



2020 3Q Making Friends for God: Lesson 4 Prayer Power: Interceding for Others

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

I received this email this week:

Greetings, I am a high school teacher and also an elder in our church. Your teachings have greatly enriched my Christian experience. I try to give tidbits of the teachings to my students and also include them in the weekly sabbath sch lesson slides I prepare every week. Fellow leaders are so unwilling to read but the church members read and instantly accept the teachings and desire more. Thank you so much and may God promote this ministry especially for such a time as now. I will carry it forward in my small corner of the world.

*Tom Ondiek
Nairobi-Kenya.*

SABBATH

Read memory text: “Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” NKJV

Why does the Bible tell us to confess our sins one to another?

What happens inside the heart and mind of a person when they commit sin?

They experience guilt and shame, which leads to what internal response? Self-condemnation, fear of rejection, fear of not being good enough, fear that no one will accept them or love them if they knew their sin—which leads to what?

Either—living a lie, wearing a “mask,” keeping people at a distance, but always in fear, which leads to religiosity and much legal-behavioral religious works to deal with one’s unresolved guilt and shame; OR—it leads to rejection of God, hardening the heart, justifying the sin and continuing in the sin.

So, what is the solution to resolving the guilt and shame of sin? God’s grace—experiencing grace, truth, and love. And such grace that heals is given and experienced without earning it, without works, without ritual—in other words the grace that heals is to be experienced before a person joins a denomination, quits their Sabbath job, changes their diet, gets baptized etc.

If you haven’t read Curt Thompson’s book *Soul of Shame*, I recommend it. Curt is a Christian psychiatrist and a friend. He and I have taught a course together several times for the AACC. He has



some very good Biblical insights into the destructiveness of shame, how Satan uses shame to trap people and God's truths to heal and free from shame.

When Adam sinned how did God approach him? It was grace, "Adam who told you that you were naked? It wasn't me Adam. I am not condemning you, that is your own conscience, that is what sin does."

When we confess to another godly person, our fear of rejection, our fear of condemnation, of being shunned, abandoned, of not being loved is shattered when we experience that we are loved and valued and accepted despite our sin and that there is a God who has provided a healing remedy to transform us and heal the brokenness within us.

This is why we confess one to another—but this only happens when people love each other and understand the truth about sin and salvation; that sin is a condition of being out of harmony with God's design rooted in fear and selfishness, that it is about character, hearts, minds, not behaviors; that the behaviors are the symptoms of the sin-sickness into which we were all born. And the solution is not penal legal focusing on behavior, but healing the heart from fear and selfishness.

If we have a penal/legal approach it perpetuates the mask wearing and living lies because if we confess we are likely to experience punishment from the group, denomination, that we are members in, removal from office, gossip through the church etc.

I have seen this happen, a person confesses his sin and the legal church authority tells them that because they have repented and confessed, that they can still be a member of the church, but that they are now disqualified to preach, lead the music team, be head elder, or host their TV program.

This is why 12-step programs are historically much better at helping addicts overcome than regular church attendance.

I wonder what the legal church authorities would have done with a leader who confessed to:

- Murder—remember Moses
- Seducing a subordinate's wife and then murdering the subordinate--David
- A conman, liar, thief and polygamist—Jacob
- Building shrines to pagan gods and sacrificed his own son—Solomon

How is it that God can use people who do such things?

Because man looks on the outward appearance but God looks on the heart. God knows that all these behaviors that these people had were symptoms of hearts infected with fear and selfishness, which is a condition of being that God can cure, if the person trusts Him. Thus, God knows the deeds are merely the symptoms of the condition that needs curing and not legal matters that need punishing. So, when these individuals kept their hearts open to God, God knew the case was not lost and He could not only heal them, but use them in His cause.



Read second and third paragraphs, “There is a direct relationship...” First, I want to emphasize that when we pray for others God works in our hearts to draw us closer to Him. This is part of the law of worship, the law of exertion—we become like the One we worship, admire, focus upon, think about—thus we fix our eyes on Christ. When we spend time in prayer we are positively changed by that experience.

