



*Insights
for
Women*

*by
Pat Subritzky*

Volume Three

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Book Information:

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Dedication

To my husband Bill
who has always been an
encouragement to me.

Introduction

About the author:

Pat Subritzky has a world-wide interdenominational ministry to women and has travelled with her husband, Bill, to almost every continent in the world. She has conducted evangelistic outreach meetings and teaching seminars for women on behalf of churches and Christian organisations for more than 30 years.

In September 1988, Pat Subritzky received a prophecy from the Lord regarding her ministry which said: “You shall minister beyond anything you may have visualised for I am calling you to an exceptional ministry to women.”

While in Jerusalem, Derek Prince received a rare vision from the Lord. In the vision, Pat Subritzky was standing on the widow ledge outside his room. He was fearful that she would fall off and get hurt. Mr Prince did not realise how timely it was as Pat was organising a conference for the visit of Anne Graham Lotz (Billy Graham’s Daughter). This vision encouraged Pat to have a proper foundation for the conference which was well attended and many women were blessed.

In recent days the Lord has worked great miracles in Pat’s life, preserving her and helping her to overcome bowel

cancer. In February 2008 Pat was diagnosed with a tumour in her bowel. During tests, a scan showed her legs were absolutely full of blood clots and there was a massive saddle clot between her lungs.

Even while facing these life-threatening conditions the Lord was carrying out His work in Pat's life.

A number of miracles occurred during this time.

Firstly, Pat was close to a hospital when she had strong heart palpitations and she was able to be rushed into the emergency department. It certainly was a miracle because, with all their travel, they could have been anywhere.

Secondly, a colonoscopy revealed that although Pat had a malignant tumour in her bowel, it did not appear to have spread.

Thirdly, when a doctor-friend of the family was told about the blood clots and the saddle clot, he said the only time he'd seen such a saddle clot was in a dead person. However this clot had passed through Pat's lungs without any apparent damage!

Fourthly, although Pat received medication by injection for the next 10 days to thin the blood it was up to the body to remove the clots. At the end of the 10 days the hospital took a scan to see what progress had been made. The doctors

could only find one small clot remaining from all the clots that had been in her legs.

The fifth miracle was when they took a scan of her lungs and to the doctor's utter amazement the massive saddle clot had shrunk right down so that they could now operate immediately. The doctor said that was, "Remarkable."

On top of all that the thrombosis doctor, who was looking after the clot issue, turned out to be a committed Christian.

The surgeon who operated on the bowel was also a born again Christian who had served as a medical missionary in Nepal.

During the operation, the surgeon succeeded in completely removing the malignant tumour. He later reported that while the cancer had penetrated the wall of her bowel, it had not gone through the lining, nor had it gone into Pat's lymph nodes. He gave her a total clearance. Praise God.

Finally, when Pat's eldest son, Paul, was born many years ago, Pat spent a long time in hospital after receiving a blood transfusion. During that time she received multiple injections. This created a "needle-phobia." When confronted with the fact that Pat needed injections every day, the Lord provided a way through the injections and this has enabled Pat to overcome the "needle-phobia."

Pat said that during her time of illness Bill was very supportive and spent hours at her hospital bedside.

One day, while Pat was in hospital, God showed Bill a picture of a storm-tossed boat that reminded him of the one the Disciples were in on the Sea of Galilee. The Lord also gave Bill this word, “We (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) are in the boat with Pat.”

Pat says these words were a great source of comfort to her.

A friend gave her a small lidded box which had an anchor and small cross imprinted on the lid. She took it everywhere with her because it reminded her that although she was like a boat in a storm, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit were with her in the boat and she was anchored to them.

When the diagnosis of a tumour was first given, several people who were praying for Pat, were given the scripture, Psalm 118:17 which says, “I shall not die but live and declare the works of the Lord.” The Lord was true to His word.

Pat says that the outcome of the experience is that both her and Bill have been strengthened in their ministry, with an increased anointing and stronger faith.

Following this event Pat received this word from the Lord, “You are precious in My sight My beloved. We still have many

more years to walk and talk together.”

Bill and Pat say they have seen the hand of God throughout this time.

They have also been blessed with a very supportive family. Every morning, for three months, their two sons and two daughters have gathered with Pat and Bill for prayer and celebrated communion together. They have watched God move throughout this time and agree that He has indeed been in the boat with Pat.

