amazing thing happens when we chase the Lord – he provides for us!

Now these people were here and they were listening to the word of God, they were hungry and thirsting after righteousness, they were listening to every word of Jesus Christ. And our provisions are provided for when we seek first the Kingdom of God.

## **Our prayer life must be number one**

It's when we go chasing other things that we get into trouble. And once again here I want to set the scene for you showing you what kind of day Jesus had – Another BIG day. Preaching the word all day. Now I've been on outreaches where we've stood there all day and by the time it finished your shot – all you want to do is sleep. Well Jesus did this day in and day out, travelling from one town to another town, here he is again all day preaching the word – performing miracles in front of them all, feeding all these people.

Mark 6: 45-46

And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people. And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray.

So again... it didn't matter how big his day was, he found time to pray. Now as I said before, we are lazy by nature... we come up with excuses all the time. We're too busy to pray to the Lord, we can't fit it in because we've got too much on, and this, that and another. Life can crowd out the important things... our busy schedules and our hectic lifestyles can cause our life's to fall apart because we're not doing what is in important.

Our prayer life has got to be number one. Our relationship with God has got to be the most important thing in our day. It was for Jesus – after huge days – he would have been exhausted, yet he went apart to pray. He always went alone, he always went somewhere private and so we need to this. We need to find a private place... a place where the kids won't interrupt, a place where the phone won't ring, a place where work won't interrupt and a place where life won't interrupt.

The Lord calls it our closet. Our private place, our private time where we can go and seek the Lord – one on one with him. We need to find that place, we need to find that discipline in our life.

Jesus Christ performed great and mighty miracles... we would like to emulate that. He told us that these works that he does we shall do the same works and greater because he goes to the Father. The Father and the Son dwell in us, we can do greater works. They're not just going to happen unless we're doing the right thing.

Jesus did many great works so follow his example. Prayer was a major instigator behind these wonderful things he did.

## Touch Jesus and be made whole

Mark 6: 47-48

And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land. And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.

Not bad... You're on a ship, you've got all the mod cons – you know all that modern technology has to offer and then here's this guy on foot, on water, about to overtake you.

It'd be enough for you to sit up and take notice – wouldn't it?

Mark 6: 49-56

But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out. For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid. And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered.

For they considered not [the miracle] of the loaves: for their heart was hardened. And when they had passed over, they came into the land of Gennesaret, and drew to the shore. And when they were come out of the ship, straightway they knew him, And ran through that whole region round about, and began to carry about in beds those that were sick, where they heard he was.

And whithersoever he entered, into villages, or cities, or country, they laid the sick in the streets, and besought him that they might touch if it were but the border of his garment: and as many as touched him were made whole.

As many as touched Jesus were made whole. You know... we can still touch Jesus in our day and age. We can be made whole. We can touch Jesus in our prayer life.

## **Jesus was never too busy to pray**

But here is the scenario once again of a typical day in Jesus life. This is two days running here. All day he was with people, then later that night he was still going, then that night he had prayer and then the same night he walked on water and went to the ship. Not much sleep happening here... that morning they land and they're swamped by people and it all starts over again.

So if anyone had an excuse – I'm too tired... I'm too busy to pray it would have been Jesus. Yet he was NEVER too busy to pray, because he knew the vital importance of it.

He knew he was the captain of our salvation, he prepares the path, he leads the way for us to follow. He was a man! He was born a man like you and suffering like passions like us, he would have gotten tired, he would have felt the cold yet he still prayed because he knew it was so important.

Now an interesting thing here is that the disciples obeyed Jesus and got into the ship and proceeded to go to the other side. While Jesus went and prayed the disciples while in the ship experienced the wind boisterous against them. The guys who didn't pray are rowing hard, are doing it tough, and are getting no where.

Here is an example for us showing that when we stop praying we do it tough. Here's Jesus who had his time of prayer, who took time out to commune with God and he's walking on water. It didn't matter how bad the wind was, it didn't matter what modern technology the others had, because Jesus prayed he had more power.

The one who prayed had peace, he had calm around about him in the storm. An example for you and I... if we don't pray we are going have to toil, we are going to have turmoil, We are going to be doing it tough. However if we do pray we are going to be like Jesus, we can have the peace and we can get somewhere without all of the difficulties.

## Jesus heals the withered hand

Luke 6: 1-10

And it came to pass on the second sabbath after the first, that he went through the corn fields; and his disciples plucked the ears of corn, and did eat, rubbing [them] in [their] hands. And certain of the Pharisees said unto them, Why do ye that which is not lawful to do on the sabbath days? And Jesus answering them said, Have ye not read so much as this, what David did, when himself was an hungred, and they which were with him.