Now effective prayer is humble submissive prayer, praying to God as our Supreme Creator—not as a candy dispenser. If we pray to God mechanistically, reciting memorized prayers it doesn’t have the positive transforming effects upon us. If we claim Bible promises like they somehow bind God to fulfill our will, then we are not transformed, we actually treat God like occultists treat demonic spirits, citing incantations to bind the spirits to their will.

- Spontaneous prayer results in activation of same brain regions as when talking to another person (theory of mind), regions associated with anticipation, consideration of another’s response, attitudes, feelings, reaction (right & left cortex)
- When reciting memorized prayers or repetitive mantras the same brain regions activate as when reciting nursery rhymes – regions of recall, rote learning and repetition – but not higher cortical function – no prefrontal cortex
- When making a list for Santa the Prefrontal cortex does not activate as in spontaneous prayer—thus our belief about the experience impacts the brain response. This is important because many atheists like to make fun by making comparisons to praying to God to praying in fairies or pixies. Brain science shows that in fact, it is not the same.
- The brain doesn’t activate in the same way when interacting with computer or inanimate objects—the brain doesn’t expect reciprocity or think about the wants/desires/need of the computer, no empathy, connection, relational interaction. Praying to God then, regularly, would cause one to be more open to self-reflection, how one is living, what principles one is practicing, and thus be more open to grow and mature.

But it does depend upon to which God one prays and for what one prays:

- In the aftermath of 9/11/2001 terrorist attack, University of Michigan scientists evaluated the impact of prayer in coping with trauma and discovered that students who prayed in the aftermath of the trauma had better psychological adjustment 1 year later than those who did not pray.
- But they also evaluated Muslim refugees of Kosovo and Bosnia and found that many of them also prayed to cope with the stress, 60% of whom had PTSD. Interestingly, they found that 77% of them had “negative” forms of prayer, such as praying their enemies “would pay for what they have done.” In other words, prayers of vengeance.
- They found that positive prayers and practices were related to high levels of optimism, hope and healthy adjustment, but justice-seeking and anger-related religious practices that sought vengeance were related to reduced levels of optimism, hope and healthy adjustment. (*Journal of Personality* Volume 73, Issue 3, p 763-792, June 2005)

We are changed by prayer, but it does matter to whom we are praying and for what we are praying.



Our brains are amazing quantum computers. They are composed of 100 billion neurons and more than one trillion supporting cells. Each neuron can have up to 10,000 connections to other neurons. That's over 40 quadrillion interconnections!

These 40 quadrillion interconnections in our brains are comprised primarily of dendrites. Within each neuron, there are 10 million microtubules, and each microtubule is made up of billions of tubulin molecules, which in turn are composed of 445 amino acids, which are made of various atoms, many of which share electrons.

Within these quadrillions of dendrites, with their millions of microtubules made of billions of tubulin molecules, the atoms form shared electron clouds. These clouds exist in positions of uncertainty until you think about something and form a conclusion, a belief, or accept a truth — or a lie. Your act of choosing to believe something will cause the electron clouds, in various places within the dendrites, to collapse. This causes conformation change within the microtubule structure, which solidifies the memory or belief into the brain.

This is the process of choosing, when we choose to believe something it changes us, whether it is true or false, the choice to believe it changes the conformation of our dendritic electron clouds. This is why we can have a change of heart, or change of insight, or conviction of certainty very quickly when a belief changes—but the brain hasn't had time to build a new neural pathway or connection. The pathways and connections the brain builds hardwires in learned information and behaviors that can become rote or habitual, but this is different than forming conclusions and beliefs and memories.

Your beliefs and memories are stored within the brain tubulin structure until something happens that causes you to reexamine or reevaluate the belief or memory and come to a different conclusion. This is how beliefs are stored and mindsets are established. This is why the Bible tells us to rejoice in trials because they build character. Difficulties in life will cause us to re-examine our beliefs and the electron clouds reenter a position of uncertainty and we can change our beliefs and when we choose a new belief they collapse in new patterns corresponding to the new belief.