Foreword:

To the reader

This book by Pat Subritzky will encourage you to believe that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)

Pat's hope is that you will be blessed and strengthened through her words of inspiration. We pray that the insights in this book will prove to be valuable keys to living a fulfilling life.

The chapters in this book have been adapted from Pat's radio programmes that were aired in New Zealand on Radio Rhema, in Australia on Rhema FM in Geelong, Gympie, Port Macquarie and Tamworth. They were also aired in Tonga and Western Samoa.

Love in Jesus,

Candice Osborne

Project editor for Pat Subritzky

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Overcoming Tragedy



Most people will experience tragedy at some time in their lives. I recall watching from a distance as clouds of smoke rose from our house which was on fire. My mother was calling from a hill-top, “Help”, “Fire”. However there was no fire brigade in our small country settlement so our house burned to the ground.

My parents then wondered how they were going to feed, clothe and house all ten of us children. (I come from a family with 13 children but at that time three of my older siblings had already moved out of home.)

Many of our treasures were lost in the fire

forever, but we all survived. With the little faith we had and much help from the community, we overcame this tragedy.

On a Dr James Dobson, Focus on the Family radio programme, I heard the following true story of faith that overcame despite a devastating tragedy.

A mum and dad, along with their six children, were travelling along the highway. Some of the family were asleep in the car and others were daydreaming all unaware that an accident loomed.

Up ahead a truck and trailer was stopped across the centre of the road and there was nowhere for their car to go but sideways.

The car hit the trailer a speed of 80km per hour. Immediately flames burst into the interior of the family's car. Dad cried out, "Get out, unbelt!" He reached through the flames to escape. Mum did likewise.

One of their sons managed to unbelt himself, climb over the seats and get out of the flaming

car. His next concern was for his brothers and sisters who were still inside the vehicle. They never made it. The son also died a short time later.

These parents had lost six of their children. Astonishingly their immediate response was one of reassurance; their children had gone to be with Jesus.

How is our faith when tragedy strikes?

Do we seek the comfort that only Jesus offers or are we still recovering from a tragedy?

Bill's mother never fully recovered from the loss of her son who died when he was only eight years old. He had suffered from cancer for six months. After his death his mother continued to speak about him almost daily for the next 14 years before she went to be with the Lord herself. She had kept all his clothes.

I'm sure Jesus wants us to turn tragedy into victory. There will always be moments of sadness. Jesus wept when he heard of the death of Lazarus. (John 11:34-35).

Scripture says in Isaiah 61:3 that God will find a way though our grief, "...To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness...."

Jesus said that He would send the comforter, the Holy Spirit to us.

"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever." (John 14:16).

Suggested prayer:

"Dear Lord Jesus, I ask that you will be my comfort in times of trouble. Please strengthen my faith in you so that I stand steadfast in adversity and with your help come through those times stronger and with a greater depth of character. Thank you for sending Your Holy Spirit who comforts and guides us at all times. Amen."

There Is Hope



Have you ever watched a person who has been in the depths of despair transformed by hope?

Maybe they've had a death sentence given to them by the doctor and then their test results are clear.

Perhaps they had placed their hope in worldly treasures and money but never found fulfilment in them, only despair. Then they discover the peace that can be found by bringing their needs to God for He answers and helps us.

Or perhaps they placed their hope in superstition, such as horoscopes or fortune-telling, (which has its origins in witchcraft), only

to discover that they were given empty promises of fame and fortune. When they turn to God and commit their future to Him, they can rest secure in the knowledge that no-one but God knows how many days we have on earth. He holds our life and our future in His hands.

Then there are others who place their hope in other people saying, "Oh, they'll rescue me." Then at the end of the day they are crying out for help from yet another person. What joy they have when they realise that Jesus Christ is their rescuer and saviour. He can be fully relied upon to help them through any trial they face.

If you are facing tough circumstances, or are lonely, sick, bereaved, tormented, troubled, fearful or depressed, let Christ be the one to turn that flicker of hope into a blaze by trusting Him to help you through.

There is hope for each one of us and when we obey the Lord we can have an expectation that we will receive God's best.

Let us live in hope and believe for great things to happen.

To hope is to have faith, trust and expectation in God.

Hebrews 11:1 says, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

We all face tough times, look at Job who said, “My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle, And are spent without hope.” (Job 7:6). Is that how you feel about your situation today? Are you at the end of the road and do not know which way to turn?