How he went into the house of God, and did take and eat the shewbread, and gave also to them that were with him; which it is not lawful to eat but for the priests alone. And he said unto them, That the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath. And it came to pass also on another sabbath, that he entered into the synagogue and taught: and there was a man whose right hand was withered.

And the scribes and Pharisees watched him, whether he would heal on the sabbath day; that they might find an accusation against him. But he knew their thoughts, and said to the man which had the withered hand, Rise up, and stand forth in the midst. And he arose and stood forth. Then said Jesus unto them, I will ask you one thing; Is it lawful on the sabbath days to do good, or to do evil? to save life, or to destroy [it]? And looking round about upon them all, he said unto the man, Stretch forth thy hand. And he did so: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

Now this is an incredible situation taking place here... and this is how narrow minded we can get as mankind. Here is a man with a withered hand – an absolute miracle that this man's hand could be restored. But they weren't worried about that – all they were worried about was the Sabbath day. Now if they had an ox that was in a pit on the Sabbath day they would pull it out, they would rescue it and save it's live. But here was a person with a withered hand who they didn't hold in the same regard, all they were worried about was the opportunity to make an accusation.

And sometimes we can be like that. Our minds can be too narrow. What's interesting in that last Scripture it says they didn't recognize the miracle of the loaves and fishes. Over 5000 men, not counting the women and children, were fed by the 5 loaves and 2 fishes, yet his own disciples didn't recognize the miracle. Their hearts were hardened.

## **Are healings happening right under your nose?**

I see that a lot in this world. I see miracles. Miracles happening right under our noses sometimes - yet our hearts can be hardened so that we don't even recognize them. And here it was again... what an interesting situation here... the Scribes and the Pharisees who were out to get Jesus were almost his greatest believers because they didn't doubt that he could actually heal the guys hand.

It's just amazing – they just didn't like the fact he was going to do it on the Sabbath day. Recognize good when it's good, recognize evil when it's evil, beware of traditions.

Luke 6: 11

And they were filled with madness; and communed one with another what they might do to Jesus.

Isn't this incredible? Jesus had just restored this guys hand in front of their very faces. And instead of being amazed by a mighty miracle they got mad.

Luke 6: 12

And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, he called [unto him] his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;

Wow what an example and I'm sure this isn't the first time the Lord prayed all night. Of course we know he went into the wilderness forty days and forty nights to be tempted of the Devil. But he was also communing with God by praying and fasting.

Here we read a situation where he went and he prayed all night. I guess one aspect of this book is to encourage you to take personal responsibility for your own walk in the Lord, seek your own salvation with fear and trembling we read.

However also show some commitment. I bet there's not too many of us who have prayed all night lately. You see the commitment of the Lord here. Before we have a big decision in life do we pray all night about it? Do we really put it before the Lord?

I found it very interesting here that it was the next day that Jesus chose his 12 disciples. Now that's a major important decision in his life, there were a lot of people following after him. He prayed all night and then went and chose the twelve and he knew that one of them was the son of perdition.

## Jesus prayed all night

Amazing to fulfil prophecy... to fulfil the word of God he prayed all night. You and I want to fulfil the word of God too – don't we?

You and I want to serve God and do the right thing – therefore we should pray!

Recognize the power of prayer. Recognize that the servant is not greater than his master and if the master had to pray (which is Jesus) then how much more so do we?

So there's a few instances where Jesus went up into a mountain to pray, where he went apart to pray, where he got up a great while before morning. He really considered prayer as an important aspect of his life.

How much more inferior, perhaps, would his ministry have been if wasn't for prayer?

I guess that comes back to you and I – how much more ineffective will we be in any aspect of our walk in the Lord, whether it be of our faith, or witnessing to other people.

Whatever we do how much more inferior will our ministries be if we're not praying?

In JOHN 14 Jesus prayed to the Father that he would give us the comforter. He even prayed about us receiving the Holy Ghost – even though that's what he came to do... he came and died and rose from the dead to sit at the right hand of the Father to fulfil all prophecy and to fill us with the Holy Ghost and fire.

Even though that was his path, that was his direction, that was his plan he still prayed that it would happen.

This next chapter we will read is an incredible prayer. It is quite humbling that our Lord would pray for us in this manner. So let's read the whole chapter...

Luke 22: 31-32

And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired [to have] you, that he may sift [you] as wheat. But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

Very interesting here... Simon Peter had been very bold, he was game, he had been with Jesus for over three years and here's Jesus talking about his hour is almost at hand to be betrayed. And he's telling Peter... look Satan's been after you but I'VE PRAYED. Isn't this nice? Jesus has prayed for him.

