

# Breaking Bread

Newsletter – The Brisbane Society of  
The New Church,  
Brisbane and South-East Queensland

**Feb, Mar, Apr 2016**



Art Work By Lenore Sandow

*Angels never pay attention to what someone's body is doing, but rather to the intent from which the body is acting. Heaven and Hell n.61 – Emanuel Swedenborg*

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## *The Power of Prayer*

How to have an effective powerful prayer life

### Part Two of Three

#### WHAT IS PRAYER?

It is easy to understand why many Christians think of prayer as 'asking' God for something and yet this is really only a minor part of what prayer really is. To understand the true nature of prayer we can draw on the analogy of a blacksmith working to transform metal. Once the fire is made hot enough, the blacksmith places the metal into the fire and leaves it there for a time until the nature and quality of the metal is transformed. After a period of time the metal absorbs the qualities of the fire and burns bright hot. While this state lasts, the metal is pliable and malleable in the hands of the blacksmith. If left alone, the metal will rapidly return to its original state wherein it is cold and hard and fixed. Consider the following scripture in light of the current analogy-

*Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "See, I have called by name Bezalel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. "I have filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship..." Exodus 31:1-3*

In this passage we can see how the spirit of The Lord and Wisdom are at the heart of all godly arts and crafts and this via correspondences. In other words, we can learn spiritually from them even as we are learning from the blacksmith.

Prayer occurs any time we spend 'waiting' on the Lord. When we stop to talk with Him we are entering His Holy fire and are absorbing His qualities. We are being transformed by His very presence. This is why times of prayer should occur regularly, if possible, many times through out each day. We need not be in the 'prayer closet' for hours. Minutes may be enough. As long as it is occurring often, we will benefit from His Holy presences. When we do come to the point of 'asking' Him for something, it will be in accord with His Word and Will, simply because we have been spending time with Him regularly. In other words, prayer is spending time with the Lord and conversing with Him and allowing Him the time and space to respond to us.

When we start to realise how broad prayer is and what the real goal is, we can make adjustments to our life to accommodate a lifestyle of prayer. Along the same lines, it is very enlightening to explore what the Heavenly Doctrines have to say about prayer.

EVERY THOUGHT, DESIRE AND CONVERSATION IS A PRAYER.

*AC 2535 ...prayer is talking to God and at the same time some inner view of the things that are being prayed for...*

*...Intense supplication is expressed in the Word by "a cry" because the supplication of those who supplicate from the heart, even if silent, is heard in heaven as a cry. Such is the case when men merely think, and still more when they groan, from a sincere heart...The case is similar with those who teach; they are heard in heaven as crying aloud. In heaven, not only the thoughts, but especially the affections which are of good and truth, speak. That they speak, and if ardent cry out... AC 9202*

What amazing verses these are, telling us that even our hidden emotions are heard in heaven as prayers. It is also vital during our times of prayer that we expect and look to the Lord to speak into our hearts with answers, insights and solutions - '*some inner view of the things that are being prayed for...*'.

## PRAYING OUT LOUD HELPS TO RELEASE THE POWER OF TRANSFORMATION

The Lord hears our inner thoughts and answers such prayers. However, we read above, '*when men merely think, and still more when they groan, from a sincere heart*', it is telling us that groaning out loud is even more effective than inward thoughts and feelings. Why would that be? We also read over and over again in the scriptures examples of where once a prayer is declared out loud, a transformation power is released into the external world. One important reason for this is that it brings confirmation of the Lord's love and care. It also follows the order of 'influx follows action' (AC 6211,6308). The most important aspect of such prayers is that they are in accord with the Word and arise out of spending time with the Lord in our prayer closets and devotional readings.

An examination of Mark 11 will help illuminate this principle -

### *Mark 11*

*12 The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. 13 Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. 14 Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it.*

*20 In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. 21 Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!"*

*22 "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. 23 "Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. 24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. 25 And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."*

There are some insightful principles contained in these words that can help us pray with conviction and effectiveness -

1. 'What they say will happen' - our words are important.
2. We can 'Have faith in God' - He is a good God who does good things.
3. There is no room for 'doubt in their heart' – doubt is our enemy and from hell.
4. We can learn how to fight and 'stand praying' – do not give up.
5. We can examine our hearts and if we 'hold anything against anyone, forgive them' – reflection in times of prayer followed by action.