Job must have made the statement about being without hope when he was at a really low point as he did have a great faith in God however he was going through some really tough times. In the book of Job we see that he lost his health, his family and his possessions. He never lost his faith in God and eventually his health was restored and his wealth was restored also. He trusted God and had an expectation that He would honour that trust.

Sometimes when all we see is an impossible situation it is hard to hope that all will be well but take heart in the scripture which says: “With

men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” (Matthew 19:26b).

I have seen marriages restored (including my own), children brought back home, long-standing rifts mended and peace brought about between enemies.

I remember a mother who prayed continuously for her daughter whose whereabouts was unknown. She did not give up hope. Instead she believed her daughter would be safe. Then one day her daughter arrived on her doorstep, barefooted and glad to be home. I believe the prayers of a mother are special to the Lord especially when you consider this modern day Prodigal (daughter) story.

With my own marriage it was as we trusted and exercised out faith in Jesus Christ our saviour that He was able to begin to restore our relationship. Our lives had become a gradual mess over a period of time, almost without us being aware of it, until we knew we were desperate for help.

I can truly say that I now live in hope, and my

marriage is filled with hope. I thank God for His divine intervention in my marriage and His provision for health and strength. I believe we can all hope for restoration in relationships between our families, friends and even enemies.

Whatever the circumstance are that you are facing, hold onto hope and trust Jesus Christ to turn the situation around.

“Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield. For our heart shall rejoice in Him, Because we have trusted in His holy name. Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, Just as we hope in You.” (Psalm 33:20-22).

Finally, let us consider Job’s words of faith and hope: “For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God.” (Job 19:25-26).

Suggested prayer:

“Thank you Lord that I can place my hope and trust in You. Right now I bring to you my circumstances and ask that You work a miracle

There is hope

in them to bring about a solution that glorifies
Your Name. In the Name of Jesus Christ, Amen.”

Reconciliation



The question is often asked, “Can God heal the incurable, resolve problems, restore relationships or meet my needs now? Can God do all these things? Yes God Can!

Can God restore relationships? The answer is God can. I experienced this when a beautiful reconciliation occurred with my eldest brother.

I had been close to this brother. He had always been kind to me. Then something happened which caused a rift. I don’t know the exact cause but there could have been many reasons. From then on he said, “I don’t want any more to do with the Auckland family crowd and don’t bother

coming to my funeral.”

Everything I sent to him was returned. However, he would see other members of the family who lived outside of Auckland so I kept in touch through them.

One day the Lord prompted me to write a letter of apology for any hurts I had caused and to ask for forgiveness. I hoped that this would open the door for reconciliation. I prayed for him daily and started believing for reconciliation.

Sometime later accompanied by six of my brothers and sisters, we travelled south because another brother was ill. After visiting him we travelled to see my eldest brother. I was prepared to spend time elsewhere if I wasn't welcome. However, after someone phoned him to discuss the matter, my brother decided he would receive us saying, “Okay, they might as well all come.”

As we were driving along looking for his house, we saw him in the distance waiting on the pavement. We all got out of the cars, some a little hesitantly, especially me. When my turn came to greet my brother we looked at one

another and he said, “I don’t know what I’m going to do with you.” We hugged one another and a beautiful reconciliation took place.

I give thanks to God because He prepared our hearts.

The Bible says in Luke 1:37, “For with God nothing is impossible.”

Many people have known God but for various reasons have moved away, given up or are backslidden. They say, “I used to go to church but...” then follow with the reasons. God has not moved away, but they have. To mend this relationship we need to demonstrate our willingness to be reconciled and have a personal relationship with God and then with God’s people.

When we know Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour we should have a ministry of reconciliation to bring people back to a personal relationship with Jesus. Scripture says in 2 Corinthians 5:19, “...that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed

to us the **word** of reconciliation.” (*Emphasis added.*) I believe that “word” can be a word from God or from our experience.

Let us be ministers of reconciliation representing Christ here on earth.

Suggested prayer:

“Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for providing a way for us to be reconciled to our Heavenly Father. Help us to share Your spirit of reconciliation with those around us so that relationships can be restored and blessed by You. Amen”

Jesus Our Shepherd



The Bible says we have a Shepherd whose name is Jesus. (John 10:11).

In Mark 6:34 Jesus likened [us] the crowds to sheep without a shepherd. This verse says, “And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things.”

Then, after Jesus’ resurrection Jesus said to His disciple, Peter,

“...do you love Me more than these?”