This gives insight into the law of worship, which says that by beholding, we become changed. In psychiatry, this is known as “modeling.” We neurobiologically and characterologically change to become like what we admire, worship, think about, choose, and act on. Our beliefs initially collapse the electron clouds storing those beliefs, and then as we act on those beliefs, think through and reaffirm those beliefs, recite them and live them the brain creates pathways wiring in the beliefs to habits of thinking, reacting and processing. Thus, we are changed and transformed by what we think, value, worship, watch, believe and engage in.

If we spend time watching vulgar, exploitive, debasing, cruel, selfish, deceitful, or otherwise ungodly material, we will be changed by it. Our quantum matrix will realign, our neural networks will rewire to come more and more into harmony with what is selfish and evil—that is, what is demonic.

This gives greater importance to the biblical exhortation to fix our eyes on Christ (Hebrews 12:2) and to focus upon “whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is



lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things” (Philippians 4:8 NIV84). It gives insight into how the Holy Spirit can indwell a person’s mind to bring healing and restoration.

Truth sets free; truth heals, because truth changes conformation and the configuration of our brains. Truth realigns us with the Source of truth, such that we become more sensitive to the Spirit of truth—and as we choose the truth, focusing upon, meditating, and worshipping the God of truth, we experience the alignment of our minds with the mind of God. We become “indwelled” by the Holy Spirit.

Consider this like your computer being “indwelled” by antivirus software. That software doesn’t overrule your decisions or actions, but rather, in the background, it’s constantly monitoring for malicious code, alerting you to what is harmful, and working with you to remove it. But you remain free to ignore or override the antivirus software. However, if you do, the malicious code may eventually defeat the antivirus software on your device and take control of your computer.

Likewise, when we choose the ways of the world—the vile, vulgar, crude, debasing, selfish, exploitive, and manipulative—we change ourselves. What we choose to watch, esteem, promote, and value changes our brain resonance patterns. When we make coercion, force, and intimidation the principles that we value, we become more aligned with the demonic.

The Holy Spirit alerts us to the wrongfulness, the danger, but we remained free and if our emotions are inflamed we may choose to ignore the Spirit and pursue the course contrary to God’s ways. In that path we move ourselves out of harmony with God, we sear our consciences, warp our characters, harden our hearts. The Spirit continues to alert us, but if we don’t repent and realign with God, over time we become incapable of hearing the Spirit any longer.

The sinful world operates upon imperialism: rules (laws) requiring the infliction of punishment by a ruling authority. When Christians teach others that our Creator God operates like sinful humans do, making up rules that He then enforces by punishing rule-breakers, we reject the truth and choose lies, aligning ourselves with the father of lies.

Satan traps people into becoming like him by getting them to pursue a righteous cause with unrighteous methods, to use the methods of force and coercion to impose their moral standards. Not, mere restraint of people seeking to do evil, but to impose upon people.

Human governments are ordained by God **to restrain evil—they are not capable nor authorized by God to instill or bring about righteousness.**

The imposed law lie, accepted by Christianity—that God’s law works like human law—has resulted in the false penal substitution theology and obstructs the work of the Holy Spirit by establishing lies in the minds of people, preventing the truth from transforming the individual. Further, it sets Christians up to believe that using the state to pass laws to enforce morality, rather than restrain evil, is godly.



But, instead of experiencing greater love and trust, the legal methods cause individuals to experience greater fear of punishment for sin and to create theologies designed to protect them from their punishing god (such as Jesus “pleading His blood” so the Father won’t kill them); such believers in society often seek to take control of governments to enforce their beliefs.

Another trap is the false idea that if one rejects God altogether then one cannot be part of the process of forming the image of the beast in Revelation. Not so, the beastly system of Revelation is the system of coercion, of legal enforcement of moral imperatives. Those who don’t believe in God will always use the methods of the beast because that is the only option left to them. They will seek power to coerce others, because ultimately they are driven by fear and selfishness and not love.

God wants to set us free—free from fear, free from selfishness, free from the methods of this world. He wants to restore in us His character and methods of love. But this is only possible as we are fully persuaded in our own minds (Romans 14:5). We must choose the God of truth and choose His methods, we must reject the lies about Him; in so doing, our quantum matrix is changed and we are transformed into harmony with the God of love and truth.

