

# REAL**Truth**. REAL**Love**. REAL**Hope**.

A quarterly newsletter from Pastor Jeff Schreve and *From His Heart Ministries*

Fall 2016

## ***How you can tap into more of God's power every day***

By Jeff Schreve

I love the story about the little boy playing in the sandbox. There was a big rock in the sandbox that was inhibiting his fun. He tried to roll it out of the box, but it was too big and too heavy for him to push it out. In frustration, he began to cry.

His dad witnessed the whole thing and said to his tearful son, "Why don't you use all your strength?" The little boy responded through his sobs, "I did use all my strength, Daddy!" To which his dad replied, "No, you didn't ... because you didn't ask me for help."

How much are we like that little boy sometimes? How often do we attempt to move the obstacles in our path without seeking first the Lord and calling on His name? The end result is always the same. We end up angry, frustrated, tearful, and dejected over our inability to solve the problem.

I couldn't put it any better than the psalmist did in Psalm 116:1-2 ...

*I love the LORD, because He hears my voice and my supplications. Because He has inclined His ear to me, therefore I shall call upon Him as long as I live.*

God is waiting for you and me to look to Him—because His incredible power is available to His children at all times. No doubt it amazes God that so few Christians, relatively speaking, really invest the time and energy in earnest prayer. As the psalmist said, "He has inclined His ear to [us]."

So why don't we pray more frequently and more fervently than we do? Let me offer some reasons:

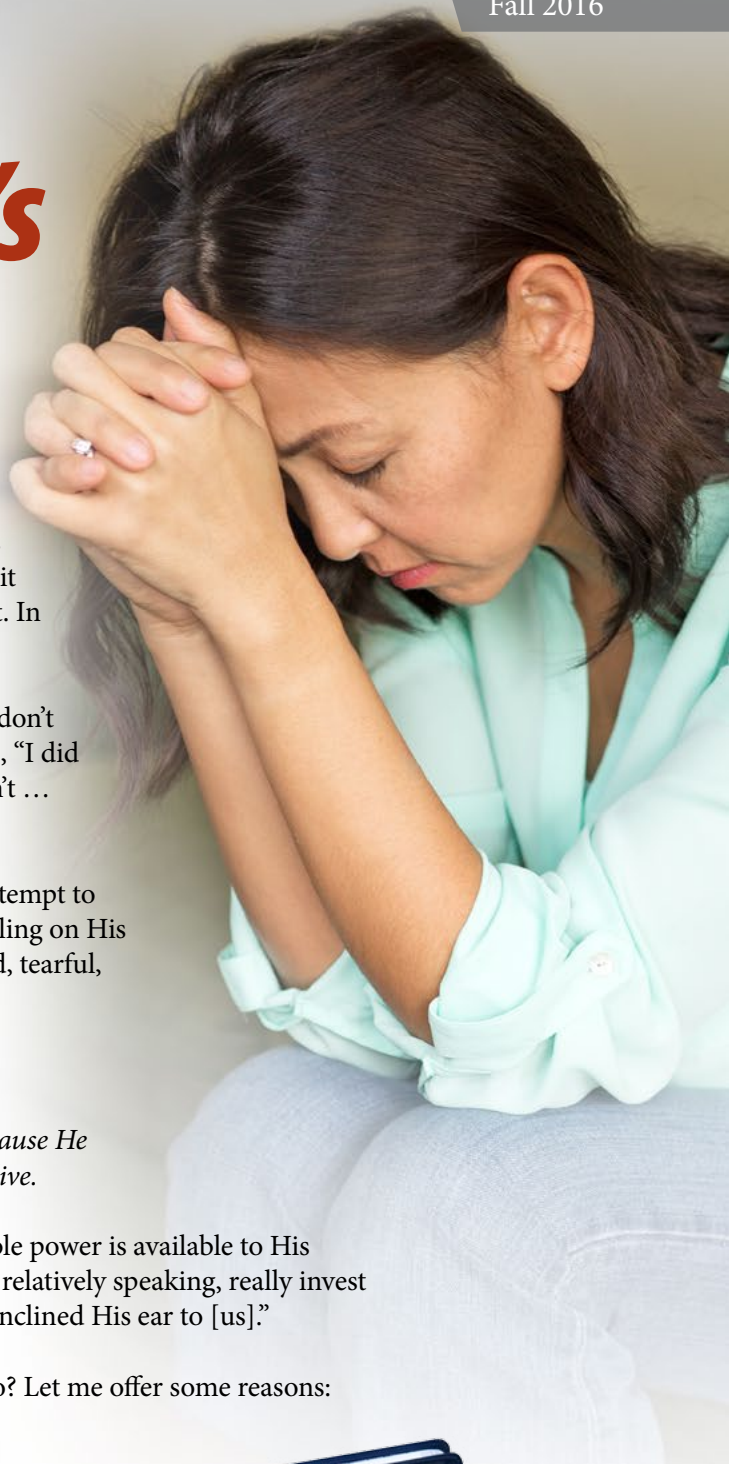
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**Help your family  
grow stronger  
in God's Word in  
the new year!**