He [Peter] said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”

He said to him, “Feed My lambs.”

He said to him again a second time, “...do you love Me?”

He [Peter] said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”

He said to him, “Tend My sheep.”

He said to him the third time, “...do you love Me?”....

And he [Peter] said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.”

Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep. (John 21:15-17).

In a number of parables Jesus choose to illustrate Himself as a Shepherd taking care of His sheep. So we can better understand why Jesus used this analogy, let us consider the relationship between sheep and their shepherd in modern day farming.

Several years ago we visited Israel and I learned that, unlike our farms in New Zealand which are fenced in, the Israeli farms have no fences or boundaries. The sheep and goats seem to wander but the shepherds are close by to guard them and

no doubt enclose them at night. On seeing this I could understand how important it was that the sheep know the voice of the shepherd and follow his call.

Back in New Zealand, I have seen first-hand how a sheep becomes familiar with a person's voice. We had a pet sheep that was taken care of since birth. It would come whenever it was called. This turned out quite helpful when we needed her to lead the other sheep somewhere on the farm.

On a farm where there are acres of land and hundreds of sheep, the sheep respond to the barking of dogs and the sound of vehicles.

Like sheep we can hear the voice of our Shepherd, Jesus. I encourage you to learn to recognise His voice and choose to obey His call out of love for Him.

Sheep will often follow a leader. This is why sometimes you will notice sheep walking in a single file following each other.

People tend to follow what others do and this is particularly evident with women who follow

fashion regardless of whether it suits them or not.

Just as there are different types of people, so there are different types of sheep.

In farming a black sheep is an outcast. They are a nuisance to a farmer breeding sheep for wool and are separated from the main flock. The black fleeces are also kept separate and used for special items. People too can be like black sheep especially in families where they are different from everyone else and ostracised for it.

Then there is the hermit sheep who wants to be on her own. She takes her lambs, or goes off by herself, into the bush and hides. When they are found they are wild and almost untameable with long shaggy wool that is unkempt. The sheep has had no protection against disease because it's not had the routine injections or drenching. Some people can be like the hermit sheep living by themselves with very little interaction with the world around them.

Then there are lost sheep that have been separated from the flock. Unless they are found

by the shepherd they will continue to wander further away and are therefore vulnerable to danger. This is like people who have no direction or meaning to life and consequently have no hope. That is until the Good Shepherd, Jesus, finds them.

“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?” And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’ (Luke 15:4-6).

So it is in a family if one person is not accounted for, the other family members will do their utmost to find them. Then when they return home there is great relief and joy.

All of us at some time in our lives were like sheep that had gone astray from the Divine Shepherd, Jesus. We were following our own way and needed to come back into the fold. Then we heard the Shepherd’s voice, obeyed his call and

came home to Him.

Luke 15:10 says, “Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Through all these examples we can see that there are many parallels between us and sheep, also Jesus and a shepherd.

In John 10:11 Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.”

Do you know the Good Shepherd? Have you accepted the sacrifice He made for us on the cross? Is He your shepherd?

Suggested prayer:

“Dear Lord Jesus, I thank you that You made the ultimate sacrifice by laying down Your life on the cross so that I could come to the Father through You. Today I accept you as my Lord and Saviour and ask You to come into my life. Please forgive me of my sins and wash me clean so I can be set free from my past and live a new life in you.

Jesus our Shepherd

Teach me to hear Your voice so I can follow in your ways. In Jesus name, Amen.”

Values And Priorities



What is the driving force in your life? What direction are these things taking you? Is it to wealth, health, material possessions, a boat, a car, or ambitions for your family?

The more we love this life's rewards, the more we discover how empty they really are.

The driving force in my life was to choose a husband with potential, who could provide for my comfort. I think my choice of husband was the result of not wanting to live in poor circumstances. So I found a budding lawyer whose main aim was to make money.

Bill's mother used to quote from Mark 8:36, "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?"

For the first 20 years of our married life we sought after all the worldly possessions mentioned earlier. However in time we realised the truth of this scripture from 1 Timothy 6:10 which says, "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

A wealthy businessman in New Zealand once said that he wanted to take his money with him when he died because he didn't want to leave it behind. In fact he felt so strongly about it that he said, "That's what I'd hate to do."

As we see in 1 Timothy 6:10, the Bible says that the problem with money is the love of money and what you do with it.