There is another aspect to the quantum understanding of our being. We not only have the ability to use our physical bodies to impact others, such as a surgeon suturing a wound, or setting a broken bone, or a therapist stretching a limb, or giving a massage etc., but the evidence reveals that we can impact people on the quantum level.

We can directly use our physical ability to impact another person and bring healing. We can do this with or without inviting God into the process. A surgeon who doesn’t believe in God can still reduce a dislocated joint, or sew up a laceration and the wound will heal because the laws of God are in operation whether the surgeon believes in God or not.

This is describing the physics of big things—Newtonian physics.

Isaac Newton’s ideas of the universe, which focus on laws of motion, an object exerts a direct force on another object and so forth.

Newtonian thinking focuses on the physical aspects of reality brain receptors, electrical signals, neurotransmitters, but this is only one part of our amazing universe

Newtonian understandings fail to explain:

- Consciousness
- Freedom of choice
- Flocks of birds and schools of fish turning in unison
- Human intuition
- The sudden awareness of a loved one in danger
- Miraculous healings



But, God is also the God of the infinitely small things, the quantum world and He built us with quantum abilities as well as physical abilities.

In Quantum physics matter is both a particle—being at a specific point in space-time, and also a wave—extending throughout the entire region of space and time

Quantum Understanding has led to ideas such as:

- Entanglement—everything in the universe is connected
- Observer effect and String theory

Observer effect is the effect our observations have on the world around us.

- Matter is both mass and a wave, but also has spin and vibration
- But the matter remains in a state of uncertainty until impacted by the observer, the act of measuring, observing, encountering the object determines the outcome—whether it presents as wave or matter. This is also the process of changing our electron cloud conformation—the process of choosing.
- This provides scientific basis for freedom of choice our choices cause real change in the world around us altering how things turn out

We are not merely programmed or fated to have certain outcomes, our choices really do make a difference.

String theory states that everything in the universe is connected by infinitesimally small strings

This idea teaches that particles separated by physical space are connected by these strings—entangled and can impact each other

Now interestingly, years before physicists discovered Quantum Mechanics and string theory, a 19th Century Sage, named Ellen White, one of the founders of the SDA Church wrote:

It is God's plan that every part of His government shall depend on every other part, the whole as a wheel within a wheel, working with entire harmony. He moves upon human forces, causing **His Spirit to touch invisible chords, and the vibration rings to the extremity of the universe.** (Manuscript 22, 1897. Ev 93.1)

Modern Quantum Mechanics provides a scientific basis for not only freewill choices, but belief in a higher power, who is connected to the entire universe.

This raises serious questions for us today—

- Is the conscious intent of a being able to alter physical matter & impact outcomes?
- Can conscious intention alter gene expression—in oneself and/or in others?
- Can such conscious intent be involved in prayer and healing?



Researchers placed placental DNA in test tubes and instructed participants to generate the emotion of love and goodwill and then focus their intention on causing the DNA to wind tighter or looser

This can be measured by the absorption of UV light, and what did they find?

Focused intention with love and goodwill caused a 25% conformation change in DNA

When the tubes of DNA were in the room with the participants and they generated emotions of love and goodwill but with no focused intention—No DNA change

When focused intention but no emotion of love and goodwill—no DNA change

To get the change it required both the emotion of love and good will and focused intention.

Then to test whether this was a general electromagnetic effect or not, they placed three test tubes side by side and had the participants focus their intent on changing DNA in only two of the tubes but not the third, and that is exactly what happened.

Finally, in five separate experiments, in which the DNA samples were a half mile away from the participants, the same DNA conformation changes occurred when the participants focused their intent with love and good will.

This study would indicate that we can only impact other people or things around us with our prayers **if we have love and good will** along with focused intent. If we have negative emotions, hate, hostility and pray for injury, cast spells, call for harm to a person, this study would indicate that it would have no effect on others—it would change the one praying for the injury through the laws of worship and exertion, but it would not impact the person they are against.

This makes sense if we understand God is love and the quantum linkages are created by and sustained by Him, thus they work upon love, not upon selfishness and hate.

