



EQUIPPING U

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION/AUGUST 2012

Rejecting the Lie

by Kimberly von Oeyen

Why do so many Christians struggle with prayerlessness? What makes us embarrassed, unwilling or reluctant to talk to our Father? What is the antidote to our prayerless lives, homes, and churches?

Perspective! Paul teaches in Romans, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." (ESV)

CHANGE YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Being a prayerful person, which is part of God's good, acceptable, and perfect will for us, requires that we change our perspective.

The desire to pray is birthed out of our recognition of the grace of God in our lives. Prayerful people reject the lie that they are self-sufficient and God is unconcerned.

Our Father cares for us and invites us to cast our cares on Him. Are you willing to change your perspective?



Why Pray?

 by Kimberly von Oeyen

The question, "Why pray?" may sound ridiculous to some of you, but to others, those disappointed by the harshness of life, unfilled longings, and God's seemingly indifferent response to their prayers, the question resonates at their core.

last teaching tip. Behind the "camera smile" is a couple going to the oncologist for the first time, having recently learned she has cancer.

Yes, the "she" is me. And although God didn't remove the cancer supernaturally, He did comfort me

Look closely at the picture in the



TEACHING TIP. Invite teens to serve with you. Not only, can you invest in them but, they can bring new vigor and energy to your classroom or VBS program.



TEACHING TIP. Celebrate special moments in the lives of your students by sending a card, note of encouragement, or small gift.



TEACHING TIP. Serve your students by praying for them. Behind the smiles are often difficult issues and concerns.

with the prayers of His people.

Now, two years and one major surgery later, I often say, "Cancer was one of the best things that happened to me." Why? Because God used it to deepen my faith in Him and open my eyes to his goodness.

"Cancer was one of the best things that happened to me."

Scripture teaches us "that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28 NASB) But do we believe it?

Is it true when cancer strikes? Yes! Is it true when your house is robbed? Yes! Is it true when your baby dies, your spouse cheats, or when your mother gets Alzheimer's? Yes, yes, yes!

As author and teacher Nancy Leigh DeMoss often says on her radio program *Revive Our Hearts*, "Anything that causes us to need God is a blessing."

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So we pray, not because we are going to get everything we want, but because we are going to get

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Leroy Jolly

ICEA is a volunteer staffed ministry and each month Equipping U will highlight and honor one of these faithful servants of God.

everything we need—and what we need is God!

Dr. Leroy Jolly in his book, *Prayer Warriors: Serious Minded Prayers* writes, "Prayer is my privilege to come face to face with God Himself and enter before His divine Holy Throne."

Prayer is our privilege. Christ died to give us the right to call God our Father and to boldly approach His throne of grace with confidence. Not to pray would be to squander one of our richest blessings—to talk to our Father.

Dr. Leroy Jolly is a man immersed in prayer. He is a beloved and passionate Equipping U Church Ministries Training workshop leader, board member, and chaplain for ICEA.

Thank you Dr. Jolly for inspiring and challenging hundreds of people to powerfully pray.

FROM THE EDITOR

Has the summer flown by for you as it has for me? It's only a few more weeks until the neighborhood kids are back to school and the fall church schedule is in full swing.



I hope you've had a "Summer of Purpose." I'd love to hear about it. Share your testimony of how God has worked in your VBS, camp, or Back-yard Bible Club with the ICEA community on Facebook. Find a link at www.iceaOnline.org.

Serving with U,

Kimberly von Oeyen
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NEXT STEPS

Want more teaching and equipping on prayer? Then make plans to attend Dr. Jolly's workshops at the Equipping U Church Ministries Training Conference on Saturday, October 27.

\$35 early-bird pricing is in effect now!

Register today & save. www.iceaOnline.org

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