The Bible shows us what our attitude towards money should be. In Matthew 6:19-20 Jesus says, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves

break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.”

We need to choose our priorities with God’s help and watch our lives unfold. I encourage you to look back at your life and examine your priorities.

When I consider what is most valuable in my life and where I’m placing my priorities, I remember the words to a hymn that says:

Id rather have Jesus than silver or gold;
I’d rather be His than have riches untold;
I’d rather have Jesus than houses or lands;
I’d rather be led by His nail-pierced hand.

Than to be the king of a vast domain,
Or be held in sin’s dread sway;
I’d rather have Jesus than anything
This world affords today.

I’d rather have Jesus than men’s applause;
I’d rather be faithful to His dear cause;
I’d rather have Jesus than worldwide fame;

I'd rather be true to His holy name.

He's fairer than lilies of rarest bloom;
He's sweeter than honey from out the comb;
He's all that my hungering spirit needs;
I'd rather have Jesus and let Him lead.
(Rhea F. Miller, 1922. Copyright: Public Domain)

Our values and priorities need to be according to Matthew 6:33 which says, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

Suggested prayer:

"Dear Lord Jesus, I'd rather have You than silver or gold;
I'd rather be Yours than have riches untold;
I'd rather have You than houses or lands;
I'd rather be led by Your nail-pierced hand.
Than to be the king of a vast domain,
Or be held in sin's dread sway;
I'd rather have You Lord Jesus than anything
This world affords today. Amen"

Discipline



I sometimes wonder if my whole life is governed by discipline and self-control.

My father used firm control with his family of ten boys and three girls otherwise there would have been utter chaos. He carried out punishment for disobedience and we quickly found it that it was better to obey than suffer the strap.

I still carry with me today, the lessons of obeying and maintaining self-control that I learnt as a child.

Today I see young mothers trying to talk their children into obedience but quite often their

children ignore their parent's instruction and walk on.

The discipline of children can be done from an early age and it is worth considering that if preschoolers have not learned to behave at home, they can be a problem to teachers at school.

Proverbs 13:24 says, "He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly."

Now, bringing it back to us as adults, sometimes disciplining ourselves requires effort in the natural and the spiritual. Consider this question, "Do I have control over my body?" For example, over-eating or neglecting exercise?

Let us consider the verse in 1 Corinthians 9:27 which says, "But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified."

What about our thoughts, are we disciplined in how we think about ourselves and others? 2 Corinthians 10:5b says, "...bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

With regards to spiritual discipline, we can ask ourselves, “How disciplined am I with my Bible reading, prayer time and attending church?”

Reading my Bible was an area in my spiritual walk that needed some work because I would only read the chapters that I wanted to read. So I decided to use a yearly Bible reading plan which takes you through the whole Bible in a year. I still continue using a Bible reading plan and find it very rewarding. *(Bible reading plans are available through Dove Ministries. For more information please see our contact details at the back of this book.)*

I have found the best way to start the day is to read God’s Word, the Bible, so I encourage you to do the same. Then offer your time to God in prayer, asking Him to guide your steps throughout the day.

Consider trying to live your life God’s way, making Him your first priority. By doing this you will find that the Lord helps you become more disciplined and self-controlled.

Suggested prayer:

“Dear Heavenly Father, today I commit myself to you afresh. I ask forgiveness for the times that I have not shown self-control. Please help me to be more disciplined in my life especially in my walk with You. Amen.”

The Rewards Of Persistence



Do you think we should give up asking a person to attend a Christian meeting after one invitation is turned down? No, we should try inviting them several times.

We need to be persistent with some people and do as a dripping tap does, drip, drip, drip. It doesn't stop dripping until action is taken and the tap is turned off.

Persistence can be defined as:

Persevering, "keep at it."

Tenacity of purpose, “hang in there.”

Continuous, “without taking a break.”

Without withering or falling off, “not giving up.”

Persevering

Jesus told the following story to illustrate perseverance.

“And He said to them, “Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; and he will answer from within and say, ‘Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you’? I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.” (Luke 11:5-8).

In ministry we often hear of people’s perseverance to keep seeking until they receive what God has in store for them.

Some time ago, a man was driving down the road at night and saw cars outside a school hall. He was curious about what was going on so he went and sat among the crowd who were attending one of Bill's healing and evangelism meetings. During the evening Bill had a Word of Knowledge where the Holy Spirit told him this man's name, his age and his condition. After announcing these details Bill invited this man to come forward. Bill did not know the man and the man did not respond as he was in fear and shock. After the meeting though, the man asked Bill to pray for him.

