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THE BIBLE VIEW

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Prayer Can Change Things (*Blessing 1*)

Bill Brinkworth

“Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.” John 9:31

During devotions in my first full-time ministry at a Children's home, prayer and the dangers of doing wrong things to one's body were preached about. I believe more than once we talked about drinking alcohol and how it does harm.

On the way to church, at least three times a week, we passed a local, rough looking bar. One boy took the class lessons to heart as we passed that establishment. Perhaps, he had experienced how drinking personally hurt him or others in his family, but he had a burden to close that business.

In night time devotions at the dorm, he prayed that the bar would close. During prayer-time at the start of our school day, he begged for prayer to close that tavern. Soon

others caught the burden to halt drunkenness at that business, and they too prayed often.

Several weeks after the praying started, we passed the bar on the way to church. Sometime during the week it had caught on fire and was burnt to the ground. Not much remained amongst the charred rubble.

As we passed the scorched remnants, silence fell on that van. Soon all heads turned to the originator of the praying. It was not long until the silence vanished and was replaced with praises and with shouts of victory. More than one “Did you see that?” and “Wow’s were heard.

Every single child in that ministry learned that there was a God and that He heard their humble pleas. All learned that the “... effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16

To learn more about what the Bible teaches about drinking alcohol, read “Should A Christian drink Alcohol” at <http://openthoumineeyes.com/lessons/Drinking.html>.

“Prayer requires more of the heart than of the tongue.”

— Clarke

Prayer Can Change Things (*Blessing 2*)

Bill Brinkworth

In the same class of the children’s home boys, we also spent some time talking about many ungodly practices that the world has accepted. We examined what the Bible said about wizards, witchcraft, telling of the future, contacting the dead, spells, talking to familiar spirits (demons), horoscopes, and other occult activities (Ex.

22:18, Lev. 19:26, 32, Lev. 20:6, Deut. 18:10, Gal. 5:19-21).

The young men were surprised how wicked these activities were in God's eyes. They also realized how it was around us in even our country setting.

One such place was a fortune teller's house we also passed on the way to church. It was not long before many of the young men started praying for that business to close.

The necessity for closing the deceiving den of darkness was when the foreteller started advertising on a huge, rented billboard at the end of the road that led to our church. With successful prayer experience, it was not long until prayers about taking that sign down were familiar at the Home. There was much sincere trust that God would also do something about that sign.

In about a month, as we were driving past the place, we all saw something that we had not expected. Apparently, during the night, a driver had crashed into the sign with his vehicle. The advertisement was so damaged, that little remained where the sign once stood.

To our joy, a sign ordinance was passed and no new signs were allowed to be erected. That sign remained down, and the "fortune" teller never did advertise in that town again, as far as I remember. I do not recall if the business closed, but I do remember seeing less activity there.

Of course, the boys were excited to know that God did hear their prayers and that they could change situations

with His help. Most know that God does answer the prayers of *His* people, but few use the blessed ability to summon help for many other ungodly practices that surround us.

Complaining may make us sometimes feel better, but it changes so little. Prayer, however, from believers can change sins that beset this world. Pray for change and see what God can do!

“Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.” James 4:2

With this experience in mind, please pray for the deception and corruption in our government to be halted. Politicians may be deceiving many people, but they are not fooling our God. Please pray that righteousness will prevail, hidden sin will be revealed, AND the people will be repulsed and will no longer tolerate our politician's defiance of God's commandments.

“With these experiences in mind, please pray for the deception and corruption in our government. Many citizens may be duped, but they are not fooling our God. Please pray that righteousness will prevail, hidden sin will be revealed, AND the people will be repulsed and will no longer tolerate so many politician's defiances of God's commandments. The prayers of the righteous can change what is happening in government.

The Bulletin Board

Bill Brinkworth

As an elementary teacher in a Christian school, I had the responsibility, as do most teachers, to create classroom bulletin boards. I did not have all the fancy pre-designed material that other teachers had, but I did have an imagination and the desire to create a display that would teach the children an important lesson.

I covered the board with colored paper and created an eye-catching border. The large-lettered title simply read “Answered Prayers.”

On the body of the board, I cut out small, paper hand-shaped cutouts and stapled enough on the board for every student. Above the cut-out, I had the child’s name neatly printed. In the center of the hand, I placed a small, lined piece of paper.

As the students looked around on their first day, they saw the small museum I had built for them in the front of the class, along with an aquarium on the other side of the room. They observed the many other bulletin boards, but all eyes stared at the “Answered Prayer” board. It appeared to them that it was unfinished. Indeed, it was not.

After introductions and other first day formalities, I pointed to the “unfinished bulletin” board. I remember telling them how I knew God answered prayer and how, if they learned anything that year, I wanted them to learn the power of prayer and how God would meet their needs.

I told them that if they would take the piece of paper under their name and write their prayer requests, we would pray for those needs. My other requirement was that after God had answered their petition, they had to put a check mark next to their need, showing everyone that God met their needs. Every child grabbed the paper, wrote some requests, and returned them to the board.

First thing every school day we prayed for five of the children's requests. The next day we prayed for five more *petitions* and continued praying *for all the class's needs during the school year*.

Slowly, more requests were written on the papers. Soon small checkmarks started appearing next to the need. More and more check marks appeared each day as God's answers were recognized. It was not long until many children ran out of room on their papers and wanted more. By mid-year it was a ragged, worn board which I would not refurbish as it was a trophy to God's goodness and to His meeting the needs of those young people

By the end of the year the board was "finished". It was ragged and dirty with many check-marked pages, but it showed them something they may never forget. They learned God was there for them and would meet their needs.

“We are not told that Jesus ever taught His disciple how to preach, but He taught them how to pray. He wanted them to have power with God, then He knew they would have power with man.” — D. L. Moody