

### ***The Serenity Prayer***

**God, grant me the serenity to  
Accept the things I cannot change,  
the courage to change the things I can,  
and the wisdom to know the difference.**

**Thank you again...Alexis Brown!  
Speaker for Today**

### **September Birthdays**

6 Melinda McCollum 11 Marie Burruss 15 Marcos Perales  
16 Jim Burruss 30 Kurt Hoffman

#### **Regular Meeting Times**

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.  
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.  
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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# ***Indio Informer***

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***“Trust in the Lord with all  
your heart and do not lean on  
your own understanding.”***

Proverb 3:5

- ***“Fight the good fight”***
- ***“Keep the faith”***
- ***“Finish the course”***

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### **God Can Cause Change to Come**

By Bill Brandstatter

Sometimes it seems as those things are rather chaotic in this world. In the days of a Babylonian king, Daniel wrote, *“The Most-High rules in the kingdom of men.”* (Daniel 4:17) God rules in a spiritual way and with spiritual laws. His kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36). If people will obey God and live faithfully for Him, change will come to our nation and the world.

In 2 Chronicles 7:14, we read, *“If my people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”* (NKJV)

The first part of this scripture refers to God’s people. God’s people today are Christians. God’s people once was the nation of Israel (Deuteronomy 26:18). Now God’s people are Christians (1 Peter 2:9).

Next, we must humble ourselves. Too many today are proud and puffed up. Too many times, we look for man for all the answers of life. God can do things no one else can. James states, *“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”* (James 4:6) That is why we should pray and seek His face. Prayer accomplishes a great deal. (James 5:16)

Then, we need to turn from wicked ways and be forgiven of our sins. All men everywhere are commanded to repent according to Acts 17:30. Forgiveness comes through the blood of Christ (Matthew 26:28). We get into His blood by being baptized (Matthew 26:28; Acts 2:38). Once a person does this, God promises *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* (1 John 1:9)

If we are Christians, we have the assurance that God hears our prayers (1 John 5:14). Let us be intercessors for our government and all men (1 Timothy 2:1-4). The world needs saving. Let us be God’s instruments in helping to do that. God is still in charge. He is the final judge. We are His people and ones who should carry the gospel message to the world. (Acts 8:4) The gospel is powerful, and it can save (Romans 1:16). Let us be ones spreading the gospel message. God will provide the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6).

### Let Us Pray

By Edd Sterchi

Oftentimes a prayer will begin this way: “Let us pray...” Since Paul was one who imitated Christ in his life (cf. 1 Cor. 11:1), maybe we should alter the phrase to, “Let us pray like Paul did.” How did Paul pray? There is a good example of how he prayed in 2 Corinthians 12:8 where he himself prayed pertaining to an affliction, *“Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.”* To pray like Paul did we must pray...

**...specifically.** Paul prayed “concerning” that particular infirmity (i.e. the thorn in his flesh, 2 Corinthians 12:7). We would do well in our personal prayers to be very personal. We should pray concerning specific matters in our life. Our personal prayers are just between us and God. That is why we are to go to a very private place when we pray (cf. Matthew 6:6). Personal prayers are not the time to generalize.

**...entreatingly.** Paul *“pleaded with the Lord.”* It is important that we pour out our hearts and emotions before

the Lord. With our innermost feelings we should let our *“requests be made known to God”* (Philippians 4:6).

**...repeatedly.** Paul prayed *“three times.”* Too many times, we pray for something once (if even that) and let it go. Pray about it over and over again. We need to remember that Jesus Himself taught the importance of persistence in prayer (cf. Luke 18:1-8). Indeed, let us *“pray without ceasing”* (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

**...purposefully.** Paul prayed concerning this burden *“that it might depart.”* We should also pray with great purpose and intent – with much resolve and determination. We should always *“continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it”* (Colossians 4:2).

Paul’s prayer was answered, albeit not the way he initially desired. But his prayer was heard and answered with what was best for him. Let us all take a lesson from this great man of prayer and resolve to improve our own prayer lives. Now, “Let us pray...”

### Psalm 23

*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He makes me to lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside the still waters.  
He restores my soul;  
He leads me in the paths of righteousness  
for His name’s sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the  
shadow of death, I will fear no evil,  
for You are with me;  
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me in  
the presence of my enemies;  
You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow  
me all the days of my life; and I will dwell  
in the house of the LORD forever.*