Afterwards the man tried to find Bill's address but he didn't even have the phone number. He tried to locate Bill for three months. Eventually he made contact with another person who knew Bill and he was able to arrange an appointment to see Bill. He received further prayer from Bill and was completely healed.

Tenacity of purpose

I know of women who continue to believing for their husbands to become Christians. Some have waited many years. I know of one woman who prayed for 30 years until her husband became a

Christian. She says her persistence was worth it. If this is your situation I encourage you to keep praying and “hang in there.”

Continuous

Sometimes I want to give up on a person or situation but God whispers, “It’s not your work anyway, it’s mine.” So I continue praying for that person and believing for their situation to change.

Without withering or falling off

Do not become discouraged or half-hearted. Instead be steadfast in the things you are believing for.

Persistence comes in many forms. I am from a family of 13 and I believe the Lord showed me I needed to go to my family and show care and love. The Lord wanted me to express His everlasting love and show His kindness by spending time with them. Often when God calls us to share our time and love with others it is long-term and requires persistent action accompanied by a kindly, loving attitude.

In life we see many examples of persistence. I recently observed some street collectors where two collectors were persistent and another two were not. The ones that were not as persistent stood in one place and rattled their donation box. The other more persistent two followed me until I responded with a donation.

Another example is when children who persist with a request until their mother in desperation gives them what they are asking for in order to have peace and quiet.

Some farmers are more persistent than others when it comes to removing thistles from their land. I have observed one farmer who diligently and regularly chopped out the thistles. But another farmer did not bother to remove the thistles although it was evident they were multiplying. Our own land is almost thistle-free because of our persistence in regularly removing them.

Some people expect an instant answer so they give up when perseverance is required. However the key is, as Winston Churchill told students, “Never, never, never give up.”

I believe persistence in prayer means daily bringing our requests to God. Some people believe that to pray once is sufficient but the Bible says we are to pray without ceasing. (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

In many situations persistence in prayer is sometimes the only action we can take if someone is a considerable distance away or there is a strained relationship. I encourage you to be persistent in your prayers for all things especially your spouse, children, relationship problems, healing and deliverance.

Praying for another person's salvation is another prayer that we should never give up on. It took 10 years of praying and believing before one of my brothers acknowledged his need for God and allowed the Lord to work in his life.

Many of us become Christians as a result of someone's persistent prayers.

Luke 18:7 says, "And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?"

When praying for healing we should persist in prayer until the person is either healed or goes to glory. It is not for us to know God's purposes in any area, we only need to keep on praying.

In Luke 18:2-5 we read the parable of the persistent widow: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.'"

Do not become discouraged, rather be steadfast in what you are expecting and believing for.

Suggested prayer:

"Dear Heavenly Father, I believe that You hear and answer my prayers. Today I bring to you *<insert the name of the person you are praying for>* and ask that You will do a miracle in their life. In Jesus Name, Amen."

A Helping Hand



On our wedding day Bill and I arranged to pay the minister for his services. We handed him an envelope with the money in it but he gave it back. I was hesitant to accept but he said, “It is sometimes more gracious to receive than to give.” I have never forgotten that lesson.

Proverbs 3:27 says, “Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, When it is in the power of your hand to do so.”

Sometimes if we don't act when an opportunity arises we have missed out on helping someone. There are many ways in which we can assist someone. It may be as simple as giving them a

cup of water in the name of Jesus. It does not need to be financial help but sometimes it can be.

A while ago the Lord showed me that I was holding back from sponsoring a World Vision child. The Lord said to me, “You have an independent bank account so use it.”

There have been other times that the Lord has prompted me to help. One time I was visiting friends overseas and I sensed they couldn’t afford to go out to a restaurant for a meal. I wondered how I could have an outing with them and bless them at the same time?

While I was considering this I sat down to read my Bible and came across the Proverbs 3:27 verse (quoted above) which seemed to say to me that I should take them out for a restaurant meal and bless them by covering the cost.

As Christians are we helping others, purposefully, prayerfully and physically?

Suggested prayer:

“Dear Lord Jesus, open my eyes to see when I

can bless others by helping them either through actions or through prayer. Help me to be a friend to those in need and show Your kindness and love to the people I meet. Amen.”

