

is designated. Keep believing. Stand fast. And one day, at the perfect time...and God remembered...you.

Jeremiah 31:27-34; Ephesians 5:1-20; Matthew 9:9-17

Saturday, May 10

Pray for your pastors' purity.

Pure motives.

Pure thought-life and faithfulness to their spouses.

Birthdays

Tarin Williams and Michael Ramirez

Psalm 108 *Through and with God we shall do valiantly, for He it is Who shall tread down our adversaries.* (v.13)

Once I announced at a healing service that I wasn't going to allow cancer to come back. Can you believe the audacity? Somebody should have handed me one of those bumper stickers that says, "If God is your co-pilot, switch places." He is the Redeemer. I am the redeemed. He is the Creator. I am the created. He is the Savior. I am the saved. He is the Healer. I am the healed. The reading from Ephesians says that in the face of battle, we are to do three things: put on God's complete armor, stand firm, and pray constantly. He will do the rest. The battle is the Lord's. On the surface, this seems difficult. I like to be pro-active. I am independent, stubborn, and strong-willed. I like to do thing myself—my way. But as I come before Him, this truth becomes crystal clear. He is the Lord who is able to do more than I can ask or imagine. I am the recipient of His grace. Our Lord is a warrior (Exodus 15:3). So, I follow His instructions. I'm dressed. I'm praying. I'm digging in my heels. Thank you Lord.

Ezekiel 36:22-27; Psalm 107:33-43; Ephesians 6:10-24; Matthew 9:18-26

by Amanda Brown

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P. O. Box 380, Winter Park, FL 32790

Good News Daily

May 5–10, 2008

Monday, May 5

Pray for your pastors' families.

God's peace and protection.

A growing love relationship with their spouses.

A commitment to quality and quantity time together.

Birthdays

Catherine Hervey, Molly Miller, Justin Garcia

Matthew 8:5-17 *And Jesus said to him, I will come and restore him.* (v.7)

Boy I'm busy! What about you? Is it hard to drop everything at a moment's notice? You'll notice I'm not answering the question. Yet, I have been blessed because someone else dropped everything for me. Friends have traveled to other states and cities to visit me in the hospital. I've been encouraged through cards, letters, and phone calls from people who stopped what they were doing. And recently, a dear brother in Christ, a busy business owner, took time to bake cookies to help me gain weight after surgery. Our Lord Jesus never told anyone, "I'm too busy." There has never been anyone who walked on this earth who had a more important mission. He is the Lord who came down from heaven and gave life to the world. He had a lot to accomplish, but He always took time to help, to heal, to touch, and to talk.

Thank you, Lord, for Jesus. Thank you, Lord, for people who follow His example and make themselves available. Please help me to be one of those people.

Joshua 1:1-9; Psalm 89:1-18; Ephesians 3:1-13

Tuesday, May 6

Pray for wisdom for your pastors.

The mind of Christ.

Godly decision-making.

Understanding of biblical truth.

Ephesians 3:14-21 *May Christ through your faith [actually] dwell (settle down, abide, make His permanent home) in your hearts! May you be rooted deep in love and founded securely on love.* (v.17)

Several years ago, I started asking the Holy Spirit to guide me to specific scriptures to pray over loved ones. Why, you ask? First is

Hebrews 4:12, “For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power...” Second is Jeremiah 12:1, “...I am alert and active, watching over My Word to perform it.” How’s that for powerful truth? His Word is personal. He wrote it just for you, so take it and personalize it. These verses from Ephesians are things I want for my children. I’ll start—open your Bible and finish, adding the names of your loved ones.

Father God, I lift Miles and Kyle to you. Please grant to them, out of Your rich treasury of Glory, to be strong and reinforced by the Holy Spirit in their inner man. Oh Lord Jesus, please make a permanent home in their hearts. Root them deeply and securely in your love...

1 Samuel 16:1-13a; Psalms 97, 99, 100; Matthew 8:18-27

Wednesday, May 7

Pray for your pastors’ ministry focus.

Clear vision.

Commitment to biblical priorities.

Remain true to their God-given gifts and strengths.

Psalm 109 *...my body is gaunt and has no fatness.* (v.24b)

Last month I spent almost 3 of the 4 weeks in the hospital. For most of the time, I was classified as a “nothing by mouth” patient. No food. No drink. So, the above verse perfectly described me at discharge. Two days after leaving the hospital, I ran into an acquaintance. I don’t even remember what he said, because I was so offended by his eyes. They were full of pity. Here I was too weak to stand, too exhausted to laugh, and too drained to talk, but I had no problem mustering up some pride. Yes, that’s what it was. Then pride turned to anger. I was angry with someone who was concerned about me. Ephesians 4 tells us to live with humility, meekness, patience, to bear with one another, and to make allowances for each other. That man didn’t reflect a knowledge of Christ’s healing works in today’s world. And because of pride, I walked away from him without sharing that good news. Please forgive me Lord.

Isaiah 4:2-6; Psalm 101; Ephesians 4:1-16; Matthew 8:28-34

Thursday, May 8

Pray for your pastors’ health.

Protection of their body and mind.

An extra portion of stamina and strength.

Commitment to stress-releasing activity.

Birthday

Christopher Clark

Ephesians 4:17-32 *But you did not so learn Christ!* (v.20)

As the redeemed of Christ, we do not live under condemnation. But sometimes a wrong choice forever affects the way we live. Many years ago, while recovering from surgery and facing more dire projections from doctors, a friend asked me to call a young woman. Like me, this woman was battling cancer. Like me, she had young children. At the moment, she was at home receiving hospice care and writing letters to her children that they could open at the big occasions of their lives—birthdays, graduations and weddings. Fear paralyzed me. I was face to face with my greatest fear. The similarities between us were too great and I allowed fear to win. I didn’t call. Later, an e-mail informed me she had died. I sat at my computer and sobbed. I wept for her, for her family, for her children, and for me—for my hard heart. *I did not so learn Christ!* I still make plenty of wrong choices, but I won’t make this one again.

Zechariah 4:1-14; Psalm 105:1-22; Matthew 9:1-8

Friday, May 9

Pray for your pastors’ spiritual growth.

A heart for God and the lost.

Fresh biblical insights.

Personal devotions not related to sermon preparations

Birthdays

Jennifer George, Lenn Lewis, Kelly Quebe

Psalm 102 *You will arise and have mercy and loving-kindness for Zion, for it is time to have pity and compassion for her; yes, the set time has come [the moment designated].* (v.13)

While I was preparing for a recent surgery, my mother shared with me that early one morning the Lord spoke into her spirit, “And God remembered Amanda.” If it sounds familiar, it’s because that phrase is used in Genesis—“And God [earnestly] remembered Noah” (8:1) and “Then God remembered Rachel” (30:22). It doesn’t mean that He had forgotten them. It means that He was about to do something in their lives—something powerful, wonderful and miraculous. The Sovereign Lord declared that it was the perfect time. Are you waiting? Like me, have you been waiting a long time? Are you discouraged? Are you starting to doubt the promises of God? Hold on. Your day of deliverance, your day of healing, your day of victory has a set time. The promises of God are not hoaxes or pipe dreams. They are promises from a covenant-keeping God, a God of truth, and a faithful God. Don’t give up. Your day is set. Your moment