There are so many good points here but stay with me on this one – When we

'SAY' our prayers out loud we are working at our most effective to support the processes of transformation both inwardly and outwardly. I am not talking about being in public. We can be alone in our prayer closet with the Lord (which is what scripture say to do - Matt 6:6) and yet speak out loud our prayers. Notice also that the Lord says that 'WHAT' we say will happen. This is a big clue that we are not to beg God for something but to declare that 'such is such' and have faith that God will make it so.

**NOT ONE OF HIS WORDS FELL TO THE GROUND – 1Sam 3:19**

Let me give you another example from the book of Samuel in the old testament-

*The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground. NIV*

*As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him, and everything Samuel said proved to be reliable. NIV*

There is, in a sense, no difference between prophesying the Word of the Lord and '*The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results*' (James 5:16). Samuel's secret is that he grew up 'knowing' the Lord and we too, if we spend time with the Lord, will know His Will and can have a mighty effective prayer life.

One more Old Testament example that is really worth mentioning is that of King Saul, who although a materialistic king and one who repeatedly failed to follow Samuel's instructions, had short periods of transformation when he entered into fellowship with the school of prophets created by Samuel. As the saying goes 'Don't hang with turkeys if you want to soar with eagles'.

Now Samuel had just anointed Saul to become king and then tells him to go up to Rachel's tomb at the border of Benjamin where he would meet two men who would give him good news (bearing witness). He was then to go on to the great tree of Tabor (*Tabor means fragile or broken*) where he would meet three men worshipping God and they would give him 'wine and bread' (Think Holy Supper).

Finally Saul would arrive at a Philistine outpost where he would meet a procession of prophets. This is one instance where Saul obeyed Samuel's commands. Listen to what Samuel tells him will happen next -

*...As you approach the town, you will meet a procession of prophets coming down from the high place with lyres, timbrels, pipes and harps being played before them, and they will be prophesying. 6 The Spirit of the Lord will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person. 7 Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you.*

Here in lies the true purpose of prayer – that we may 'be' with the Lord and that He may turn us into a 'new creation'. From this place you can prophesy and pray and 'do whatever your hand finds to do' for the Lord God Jesus Christ is with you.

In part three we will go deeper into 'why our prayers are or are not answered'.

May the Lord's loving presence be with you,  
Darren

(Note – This teaching is drawn from the introduction 'Prayer and The Lord's Prayer' presented at the Family Service October 4<sup>th</sup> 2015.)

...*To be continued next issue*

## ***The Months Ahead Unpacked*** ***An explanation of the upcoming events from February to April and a little beyond***

### ***The Lord's Prayer***

In December 2015, we covered the First Key to the Lord's Prayer – '*Our Father who art in the Heavens*'

The Lord willing, throughout the rest of 2016 on the first Sunday of each month (Family Service Sundays) we will continue to explore the Seven Keys of the Lord's Prayer. The Overall goal is to equip our community with a greater understanding and appreciation for the Lord's Prayer and if possible arm ourselves with the Seven Keys which can be applied to various situations in our lives enabling us to see the help and victory of The Lord. It is also my hope to record all of these teachings and upload them to the internet so that if you are not able to be there for all of them, you can catch up online.

### ***North-side Swedenborg Reading Group***

**February - Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>.**

**March - Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**April - Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>**

On the first Wednesday or Thursday evening of the month from 6pm to 7:30pm at Bracken Ridge Library, the North-side Swedenborg Reading Group meets together to discuss '*Divine Providence*'. To all our north-side community (or our south-siders if you don't mind the travel), if you would like an additional spiritual boost to the month come join the stimulating discussion.

***June 19<sup>th</sup> Father's Day, New Church Day and a Family Picnic***

We would like to aim for the New Church Day to be a family picnic gathering at the Daisy Hill Conservation Park. If weather does not permit, we could meet at Auchenflower and continue with an informal celebration of New Church Day.



