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"Prayer Changes Things"

By: Pastor Jack Hibbs

"As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening." Luke 9:29 (NKJV)

Prayer changes things. It may sound cliché, but prayer *does* change things! However, does it only *change* things or does prayer *change* us as well? When Jesus ascended Mount Hermon, we read that as He prayed, He was transfigured. The word here in the original Greek language means: metamorphosed, altered, or changed from the inside out. What changed was more of an outward exposure of that which was on the inside of Jesus. As Jesus stood praying in fellowship with the Father, the glory of heaven radiated outwardly from His very Person for all to see.

Luke goes on to say that as Jesus was praying, He was altered and then Moses and Elijah appeared with Him in glory. While Jesus was in prayer there seemed to be little or no difference between heaven above and the earth below — prayer brought eternity into time and space. With this example of Jesus before us, why do we find prayer to be elusive and difficult when it is potentially so life-changing? Could it be that we make it more arduous than it needs to be? Is it that we don't really understand the concept of eternity and therefore we don't truly believe that God is eternal and all-powerful? The truth of the matter is, we all desire to be more like Jesus. In this example, prayer brought eternity into time and space because Jesus was praying. Could this be the key?

The Apostle Paul told us to *"pray always."* If an attitude of prayer is ever before us, is it possible that heaven's glory will emanate from us as well?

It is comforting to know that Jesus did not have to run behind a rock or tree to change His robe into something cleaner, brighter, or whiter to feign the appearance of glory. Jesus' glory and heaven's pure light illuminated His garments. As you and I live our lives as praying Christians, we will see alteration in our thinking and in the way we conduct ourselves as it will be in proximity with the Holy Spirit's will. We will see change and others will see it too. It will not be because of what we wear, per say, but it will be because Jesus' light radiates through us.

Don't you want to walk in the light as He is in the light? Don't you want to be a light to the world? Don't you want to experience close fellowship with God throughout all the days of your life? Then pray something like this: *"Dear Lord of Light, emanate Your glory through me. Change me, fill me and cause me to shine brighter every day. Make my life a reflection of Your Son Jesus Christ and may what the world sees coming from me, be only of You and all of You, for Your name's sake. Amen."*

Pastor Jack Hibbs is the senior pastor at Calvary Chapel in Chino Hills, CA. His ministry, which includes "Real Life with Jack Hibbs", is seen via YouTube and on the app named for the ministry. The church's website is www.Calvarycch.org.

Men of Shades Devotional

How about writing one devotion to share with the Men of Shades. Share your thoughts on a favorite Bible verse, a story from your life with an application from Scripture, or share a devotion written by a favorite writer that was particularly meaningful to you. Follow the parameters below and then send it to Steve Grissett at s_grissett@yahoo.com.

- Choose a favorite verse or verses (2 or 3).
- Write a short devotion of 200 to 300 words max.
- Add a title.

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Manchurch

Our next Man Church is Sunday, August 29, and our guest speaker will be Dr. Robert Smith, Jr. Dr. Smith is the Charles T. Carter Chair of Divinity at Samford's Beeson Divinity School. Dr. Smith pastored in Cincinnati for 20 years, and currently teaches preaching at Beeson. He has spoken at over 135 universities, colleges and seminaries across the globe. Mark your calendar and come hear a message of challenge and inspiration from Dr. Robert Smith, Jr. at Man Church on August 29 at 6:00pm.

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