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- **We don't really believe God will answer.** But the truth is He *promises* to answer. "Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know" (Jeremiah 33:3).
- **We don't really believe God cares.** But the truth is He cares more than we can fathom. "Leave all your worries with him, because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7 GNT).
- **We don't really believe it will make any difference.** But the truth is it makes all the difference in the world. "You do not have because you do not ask" (James 4:2b).
- **We are much more prideful than we care to admit.** The prideful person doesn't ask for help. "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6b).
- **We are too preoccupied with lesser things and too lazy with important things.** Prayer is hard work. It takes effort, and it's a struggle at times. The devil knows the power of God comes when we get on our knees, so he fights tooth and nail to keep us from it. "Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness" (1 Timothy 4:7b).

**"God is waiting for you and me to look to Him—because His incredible power is available to His children at all times."**

Let me encourage you as I encourage myself to make prayer (and Bible study) the cornerstone of your walk with Jesus. We desperately need His help, His grace, and His guidance. He told us He is available to us, but we have to call upon Him.

The old adage is certainly true: "No prayer, no power. Some prayer, some power. Great prayer, great power!" Let's determine together to be people of great prayer. If we will, God will supply great power.

## Q&A WITH JEFF

**Q: Jeff, what's the point of praying if God already knows what I'm going to ask Him?**

**A:** *God knows all our needs. Jesus made that point crystal clear in Matthew 6:8 when He said, "Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him." But the Lord goes on to tell us in the very next verse how to pray.*

*Prayer isn't for God's benefit; it's for ours. Prayer draws us near to God as we share our heart and needs with Him. While He knows what we need, He only responds to our needs when we humble ourselves and seek Him. The proud don't call upon His name, because they think they can make it happen on their own. The humble seek Him with all their heart because they know that apart from Him they can do nothing.*

**Q: I'm really struggling in my prayer life. What advice can you give me?**

**A:** *Sometimes we make prayer much harder than it really is. Prayer is simply talking to God, sharing your heart and hurts with Him. Think of prayer as if you were talking to your best friend. Think how easy it is to simply share with your best friend what is happening in your life, the ups and downs, the valleys and victories. Your best friend is a safe place for your secrets, and so is the Lord.*

*Scripture says He is "a friend who sticks closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24). Know that you can tell Him anything ... and He will still love you! Has it been too long since you have shared your heart with your best friend? Start today. The Lord wants to hear from you.*



# Help your family grow stronger in God's Word in the new year!



Dear Friend,

Debbie and I would love to help your family stay strong in God's Word in the new year, by sending you either the 365-day devotional book called *Grace, Hope, and Love*, or the new 365-day devotional book for kids called *God's Blessing Day by Day*.

The daily devotional book of your choice is our gift to thank you for your donation to help speak the truth in love through *From His Heart Ministries*. And if you're able to give \$50 or more, we'll send you both of these encouraging devotionals.

Thank you for your generosity. I pray these resources help you and your family grow stronger in God's Word every day in the year ahead!