## Jesus prays for Peter

That thy faith fail not. And Jesus says to him when you are converted – he hadn't been converted yet! Are you seeing this? Peter had been with Jesus all those years but as yet he was still unconverted! We know now that Peter was converted on the day of Pentecost when he received the Holy Ghost – the much - awaited promise of the Father.

John Chapter 17

These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee.

For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received [them], and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee.

Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we [are]. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

John Chapter 17

I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, [art] in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare [it]: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

I think there's another important distinction to make here. We see all these accusations.... Why does this happen? Why does that happen? Why does God allow this, that and the other thing? Jesus prayed for his disciples – for his children and not for the world!

The God of the Old Testament looked after Israel. There were a few circumstances where other peoples saw what God was doing for Israel and believed God as a consequence and God looked after them too.

## **I pray not for the world**

However chiefly he was a family man – God. He looked after those who are his and in the New Testament everyone has the opportunity to be adopted into the family of God and become the sons and daughters of the living God. But he has no responsibility for the world at large, he looks after his family.

So if people want to be looked after and protected by God they need to join his family. Jesus made the point – I pray for them. Isn't that nice to know that he is praying for his disciples... I PRAY NOT for the world.

Really think about this prayer for a moment.

Try to take it in... Jesus is saying he's going now, he's moving on, he's going back to be with the Father. But his disciples are still stuck in the world and he's praying for them, Lord look after them like you've looked after me.

May we all be one as God and Jesus is one. He's putting this prayer to the Father. He's just not saying a prayer here for no reason, he's actually speaking these words and praying so that those who hear the word (such as his disciples who were there at the time and now us who are reading it in the Bible) can appreciate and understand what it's all about.

He prayed for us not to be taken out of the world but protected from it. He doesn't want us to go and shut ourselves off from the world, he doesn't want us to go and join some monastery or some community that isolates us from the world. We've still got to be a part of the world, but he's praying that we be kept from evil.

Sanctify them in your truth – THY WORD IS TRUTH.

Now if we want to be sanctified, it's got to be through the truth and God's word is the truth.

Neither do I pray for these alone but for them who also believe in me through their word... Isn't it nice to know that Jesus prayed for us also?

Not only us but also everyone who believes through the word of his disciples. We're lucky we have the words written down for us in the New Testament, the word has spread throughout the centuries, via brave men and women who even lost their lives so that we can have the word of God in our lives now in these last days.

The Lord's praying for EVERYONE in HIS family.

Now listen to this part of the prayer of Jesus Christ...

## **The Lord wants us to be where he is**

I will that they also whom thou hath given me be WITH ME where I am, that they may behold my glory... That the love that thou hath loved me may be IN THEM and I in them.

The Lord wants us to be where he is. We read in the Scriptures that the Lord is sitting in heavenly places, we can be sitting in heavenly places in Christ Jesus we read in the book of Ephesians.

He wants us to be where he is... He has gone to prepare a place for us. Many mansions we read about.

The Lord wants us to be with him... Not just physically but spiritually. Where are we at? Are we with him?

Are we praying like he did?

Are we preaching the word like he did?

Are we where he is or have we gone astray?

There are other instances of prayer in the Scriptures where Jesus went apart to pray. One of the instances was just after he was baptized it says when he was praying the heavens opened and the Spirit descended like a dove. When he was praying!

Sometimes we miss those little bits – we remember the Spirit descending but forget it was when he was praying.

Another was when he took John and Peter and he was praying on the mountain and they witnessed the transfiguration, where his appearance changed. An amazing miracle took place AGAIN while he was praying.

Big things can happen through prayer. Have this thought family implanted into your mind – the realization of the POWER of prayer and what it can bring to pass.

Be confident in prayer.

A simple little testimony of prayer in just our daily lives was when my wife and I moved into our new house and living next door were some drug dealers who had people constantly coming and going, were having wild parties, much swearing and fighting.

The fellow who lived on the other side of them was pulling his hair out wondering what we could do and I just said it's right mate I've prayed to the Lord that they move.

## Be confident in pray

You have to have this confidence when you pray – this expectation. Things happen – and of course these people did move.

So let's read on...

Now it's quite amazing as I said earlier that sometimes the Lord moved on and sometimes he stuck around to feed people. As we read earlier people were after him and he moved on and left them alone and went to another town. The second Scripture we read he fed 5000 people with the loaves and fishes.

There's a time to give and there's a time to let people stand on their own two feet. There's a time when God answers prayer and there's a time when he wants us, like children, to learn how to walk, to learn how to eat, to learn how to have faith.

We have got to make sure we're not like the well meaning brother or sister at home when the toddler gets up to walk and the older sibling rushes over and grabs hold of the toddler wanting to help. Sometimes we need to have a few tumbles first to learn to concentrate, to learn that the floor hurts. There are lessons in life that we all need to learn but there's also the giving there when it's necessary.

