



# Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ  
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February 21, 2010

## EFFECTIVE PRAYING

Merrell Shoptaw's Devotion  
Wednesday, January 27, 2010  
Dover Church of Christ

**Praying is our privilege that is granted by God . . . Do we take advantage of this?**

James 5:16

Luke 11:9-10 is a passage that we don't get around very well. Does God really give me everything I ask for? Why not?

What about the parable of the persistent widow in Luke 18? Will God give in to our demands if we are persistent enough?

Is the way to get what I want from God through wearing Him down, or getting as many people as possible to ask God for it? What kinds of prayer *really* move the heart and hand of God?

### Secret-Formula Prayer vs. Seeking Prayer:

As parents we don't want our kids to get everything they want by constantly begging us for it, or having everyone in the family gang up on us for it. What we would like is to be able to truly communicate with them about what they need. God is the same way!

We want to be able to have a conversation with our kids . . . and God does too! Prayer should be about a Father-Son connection.

There's so much to want – healed bodies, restored relationships, changed circumstances. But asking, seeking and knocking aren't secret formulas for getting what we want *from* God; they're ways to get more *of* God.

If you truly want to move God's heart, put aside secret-formula prayer and instead

begin to practice prayer that seeks the Giver more than the gifts.

### Superficial Prayer vs. Significant Prayer:

Sometimes I catch myself "chatting" with God, limiting my prayers to superficial things and surface issues, never getting to the heart of the matter. And I've noticed that when others offer prayer requests, they're rarely about spiritual needs. We ask God to heal physical ailments, provide safe travel, and to "be with us."

When our prayers move from the superficial to the significant, we invite God to do no less than a deep, transforming, igniting work in our life and in the lives of those for whom we are praying.

### Showy Prayer vs. Secret Prayer:

If we're not careful, we can make prayer all about impressing others with our pseudo-spirituality. That's "showy prayer" - prayer that's more for other's ears than for God's.

Jesus warned against this: "*When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the doors and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*" (Matthew 6:5-6)

Showy prayer uses put-on voices, lofty words and spiritual-sounding phrases; simple prayer is authentic and humble.

Secret prayer is going to a secret place, shutting the door and communing with

God. It's in that secret place with Him we find our most blessed reward – not impressing others, but cultivating true intimacy with him.

### Insistent Prayer vs. Submissive Prayer:

Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane is the best example in the Bible.

Hebrews 5:7-8, "*. . . during the days of Jesus' life on earth, He offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the One who could save Him from death, and he was heard because of His reverent submission. Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from what He suffered.*"

We know what it's like to offer prayers with loud cries and tears, to come before God with a broken heart and a desperate need.

We can learn what it is to pray to a God who has the power to make something another way . . . but chooses not to.

Submissive prayer is prayer that welcomes God to work in and through our suffering rather than begs Him to take it away. It's thanking God for what He gives us rather than resenting Him for what we lose.

Too often I still find myself merely going through the motions of prayer, but I want to pray in a way that's authentic, sincere and effective.

Our heavenly Father's no different. He has no need for a show or secret formulas, and He's not interested in keeping things superficial. He loves it when we come to Him – and He simply wants to talk with us.

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## Lines for Ladies

*By Pat McAlister*

Life is a trial, mile by mile  
Life is hard, yard by yard  
But it's a cinch, inch by inch.

When we are suffering, this is good advice. The best advice you can get from anyone, is to take one day at a time. Maybe it should be day by day, inch by inch. Life is a trial and life is hard. We can only overcome these trials with the help of our family, friends, and most of all, God. At the onset, we may think we can never overcome this difficult trial that life has thrown our way. Life looks very dark and dreary beyond the window. How can we ever get beyond this?

***“For the Lord does not abandon anyone forever. Though He brings grief, He also shows compassion according to the greatness of His unfailing love. For He does not enjoy hurting people or causing them sorrow.”*** (Lamentations 3:31-33) Are you familiar with these verses? Lamentations is not one of the most read books. Most of us would admit that our greatest trials have been the most rewarding as far as growth.