- Elizabeth Targ, MD, PhD conducted a study to measure the impact of remote (long distance, never having met the patient) prayer on terminally ill AIDS patients
- Pts matched regarding CD4 count and severity of illness and randomized into 10 weeks remote healing prayer group or control group
- Faith healers (from multiple traditions) were presented with a patient's photo, name and T-helper cell count
- All patients were blinded to who was being prayed for and who was not
- 6 months later blinded medical review found those who received remote prayer showed:
- Improved mood (p=0.02)
- Significantly less doctor visits (p=0.01)
- Fewer hospitalizations (p=0.04)
- Fewer days in the hospital (p=0.04)
- Fewer AIDS defining illnesses (p=0.04)



- Lower illness severity (p=0.03)
 - (*Western Journal of Medicine* 1998, 169(6), 356)

Our prayers not only invite God and His heavenly agencies to intervene directly into the lives of those we pray for, but if we pray with love, good will and focused intention for their good, our prayers also have a direct effect upon them.

SUNDAY

The lesson focuses upon the cosmic struggle—where is the battle fought between good and evil?

2Cor 10:3-5—for though we live in the world...

The battle is a battle for our hearts and minds—it is not over these mortal bodies.

Our bodies are avenues to impact our minds and hearts—disease, pain, assault, starvation, deprivation, all negative things that impact our bodies impact our brains and minds and are avenues to lead us away from God and incite fear, selfishness, and lies.

God's directions in Scripture, which always lead us to harmonize with His design laws, result in greater physical health, relational health, mental health and all of this has a positive impact on our minds and gives us greater ability to grow in God's truth—but it is not primarily about this mortal body, it is about the mind/heart/individuality/soul/psyche, which God plans to transfer to an immortal body.

This is why Jesus said not to fear the one who can destroy the body but cannot destroy the soul—the individuality.

Read first two paragraphs, “The Bible lifts...” This is well said, God respects our freedom and never uses coercion—why is this true? The law of liberty—what happens to love when a person is coerced.

What does God seek to achieve, what is His goal for us? He wants our love, our trust, our loyalty, our friendship, because He is the source of life and only in harmony with Him can we experience eternal life and true happiness. Can God get this from us by taking away our liberty and threatening to kill us if we don't give it to Him?

Do you see how evil the religions of the world are that teach that God is saying “love me or I will kill you?”

Do you see why human governments, which always use coercion, cannot bring about righteousness?



Do you see the trap that Satan is setting up to get people to seek social justice through the imposition of the state? It will only result in more rebellion, violence and division in society. Imposed law cannot bring about love, trust, unity, it can only restrain evil from acting out.

MONDAY

The lesson focuses on Jesus as a human praying to His Father—why did Jesus have to pray to His Father if Jesus is God?

Because Jesus lived as a human and only used the abilities of a human while He lived here as a human. Thus, He prayed because that is the only way for us humans to have a living connection with God.

What about in heaven today—do we believe Jesus is in heaven today praying to His Father to get His Father to act in our behalf? Or do we see Jesus and the Father working in perfect unity and harmony to achieve the salvation of every human being who is willing to respond—even those who ultimately reject what Jesus, the Father and the Holy Spirit are doing?

Consider this quote from a book entitled *Prophets and Kings*:

In his own strength, man cannot meet the **charges of the enemy**. In sin-stained garments, confessing his guilt, he stands before God. But Jesus, our **Advocate, presents an effectual plea in behalf of all who by repentance and faith have committed the keeping of their souls to Him**. He **pleads** their cause, and by the mighty arguments of Calvary, **vanquishes their accuser**. His perfect obedience to God's law has given Him all power in heaven and in earth, and He claims from His Father mercy and reconciliation for guilty man. **To the accuser of His people He declares: "The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan**. These are the purchase of My blood, brands plucked from the burning." And to those who rely on Him in faith, He gives the assurance, "Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment." Zechariah 3:4. PK 586.2

What do you hear? What law lens do you hear it through? To whom is Jesus pleading?

Is God confused by the arguments of Satan? Does God need Jesus to educate Him and present evidence to God to get God to understand reality and make the right decision?