Luke 22: 33

And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death. And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.

Beware he who thinks he stands lest he fall... This is very pertinent to us all. Sometimes we think we're going better than we really are. Here's Peter... he thought he was going better than he really was. He would have really thought he would have followed the Lord even unto death however he denied the Lord.

Remember Satan desired to sift Peter like wheat. Peter would have been a goner if it wasn't for Jesus praying for him. Now we've already seen how Jesus prayed for us as well. He doesn't want Satan to get us either. Again the importance of our prayer life and in particular praying for each other.

Praying for our brothers and sisters and not just for our own selfish needs and wants.

When you think about what Jesus had to do, what he had to face – he knew he came to die, he knew he came to take on the sins of the world. He knew that this was the plan and his mission and he told his disciples what was going to happen and they didn't comprehend his words until after the events took place.

## **Prayer gives you the strength to perform**

However despite all this and his pre-eminence, despite him being with God in all his glory before all this took place, despite knowing full well he'd be risen from the dead and still have that glory again. He could not face these things without PRAYER.

It was PRAYER that gave him the strength to perform his duty in the Lord. It's exactly the same for you and I – we are going to be found wanting – unless we are committing ourselves to the Lord in prayer.

Matthew 26:36-37

Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy.

I suppose we should set the background scene a bit. They'd been busy... they all had extremely busy days leading up to this. They had just shared the last supper and we read this scripture and think to ourselves why couldn't they watch with the Lord instead of falling to sleep.

They would have been dead tired. I'm sure we've all been there and know what it's like when you are absolutely dead tired. So when you're that tired it is extremely difficult to stay awake, especially when you sit down. While you're walking about it's okay but as soon as you sit down you're gone.

Well here Jesus disciples would have been feeling like that. They've had such a busy time of it and they would have found it so hard to stay awake.

Matthew 26:38

Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

Now this is such a terrible time and here is Jesus confiding this information. Look my soul is sorrowful I'm close to death.

## Watch and pray

Matthew 26:39

And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou [wilt]. And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh [is] weak.

And this is a **BIG** scripture for you and I to take home today. **WATCH** and **PRAY**, that ye enter not into temptation. You can turn that around and say if you're not watching and your not praying you will fall, you will suffer, you will do it tough because of temptation.

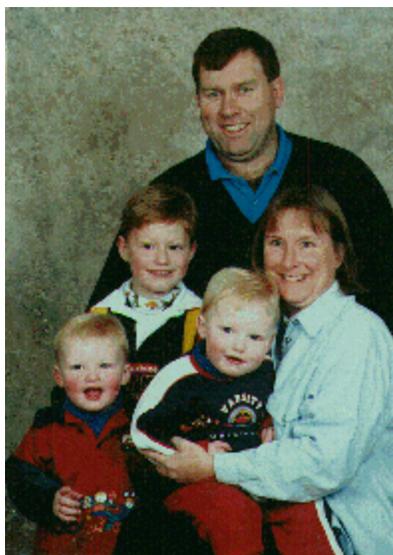
Temptations are going to come upon you that you can't handle. **WATCH** and **PRAY** so that you don't enter into the temptation. Temptation is going to come, and if you're watching and you're praying you will be able to overcome things, you're going to be able to conquer things.

But if you're not praying you are in danger of entering into the temptation. We want to avoid these things don't we? Then be praying.

I know in my life and I know in everyone else's life that when we are not praying difficulties become too hard to handle. Learn from experience.

Don't neglect your prayer life!

## **Our Lord Jesus Christ Is The Same Yesterday, Today & Forever And In These Modern Times Miracles Still Happen...**



A special thanks to Our Lord Jesus Christ for his powerful healing hand which enabled us to have children and to my church [The Revival Fellowship](#) for all their prayers and support...

Let me explain...

My name is Allan Wilson and in December 1986 I became a born again Christian, I was [baptized](#) by full immersion and received God's [Holy Spirit](#) with the Bible evidence of [speaking in tongues](#)...

I once was a compulsive gambler, however through the power of Jesus Christ my life changed dramatically, with gambling, smoking cigarettes, drinking alcohol and swearing all ceasing within the first few weeks of my conversion...

In 1990 my wife Michele was also born again.

After 10 years of marriage we seemed never likely to be able to have children, however through the loving prayers of our brothers and sisters in the Lord we were blessed with our first born son Samuel in 1995...

It was then the doctor discovered she had very advanced endometriosis (a condition which can cause infertility and miscarriages), despite this medical condition the Lord was doubly gracious, with Michele giving birth to twins Benjamin and Nathan in 1998... To learn more about our fellowship click [here](#)

