

Breaking Bread

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

May, June, July 2016



*Those who have heaven in them desire the good of all, and **feel delight** in benefiting others, not for the sake of themselves and the world, but for the sake of the good . . . done.
Secrets of Heaven .10718:3 – Emanuel Swedenborg*

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The Power of Prayer

How to have an effective powerful prayer life
PART THREE OF THREE

While on earth, where did the Lord's authority come from?
In the heavenly teachings, it explains that the Lord Jesus' very soul was Jehovah. This does not mean that He cheated in any way. He lived as 'man dependent on God'. Now through receiving the Lord's spirit in our lives, we too can live as He lived.

For us, where does our authority come from?
The Lord has promised to give us access to His authority and power when we live according to His commandments and we ask, seek and knock through prayer 'in His name' which means for His sake and the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven. Another way of saying this is that we ask for what is Good and Right and True.

*In part three, I wish to stress this point again -
NOT ONE OF HIS WORDS FELL TO THE GROUND – 1Sam
3:19*

*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. NLV*

It is our closeness to the Lord that makes all the difference when it comes to prayer. We can know a lot about a person by reading about their life and activities and to some degree by reading about their world view. However, there is no substitute for spending time directly with someone to really know how they feel about life and various subjects. By spending time with the Lord and His Word, we can go beyond the words themselves to the very essence of the words and thus know our Lord's Will, intent and purpose in many things of life. From here it is so much easier to pray with conviction when you are speaking out and asking for those things that are of the Kingdom of God and within His Will.

HOW TO PRAY WITH POWER

James 1

2Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 5If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. 6But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

WHY OUR PRAYERS ARE ANSWERED

Looking at the verse above we can draw a few conclusions -

- There is always an answer.
- If there is a 'NO' it is for our eternal good – Divine Providence 46-69

- Why we get a 'YES' – it is because we are asking aright – or from wisdom

We always get an answer, although wisdom is often required so that we can see how the answer is unfolding for us. The Lord may need to make many adjustments in our life or in the lives of others to ensure that the answered prayer is not harmful. And then, sometimes the answer is delayed and we give up because we assume that the Lord has denied our request. In the book of Daniel, we can read how Daniel fasted and prayed for twenty one days to receive an answer to his prayer. (Dan 10:10-14) And then we are told that the reason for the delay was due to a prince spirit/demon fighting and resisting the answer from getting to Daniel. What would have happened to Daniel if he had given up with fasting and praying on day twenty? How often have we given up too soon on an answer? Here is where wisdom can make the difference. If we know the Lord's will through imparted wisdom, then we can go on fighting when we are apparently not getting an answer. We can also learn from Daniel's experience in that he was told by the angel who arrived after twenty-one days that the moment Daniel began praying his words were heard in heaven and the angel was sent. So the Lord hears us instantly the very first time we pray. Also notice that the Lord delights in answering us. It is hell that seeks to block the answers to our prayers. Therefore wisdom is teaching us to persist in the pursuit of answers.

If we get a 'No' from the Lord, then wisdom will make it clear on how we have asked amiss and then where to go from there. Wisdom will help guide us towards the right desires and prayers that can be fully answered.

OUR BODIES ARE DESIGNED TO BE A TEMPLE FOR GOD.

1 Kings 9:3

The LORD said to him: "I have heard the prayer and plea you have made before me; I have consecrated this temple, which you have built, by putting my Name there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there."

When the world comes to us looking for answers from God, the Lord has promised to be with us and to hear our prayers and supplications. This occurs not for our benefit but for the benefit of others and for the Glory of God. In other words, the Lord answers

our prayers to show that He is good and loving and kind, rather than to exalt our egos and make us think that answered prayer is the sign of our righteousness. When we truly understand this, we can pray boldly for the needs of others without being plagued by our own inadequacies. We can also pray for ourselves too from this same place of humility and acknowledgement of His righteousness and our lacking.

*WHY OUR PRAYERS ARE NOT ANSWERED (or we get a 'NO')
& WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT*

We are asking for the wrong thing –

Psalm 34:7 Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. -

Matt 7:9-12 “Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone? 10“Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? 11“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him! 12“In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

2Chronicles 1:11-12

11 And God said to Solomon, Because this was in thy heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honor; nor the life of them that hate thee, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king:

12 wisdom and knowledge is granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honor, such as none of the kings have had that have been before thee; neither shall there any after thee have the like.

We are doubting in the Lord – Study the Word, be joyful for trials – for the Lord seeks for us to be victorious as “overcomers” through temptations and finally, draw near to God

We need to stand and fight – do not give up because your answer was not instant. Think of Daniel and continue to fight while reminding yourself of the Lord's promises.