*Pastor Jeff*

## FROM DEBBIE'S HEART:

### How to make connecting with God a priority in your life

By Debbie Schreve



Have you ever noticed that the moment you decide to eat healthier, ALL you can think about is food? Have you ever been in a situation where you had to be perfectly still, and ALL you could think about was the fact that you needed to move to get comfortable or scratch your nose?

Have you ever sat down to read your Bible and pray, and ALL you can think about is the four-page list of things you need to accomplish that day, or you're instantly exhausted and on the verge of falling asleep?

If we're being honest, the answer to all of these questions is probably YES. It certainly is for me. Spending time in God's Word and talking with Him in prayer are often the most neglected parts of the Christian life. That's why the Bible speaks so often to us about the importance of prayer and spending time in God's Word daily.

It's so important that we discipline ourselves to set aside time each day to get alone with God in His Word ... to fix our mind and heart on Him and allow Him to speak His

truth to us. It's this daily connection that helps us get to know Him and love Him more.

His Word is our power source. It enables us to see life through the proper lens ... to view our trials from the proper perspective ... and it gives us the power we need to fight off the attacks of the Enemy. We cannot have victory in the Christian life if we aren't attached to our power source.

So for me, I have to make an intentional decision each day to make prayer and Bible reading my priority. Some days that means I have to wake up 30 minutes earlier. But I have found that my day goes so much smoother when I make this time with God my priority. He multiplies the rest of my time so that I am able to accomplish so much more and experience joy and peace in the midst of it all.

I read this quote recently: "If it is important to you, you will find a way. If not, you'll find an excuse." I want to challenge you, and myself, to stop making excuses. Let's decide to make our time with God our number one priority each day.

# A NOTE TO YOU FROM JEFF



Dear Friend,

I did a Google search for “prayer” not long ago. You should see some of the ideas that are out there these days!

One of the sites I found was a blog written by an atheist. He said, “Prayer is the most ridiculous, useless thing a person could ever do.”

Now, I’m positive most Christians would never share such an opinion on prayer. But if you look at the prayer lives of churchgoers today, you’d probably find many *living* like they believe it.

That’s because for many people in our churches, things like prayer and Bible study aren’t that important. They would much rather try the “self-help” route than actually appeal to the Creator of heaven and earth!

And the truth is, we all have that struggle from time to time, don’t we? But we have to fight against it!

**You see, without a daily connection with God, our lives are incomplete. That’s because it’s by prayer and digging into His Word that we receive His supernatural guidance, strength, and peace that we need every minute of every day.**

That’s why I contributed to a wonderful 365-day devotional book, *Grace, Hope, and Love*, and why Debbie contributed to the 365-day devotional book for kids, *God’s Blessing Day by Day*.

I hope you’ll request your copy of one of these resources when you send your gift today. And don’t forget, we’ll send you both books to say thanks for your gift of \$50 or more!

I’m so grateful for your partnership. Your prayers and gifts are such a tremendous part of speaking the truth of Jesus Christ in love to so many people through our broadcast ministry. Thank you.

You’re a blessing!



*Your Gifts at Work!*

Thank you for helping to make the following testimony possible through your support of *From His Heart*!

*I must say that you’re really a blessing to this generation. You encourage me so much. I pray for more grace for you. Thanks, sir.*

—Simeon, Nigeria

## MEET THE FROM HIS HEART TEAM!



**Bobby Fischer**

Director of Ministry Relations

Hi! I’m Bobby Fischer, director of ministry relations for *From His Heart*. My main

responsibility is to provide spiritual encouragement to friends like you who support our ministry.

I love serving at *From His Heart* because it gives me the chance to be involved in a ministry that’s reaching people all over the world with the truth of God’s Word.

I was saved as a 9-year-old boy, but I rededicated my life to the Lord in my early 20s. Then I was called into the ministry in 1984, and I served as a pastor for 25 years.

My favorite Bible verse is the last part of Romans 5:20, “But where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,” because I have personally experienced that in my life.

I’ve been married for 28 years to my wife Debra, and we have two sons, Kyle (24) who is a student minister at a church in the Dallas area, and Michael (24) who is an electrician’s apprentice. I love golfing, cooking on the grill, laughing, and watching the Texas Rangers!