### The Unknown Future

Life is a book in volumes three –  
The past, the present, and the yet-to-be.  
The past is written and laid away,  
The present we're writing every day,  
And the last and best of volumes three  
Is locked from sight – God keeps the key.

*Author Unknown*

God holds the key to our future, here, and to the hereafter. What we make of this life and how we handle it, is our choice. He has made a way for us, through our obedience to His will, and He is there for us if we let Him. He may give us grief, but He also gives us compassion. He is a loving God. He does not enjoy our sorrow.

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## Remember Our Sick

**Alec Barkley** – tests found hole in lining of heart, will keep a check on this.

**Rachel Hale** – returning to U.S., needs our prayers.

**Karen Jones** – Diane Shinn's sister, facing possible colon cancer surgery.

**Bob Lee** – in VA Hosp., LR, diabetic problems.

**Janette Litch** – battling cancer.

**Beverly Myers** – eye problems, good report, follow-up in one month.

**Margaret (Marty) Robbins** – cancer, Chemo treatments.

### Shut-ins – need prayers and visits:

**Dover Area:** Evelyn Burton

### **Russellville Nursing & Rehab Center:**

Joyce Austin  
Helen Brown  
Alma Burris  
Lorene McNutt

**Stella Manor:** Louise Killer  
Janice Brashear

### Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Yvonne Adkisson, Amie Barkley, Iris Bates, Bob/Carolyn Bennett, Susie Boley, Troy/Rachel Curtis, Jeff Davis, Melvin Davis, Pauline Dale, Barbara Dawson, David/Mary Franke, Larry/Rhonda Freeman, Carol Graham, Sue Griffin, Joe Kline, Rose Lee, Mario Litch, Daniel Loper, Cindy Martin, Linda Melton, Julie Moss, Jeff Myers, Don/BJ Sheeran, Christine Sheeran, Gary/Dorene Shinn, Reedie Smith, Tanya Smith, Juanita Townsend, Judy Will and W. T. Williams.

**Special Children:** Zeke Church, Garrett Hogan, Tiffany Knight, Elysia Lee, Keith Martin, Zachary Shelton and Noah Williams.

**Expectant Mothers:** Kelley Chance, Andrea Henson.

**Our Military:** prayers for D. J. Bandy, Jr., Travis Coe, Byron Lee, April Morgan, Billy Joe Ralston and others serving our nation.

## The Frogs

A man came into town and asked the owner of a restaurant if he could use a million frog legs.

The restaurant owner was shocked and asked the man where he could get so many frog legs!

The man replied, “There is a pond near my house that is full of frogs – millions of them. They all croak all night long and they are about to make me crazy!”

So the restaurant owner and the gentlemen made an agreement that the man would deliver frogs to the restaurant, five hundred at a time for the next several weeks.

The first week, the man returned to the restaurant looking rather sheepish, with two scrawny little frogs.

The restaurant owner said, “Well . . . where are all the frogs?”

The man replied, “I was mistaken. There were only these two frogs in the pond. But they sure were making a lot of noise!”

Next time you hear somebody criticizing or making fun of you, remember, it's probably just a couple of noisy frogs. Also remember that problems always seem bigger in the dark.

Have you ever laid in your bed at night worrying about things which seem almost overwhelming like a million frogs croaking? Chances are pretty good that when the morning comes, and you take a closer look, you'll wonder what all the worry was about.

*Author Unknown  
Home Touch*

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***“Bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you.”*** (Matthew 5:44)

## Events

### Dover Church of Christ Children's Church

Every Sunday  
11:15 - 12:00 Noon  
Ages 4 thru 8  
Bible Story and  
Activities  
Ages 1 thru 3  
Nursery Class

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### Leaders & Leaderettes

Will Meet Every Sunday, 4PM,  
Dover Church of Christ  
Song Leading, Bible Bowl  
Practice & Bible Reading.