Who are the beings that have been confused by Satan? When Satan points out our sins who is impacted by that history? Who gets discouraged, guilt ridden, ashamed and fearful?

Who then needs to be pled with to not give in to the accusations?

When you hear of Jesus pleading in heaven do you understand that He is the Father's agent to plead to you to trust Him to heal you and save you and get you to stop listening to the guilt, shame and lies of the devil?



The same author wrote the following:

Through the plan of salvation, **Jesus is breaking Satan's hold upon the human family and rescuing souls from his power.** [What is Satan's power? Heb 2:14 Jesus destroys him who holds the power of death that is the devil. Life eternal is knowing God, what is eternal death? Not knowing God, then what is Satan's power? The lies he tells about God that we believe that keep us from knowing God. Jesus is breaking Satan's hold and rescuing us from his power—how?] All the hatred and malignity of the archrebel is stirred as he beholds the evidence of Christ's supremacy, and with fiendish power and cunning he works to wrest from Him the remnant of the children of men who have accepted His salvation. {LHU 234.2}

He leads men into skepticism, causing them to lose confidence in God and to separate from His love; [Again, who is being impacted by Satan's lies, and accusations?] he tempts **them** to break His law, and then he claims them as his captives and contests the right of Christ to take them from him. He knows that those who seek God earnestly for pardon and grace will obtain it; **therefore he presents their sins *before them to discourage them.*** [to whom is Satan' presenting their sins?] He is constantly seeking occasion against those who are trying to obey God. Even their best and most acceptable services he seeks to make appear corrupt. **By countless devices, the most subtle and the most cruel, he endeavors to secure their condemnation.** [by whom? Whom does Satan seek to get us condemned? Is it not in our own minds, that we conclude we are beyond salvation, too sinful to be loved?] Man cannot meet these charges himself. In his sin-stained garments, confessing his guilt, he stands before God. **But Jesus our Advocate presents an effectual plea in behalf of all who by repentance and faith have committed the keeping of their souls to Him. He pleads their cause and vanquishes their accuser by the mighty arguments of Calvary.** [To whom is Jesus pleading? Who needs to have the allegations of Satan refuted? Who needs to believe that God loves them and Jesus' righteousness is sufficient for them? Does God need to be persuaded that Jesus righteousness is sufficient to save a sinner? Who doubts? It is you and me that need to hear Jesus' plea!] His perfect obedience to God's law, even unto the death of the cross, has given Him all power in heaven and in earth, and He claims of His Father mercy and reconciliation for guilty man. [notice now to whom Jesus speaks] **To the accuser of His people He declares: "The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan.' These are the purchase of My blood, brands plucked from the burning."** Those who rely upon Him in faith receive the comforting assurance: "Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment." [to whom is Jesus pleading? He rebukes the accuser and pleads for us not to listen to his lies and to trust in Him!] All that have put on the robe of Christ's righteousness will stand before Him as chosen and faithful and true. Satan has no power to pluck them out of the hand of Christ. . . . **We cannot answer the charges of Satan against us. Christ alone can make an effectual plea in our behalf. He is able to silence the accuser with arguments founded not upon our merits, but on His own** (Testimonies, vol. 5, pp. 470-472). [To whom does Christ's plea need to effect? you and me!]

Jesus pleads before the Father, carrying out the Father's purpose to save sinners, the Holy Spirit listens



to Christ and works in you and me communicating the love, grace and pleas of Christ to you and me to win us back to trust, so we will open the door to our hearts and let Him save us from fear and selfishness!

TUESDAY

The lesson asks us to read about Paul's prayer to the Ephesians in Ephesians 1:15-21, from *The Remedy*:

Because of this, ever since I heard about your trust in Jesus and your love for all our fellow believers,¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, or remembering you in my prayers.¹⁷ I keep asking the God of our Lord Jesus Christ — the glorious Father — to pour out his Spirit of wisdom and revelation upon you so that you may know him and all he is trying to accomplish.¹⁸ I also pray that your reasoning abilities and conscience may be healed so that you can discern and understand God's purpose for all humanity — the incredible, rich inheritance in store for his children — ¹⁹ and God's incomparable power to heal and restore all who trust him. That life-giving power was seen as the outworking of his true strength,²⁰ which he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in heaven,²¹ above all power, rulers and authority, above all other kingdoms, empires or governments, and above every title that can be given—now and forever.