Examine your heart for UN-forgiveness and then act.

Go immediately, if you can and seek the forgiveness of those you know you have wronged. In times of prayer, if someone comes to you in your thoughts, the Lord is guiding you to seek their forgiveness or perhaps pray for them. Search it out and find out which one it is.

POWERFUL PRAYER IS AN EFFECT & CHILDREN HAVE THE MOST POWER

Matt 18:3

And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Spiritual Experiences (Buss) n. 2435

2435. CONCERNING THE PRAYERS OF INFANTS. It is given me to learn from experience that the prayers of infants have a much fuller hearing in heaven than the prayers of adults, and still fuller than [the prayers] of those who have closed the way towards interiors, by thoughts of natural things, and the things of memory, and still fuller than [the prayers] of those who are blinded and so have no faith; for with them, the way towards heaven is closed.

After the resurrection, the Lord told Peter 'Feed my lambs'. Often in life we are busy feeding things in our life that are not conducive to spiritual life. Inside us are many states of innocence put there by the Lord. These are the 'lambs' in our inner world that we need to feed if we want to return to the states of innocence called 'childhood'. We must also be busy feeding our brothers and sisters in the world; however, inner work must be attended to first if we are going to have something of substance to give them. In other words, both are important. When it comes to prayer, we need to tap into the states of childlike innocence within if we want to find the clearest channel to being heard in Heaven.

May you experience life and power in your times of prayer,
Rev Darren Brunne

The Months Ahead Unpacked

*An explanation of the upcoming events from
May to July*

The Lord's Prayer

Now that we have passed the Easter season, we can continue with our study and focus on the Keys to the Lord's Prayer. We are currently up to the fourth Key, '*Give us this day our daily bread*' and will explore its meaning and application to our spiritual walk during the family service of June. Later in the month of June we will also be gathering together at Daisy Hill Conservation Park to celebrate New Church Day and Father's Day combined – see below.

North-side Swedenborg Reading Group

May - Thursday 5th

June - Thursday 2nd

July - Thursday 7th

On the second Thursday evening of the month from 6pm to 7pm 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.

NOTE: The library have successfully booked our reading group in until the end of the year on the Second Thursday evening of the Month.

June 19th 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.

(The Following is a survey compiled by Darren Lawler. My recommendation is that you print out the next four pages, fill in and send to bgheldon@gmail.com)

Dear Members and Friends,

It's been quite a while since the sale of the property at Agars Street and the search for a new more permanent home continues. To this end the committee is hoping everyone will partake in a short survey to ensure our new home meets the needs of the members and friends of the Brisbane Society of the New Church (BSNC).

We need as many members and friends as possible to answer the questions below and to give feedback regarding your thoughts, as outlined in the questionnaire below by Wednesday, 1st June, 2016.

- Please email your answers to bgheldon@gmail.com or
- Mail to Gaye at PO Box 359 Sanctuary Cove, QLD 4212.

1. How many services per month do you feel able to support?

- a. Every Sunday 4 or 5 per month
- b. 3 Sundays per month
- c. 2 Sundays per month
- d. 1 Sunday per month
- e. Occasional
- f. None

2. On a scale of 1 to 5 please circle how important the following objectives are for the BSNC:

a. To provide our members and friends with a space to worship.

1 (least) 2 3 4 5 (most)

b. To make the Writings accessible to interested people.

1 (least) 2 3 4 5 (most)

c. To hold classes/talks/seminars/lectures on The Word and the Writings.

1 (least) 2 3 4 5 (most)

d. To have an outlet for books/art/leaflets/counselling/talks for interested people.

1 (least) 2 3 4 5 (most)

e. Please list any other objectives you feel are important for the BSNC

3. On a scale of 1 to 5 please rate how important access to outdoor play space for children is for you.

1 (least) 2 3 4 5 (most)

4. On a scale of 1 to 5 please rate how important it is for the church to be centrally located.

1 (least) 2 3 4 5 (most)

5. On a scale of 1 to 5 how important is it for our “base” to be located in a traditional church building rather than a shop, office, hall or commercial building?

1 (least) 2 3 4 5 (most)

Please give us any ideas you may have on how you see the relevance of the BSNC both now and into the future.

Do you think our doctrine is different enough from other religions?

Do you think it is worth preserving and promoting?

Also any ideas you may have on how to develop programs to stay relevant to the young and future generations. If you have children please do ask them for ideas! (Should the music/hymns be different? Would you like to form a singing group to lead us? Are picnics and ten pin bowling or cinema dates for the young worth pursuing?)