**Sometime throughout the year of 2016 we are hopeful that we will be able to find a new spiritual home and church for the Brisbane Society. Keep this in your prayers.**

Bryn Athyn Cathedral at sunset, taken by Brent Schnarr

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## Hot Food & Birthday Cake Roster for First Sunday Lunches

Feb	Anna
March	Fran
April	Vivian
May	Renee
June	Ruth
July	Julie
Aug	Gaye
Sept	Bev
Oct	Anna
Nov	Fran
Dec	We all pitch in for Christmas luncheon

## **Birthdays**

*To all our friends celebrating birthdays throughout these months we wish you birthday greetings and blessings.*



### **February**

5<sup>th</sup> Eddie Duff, 6<sup>th</sup> Ken Barns, 8<sup>th</sup> Bev Sheppard, 22<sup>nd</sup> Livvy Fitzgerald, 23<sup>rd</sup> Paul Evans.

### **March**

5<sup>th</sup> Mark Pitts, 21<sup>st</sup> Sarah MacFarlane, 30<sup>th</sup> Ruth Evans, 31<sup>st</sup> Russell Eyles.

### **April**

8<sup>th</sup> Lachlan Duff, 15<sup>th</sup> Gaye Heldon, 16<sup>th</sup> Alex Duff, 20<sup>th</sup> Peter Larsen, 27<sup>th</sup> Lachlan Glenn, 28<sup>th</sup> Kyan Heldon, Jordan Brunne.

## **CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS**

Our services are currently being held at the chapel in Trinity Uniting Church Theological College, entrance via 47 Cadell Street, Auchenflower. Always check the last page in the Calendar for services.

**Pastor:** Rev. Darren Brunne, contactable on 0421 319 252

**Treasurer:** Mr Matt Heldon, contactable on 0403 384 438

**Secretary:** Mr Ken Barns, contactable on 07-5463 4282 or [ken.barns@gmail.com](mailto:ken.barns@gmail.com)

Address: 15 Grant Avenue, Boonah, Qld, 4310

**For activities on the Gold Coast and Mt Tamborine meetings** contact Mrs Gaye Heldon on 07-5577 8772

**Sunday School Co-ordinators:**

Julie & Ken Barns, contactable on 07-5463 4282 or [julie.barns@gmail.com](mailto:julie.barns@gmail.com), [ken.barns@gmail.com](mailto:ken.barns@gmail.com)

**CALENDARS**

**Feb 2016**

**Sun 7<sup>th</sup>**

**1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE** including  
**HOLY SUPPER** led by Rev. Brunne at 10.30 a.m.  
*The Second Key - 'Hallowed be Thy Name'*

**Fri 12<sup>th</sup>**

Mt Tamborine Discussion Group at  
*John and Lenore Sandow's at 2 pm.*

**Sun 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Worship Circle**, 10.30 a.m.

**Sun 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Adult Service** led by Rev. Brunne.

**Sun 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Free for Home Church Visitation**

**March**

**Sun 6<sup>th</sup>**

**1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE** including  
**HOLY SUPPER** led by Rev. Brunne at 10:30am  
*'Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done'*  
The third Key from the Lord's Prayer

**Sun 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Worship Circle**, 10.30 a.m.

**Fri 18<sup>th</sup>**

Mt Tamborine Discussion Group at  
*Brian and Gaye Heldon's at 2 pm.*

**Sun 20<sup>th</sup>**

**No Service**

**Sun 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Easter Service** led by Rev. Brunne at 10:30 a.m.

**April**

**Sun 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE** including  
**HOLY SUPPER** led by Rev. Brunne at 10.30 a.m.  
*'Post Easter Service'*

**Sun 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Worship Circle**, 10.30 a.m.

**Fri 15<sup>th</sup>**

Mt Tamborine Discussion Group at  
*John and Lenore Sandow's at 2 pm.*

**Sun 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Adult Service** led by Rev. Brunne.

**Sun 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Free for Home Church Visitation**