For what is Paul praying? What impact would such prayers have upon the Ephesians? What impact would it have upon Paul?

The lesson also asks us to read Paul's prayer for the Philippians in 1:15-21, from *The Remedy*:

I am so thankful for you, that every time I speak to God I tell him how thankful I am.⁴ In all my conversations with God about you, I always talk with joy,⁵ because you have been effective partners in promoting the good news about God — from the first day you heard it until now.⁶ I am completely confident of this: God, who began his good work of healing and restoring you to his original ideal, will continue healing you right up to the day Jesus Christ returns to take us home.

⁷ It is only natural that I am filled with joy, because you are so dear to me; for no matter what I have been doing, whether in prison or freely proclaiming the good news about God, you have been partakers with me of God's gracious Remedy.⁸ God can testify how I share with Christ Jesus the deep desire to be with you.

⁹ And when I talk with God, it is my desire for you that your love may grow — with ever-increasing knowledge and understanding of God's character, methods and principles, with ever-increasing depth of insight — ¹⁰ so that you may be able to distinguish with cutting efficiency the difference between the healthy and unhealthy, the true and false, the right and wrong—right up to the day when Jesus comes and takes us home.¹¹ I want you to become true



friends of God, who have recovered the ability to think clearly, choose wisely, live completely in harmony with God's methods and principles, and who reveal Christlike love in everything you do.

For what was Paul praying?

WEDNESDAY

Read Daniel 10:10-14, 20,21:

A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. 11 He said, "Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you." And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling. 12 Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. 13 But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. 14 Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come..." 20 So he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come; 21 but first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince. (NIV84)

Read fourth paragraph, "This is a fascinating..." Who is Gabriel? Who is the prince of Persia and the prince of Greece?

Who is Michael?

Why was Michael the only one who was available to help Gabriel? Didn't only 1/3 of the angels rebel with Satan? Doesn't that mean the good angels outnumber the bad angels 2 to 1? Then why was Michael the only one available to help Gabriel?

What kind of a war are we in? A war of truth, love and freedom against lies, selfishness and coercion—a war over God's character and methods. Satan has misrepresented them and inflames the worst fears and insecurities with deceptions to make it appear his methods are right.

What position did Gabriel take after Satan's fall? The position of covering cherub, the highest position of the angels, the position from where Lucifer fell, the position closest to the throne of God, the position in which he has the greatest knowledge, intimacy, and understanding of God's character, methods and principles.

In other words, there is no other created being that can bring more light of truth and love to bear than Gabriel. The only other being in the universe that can bring more love and truth to bear than Gabriel is



God Himself, thus Michael, Jesus in His pre-incarnate form, comes with the light of God's truth and love and it is sufficient to dispel the darkness of Satan's lies!

FRIDAY

Read and discuss questions

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Thank you to all of our supporters!!! We appreciate your prayers and financial support.

July 1, we launched our SHARING campaign. The first of every month we will be making available FREE resources for you to share in your community, with family, friends, pastors, church members. These resources will be free and shipped free to US addresses only and while supplies last. So follow us on Facebook and watch the first of each month as a new resource is made available. In July it is *Could It Be This Simple?*

Saturday, October 3, 2020: Come and Reason will be presenting a live in-person event at the Chattanooga Convention Center in Chattanooga TN! **Healing the Mind and Transforming the Character in a Broken World** is one-day event and will be packed with presentations by Timothy R. Jennings, Katie McPherson, Ben Bost and Kent Delhousaye. Join us to learn principles and strategies to heal the mind and heart from fear and habits that overrun our lives You'll want to book your spot soon before the event is sold out-- lunch is included in this great price! Click [here](#) for more information.

October 9-10, 2020: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Lakewood SDA church in Lakewood OH

November 6-7, 2020: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at an AACC River Conference at Plano, TX. More info at <http://theriverconference.com/>