Any other thoughts you feel you would like to express will also be most welcome and appreciated.

Thank you for participating. Everything will remain anonymous.

The Greater Works The Believer Will Do

Very much to the forefront in my thinking both before and after Easter this year were the words of the Lord – a promise He made in those fraught days leading up to His arrest and crucifixion, that he who believes in Him, “the works that I do he will do also, and greater works than these he will do, because I go to my Father.” John 14:12)

“Greater works?”, I kept asking myself. How can anything we do, or even aspire to do, be “greater” than the works the Lord did? He fed multitudes, changed water into wine, brought the dead back to life, restored sight to the blind, gave back hearing to the deaf, straightened the paralysed and healed an unknown number of people otherwise burdened with sickness.

The thought occurred to me that perhaps the word “greater” might not accurately convey the meaning of what Jesus said. But no, the Greek word – from which we have our ‘mega’ – is clear in its meaning. “Great”, “greater”, “extraordinary” and “wonderful” are just a few of the meanings it carries, depending on context.

However, let’s go back to what the Lord was highlighting.

When you stop and think about it, the “works” the Lord did, and to which He was referring - those astounding miracles as they were - all had to do with people’s bodily or physical lives.

And we take nothing away from them in saying that. They were miracles performed in response to people’s physical hunger, physical blindness and deafness and paralysis, and so on. The reality is, however, that there are even more challenging, greater and more extraordinary works than these. And these all have to do with human nature, with change, healing and transformation as to our spirit, or as to the person we are within.

“Because I go to my Father”, the Lord said. All this would be so – these greater “works” that would become possible – would be “because I go to my Father”.

What is this, about the Lord going to His father?

Remember, this was the Lord talking during those days leading up to His arrest and crucifixion. He was speaking about the completion of his work here and, at one level at least, both anticipating it and looking forward to it. Final, excruciating battles with the hells lay immediately ahead, but along with hoped-for victory in these would be His final and complete union with the Father. Not only would the forces of evil from hell have been taken on and subjugated, but His power over them into the never ending future would be confirmed.

“Most assuredly I say to you, he who believes in me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to my Father.”

This is the Lord promising empowerment. He talked, you may remember, of moving mountains (Matthew 17:20) – mountains of self-interest, or self-righteousness, of self-promotion and self-regard. Once He became one with His Father, fully glorified, these tendencies in us and of which we are at times painfully aware can be faced up to and, however gradual the process, be overcome. And the removing of these things is “the greater works”, the more extraordinary miracles. Here, the Lord is highlighting what is of eternal significance as compared with what is temporary and of this world only. And it is the greater because of this.

Like me, then, I hope you draw huge encouragement from this promise. We wonder if we can or ever will change for the better. Yes, we can. It is the greater miracle, and in the Lord’s redeeming strength it can be accomplished.

Ian A Arnold

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.

May

4th Alexis Evans, Oliver Barns, 13th Darren Lawler, 15th Tasha Lee, 18th Kevin Attwater, John Sandow, Susan Heldon, Marna Heldon

June

16th Shane Heldon, Glenn Alden, 20th Ainsley Heldon, 23rd Tori Barns, 24th Georgie Duff, 28th Benedict Barns

July

2nd Margaret Chambers, 4th Jayden Heldon, 19th Angus Glenn, 20th Amy MacFarlane, 25th Saxon Heldon, 30th Greg Lee

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

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, ken.barns@gmail.com

CALENDARS

May 2016

Sun 1st

1st SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE including
HOLY SUPPER led by Rev. Brunne at 10.30 a.m.
'The Feast of Pentecost'

Sun 8th

Sacred Circle, 10.30 a.m.

Sun 15th

Adult Service led by Ken Thomson.

Fri 27th

Mt Tamborine Discussion Group
Gaye and Brian's House at 2pm

June

Sun 5th

1st SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE including
HOLY SUPPER led by Rev. Brunne at 10:30am
'Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread'
The Fourth Key from The Lord's Prayer

Sun 12th

Sacred Circle, 10.30 a.m.

Fri 19th

June 19th Father's Day,
New Church Day and a Family Picnic
10:30am - Daisy Hill Conservation Park.

Fri 24th

Mt Tamborine Discussion Group
Gaye and Brian's House at 2pm

July

Sun 3rd

1st SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE including
HOLY SUPPER led by Rev. Brunne at 10.30 a.m.
'Forgive Us Our Debts' – Key Five

Sun 10th

Sacred Circle, 10.30 a.m.

Sun 17th

Abiding in the Vine led by Rev. Brunne.

Fri 22nd

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

Sun 24th

Free for Home Church Visitation