Choosing To Serve



In Joshua 24:15 we read, “And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

In this verse we can see that we must first choose and then serve.

I encourage you to choose the Lord because:

We need Him in our lives,

Our own way can fail,

Our lives can be empty without Him,

The Lord loves us unconditionally,

And He is waiting for us to invite Him into our life.

I made my choice to serve the Lord every day.
Have you made this choice, or another? Where
are your choices leading you?

When you choose to make a full commitment
to Jesus Christ, it will be the best and most far
reaching decision you will ever make.

Scripture shows us how significant this
commitment is. Joshua 24:22 says, “So Joshua
said to the people, ‘You are witnesses against
yourselves that you have chosen the LORD for
yourselves, to serve Him.’ And they said, We are
witnesses!”

Then in Joshua 24:24 it says, “And the people
said to Joshua, ‘The LORD our God we will
serve, and His voice we will obey!’”

I serve the Lord because:

I love Him,

He has given me life,

His ways are fulfilling and fruitful,

He gives me hope and purpose,

And He is my redeemer and friend.

Is this something you can say from the heart or is it just empty words to you? Sometimes we can get so caught up in serving an institution that we are no longer serving the Living Saviour.

Prior to becoming a Christian I would have said that I was serving God because I was involved in many church activities from Sunday school to adult Bible class, from Mother's Union to Senior Fellowship. It was all well-meaning but I didn't have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

John 12:26 says, "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will

honor.”

I was serving Jesus in my own way and to please myself. I was more caught up with good works and lip service than having faith in the living Jesus Christ.

Jesus gave us a perfect example of how we should serve others when He washed the Disciples’ feet.

“Jesus...rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.” (John 13:3-5).

How do we as Christians serve others while remembering that we are representatives of Jesus Christ?

My commitment to serve Jesus Christ is to:

Go wherever He wants me to go,

Do whatever He wants me to do and,

Never say, “No,” to Jesus.

My choice to wholeheartedly serve Jesus has made my life interesting, exciting and fulfilling. I never look back at my life with regret because I know He is always with me.

Are you prepared to choose Jesus Christ?

Are you prepared to make a commitment to Him?

Are you prepared to serve Jesus wholeheartedly?

Are you prepared to serve others as Jesus served?

Suggested prayer:

“Dear Jesus, I come to You today and dedicate my life anew to You. Help me to follow your example and serve others with compassion and love. Guide me in Your ways forever. Amen.”

Giving Thanks



The Bible says in Ephesians 5:20 that we should be “giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Then in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 it says, “in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

However some may say to God, “Surely You can’t expect me to give thanks for the excruciating pain I’m in?” Perhaps it would be better to say, “Well God, I know that You are in charge of my life. I thank You that You know all about my pain and I ask You please to take it away.”

Our lives were never meant to be plain sailing and without adversity.

If we had only summer, or life was easy all the time, we would not appreciate the seasons. Both summer and winter, easy times and tough times, have their purposes.

Ups and downs do come but the question is how do we deal with them? Even in trials God can teach us something; either about Himself or about a character trait that we need to work on. In all things we need to stop and thank Him for all the good things we still have and the good things He has done in the past.

Stop and ask yourself, “What are you most thankful for in your life?”

If I was asked this question my answer would be, “I thank Jesus Christ for being my personal Saviour. I thank him for leading and guiding me. His path has not always been easy but He has been there to help me through the rough places.”

Next I would thank Him for my husband and children. It is important to thank the Lord for our

family and friends because these people mean so much to us.

There is a parable in Luke 17:11-19 about ten lepers who were healed. In verses 14-16 we read that only one of them returned to give thanks.

“So when He saw them, He said to them, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks.” (Luke 17:14-16).

I frequently give thanks to God for numerous reasons. One of these is that I am eternally thankful to Him for the peace that only He can give. Also if I wake up during the night I thank God for my health and strength.

I encourage you to take some time now to say thank you to God.

Suggested prayer:

“Dear Heavenly Father, I thank you for sending

Your Son Jesus Christ to die for me so that I can come to You and receive forgiveness for my wrongdoings. Thank You that You gave me life. Thank You that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to comfort me. Thank You that You know my circumstances and are working everything out to glorify You. Amen.”

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Pat Subritzky has a world-wide interdenominational ministry to women. She has travelled with her husband, Bill, to almost every continent in the world. Pat conducts evangelistic outreach meetings and teaching seminars for women on behalf of the Body of Christ.