### CHRISTEENS

February 26th – 28<sup>th</sup>  
West Side Church of Christ

### Dover Ladies Night

February 18th,  
Thursday, 7 PM  
Hostess:  
Pat McAlister

### Young Adult Get Together

February 27th, 4 PM  
Eugene/Loredana Qualls  
Italian Potluck

## Mark Your Calendars

### 2010 Lads to Leaders & Leaderettes Convention

April 2nd Thru 4th  
Theme:  
"FAITH is the VICTORY"  
BIBLE BOWL: Hebrews  
PEARLS: Standing on the  
Promises

### DOVER LADIES' DAY!!!

Saturday, April 24th  
(Now's the time to get this  
on your calendar.)  
More information to  
follow.

In May The Dover Church of  
Christ will recognize our 2010  
Graduates; this is our list so far:

### Dover High School

Blake Forehand  
Josh Pennington  
Drew Walters  
Atkins  
Shelby Statler  
Hector  
Lane Smith  
College  
Chris Ramirez  
Bobbie Robbins  
Tristan Stamps  
Michael Williams

If there are others *Please* let  
Shirley Chadwick know.

## February Birthdays

- 03 Mildred Turner  
Jon David Vance
- 08 Mary McAlister
- 09 Juanita Whitted
- 11 Keri Letson  
Kristen Nordin
- 12 Tommy Oakes
- 15 Zachary Shelton
- 16 Rachel Curtis
- 19 Carolyn Bennett
- 20 Kaci Statler
- 22 Eugene Davis
- 23 Pat McAlister  
Linda Phillips
- 24 Earl Kennedy
- 25 Bobbie Robbins
- 27 Caleb Chance
- 28 Theresa Motley

If we missed your birth-  
day, *Please* let us know  
so it won't happen again.

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### "In Search of the Lord's Way"

The Search Program  
can now be accessed  
any time on website  
[www.searchtv.org](http://www.searchtv.org)  
Mack Lyon or  
Phil Sanders  
Weekly Lesson can  
be heard and seen on  
KARK, Channel 4  
Sunday, 7:30 AM

# THOSE TO SERVE

February 21, 2010

## Sunday A.M.

**Announcer:** Randall Walters  
**Song Leader:** Merrell Shoptaw

### Prayers

Marion Helton  
Michael Robbins

### Communion

**Podium:** Donny Forehand  
**Serve:** Rick Hollis  
Sid Womack  
Steve Pennington  
William Boley

### Scripture Reading

Alan Boatright

## Sunday P.M. Prayers

Merrell Shoptaw  
Lee Henson

# SPEAKER

**Sunday A.M.**  
Micah Williams

**Sunday P.M.**  
Micah Williams

## Prepare Table for Communion

Alan and Sandra Boatright

## Communion to Shut-Ins

Jim Killer

## Greeters

Allen & Marilyn Veasman

## Wednesday Night Devotional February 24, 2010

Tommy Oakes

## Meeting Times

### Sunday Morning Bible Classes

9:45 A.M.

### Sunday Morning Worship

10:45 A.M.

### Sunday Evening Worship

6:00 P.M.

### Ladies Tuesday Bible Class

10:00 A.M.

### Wednesday Bible Classes

6:30 P.M.

### Minister: Micah Williams

Church Office: 479-331-3428

Or Cell: 479-264-9244

### Elders:

William Boley 858-7131  
Jim Killer 331-2802  
Allen Veasman 331-2156  
Sid Womack 967-2367

### Deacons:

Chris Besterfeldt  
Donny Forehand  
Brent Hottinger  
Chris Loper  
Rex McDaniel  
Chris Moss

### Nursery Attendants:

**Sunday Class:** Charlene Clark  
**Sunday Church:** Pat McAlister  
Kaeli Miller

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Dover Church of Christ  
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