

Discovery

MAY 2010

God
answers
Prayers

Stories, Puzzles, Jokes, Readers' Response, Serial and more...

Hi There!

Sometimes we feel like it's a difficult thing to pray. Our heads are filled with doubts; Can God really hear me? Will He answer my prayer? Will I get what I want? We might not know what to say or how long it will take God to answer, but God WILL hear your prayers, and He always knows what's best for us! Just keep praying!

Wendy 



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The Crosses of Prayer

By Annaliese Smith 

Jared had been praying about this for the last month. Every day for the last 31 days. Now he was onto month two. He flipped on the radio as he walked into his room and once again prayed. 'Dear God. You know I really need help with Ben at school. It's not fair how he's treating me; I don't know what to do. Please change his attitude and help me be patient.'

As he said a determined 'Amen' he crossed off the first February on the calendar. He was going to pray about this every day until God showed him the answer. And he knew that God did answer prayer; Jesus had spent a lot of time teaching the disciples and the people about prayer and there were heaps of verses in the Bible that talked about how to pray.

Actually, Jared knew a lot about prayer. He had grown up with his parents praying for him, praying at every meal and at Church. And he liked praying, it was very comforting to know that he could talk to God whenever he wanted to.

So Jared kept praying until the black crosses filled February and were half way into March, but still nothing had changed. At church Jared listened hard. He was getting desperate to find an answer. A verse half way through the service made him grab his Bible and furiously flick through until he found it; 1st Peter 5 v 6. He knew the second part of the verse off by heart - 'Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you'. The way to cast your cares onto God was to pray to Him, something he had definitely been doing. But it was the first part of the verse that had him scrambling. 'Humble yourself, therefore under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.'

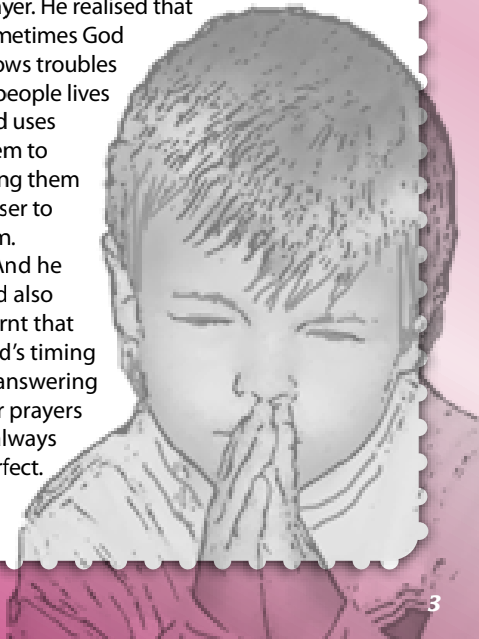
The word 'humble' made him think of Jesus on his knees washing the disciple's feet. He sat and thought about what it was to be humble, to be humble when praying.

Jared thought about what he was usually doing as he prayed: listening to music, walking to school, lying on his bed, playing on the computer, texting. A lot of different things, but he was never on his knees.

When he got home he went to his drawer and got out a red pen. Then he got on his knees and humbled himself before God and prayed for the trouble that he was having at school with Ben. When he stood up he went to the calendar and put a red cross over March 13. For the next two months red crosses went up on the calendar. And slowly things with Ben began to get better.

If God had answered his prayer in the first week, Jared knew that he would have missed out on learning more about prayer. He realised that sometimes God allows troubles in people lives and uses them to bring them closer to Him.

And he had also learnt that God's timing in answering our prayers is always perfect.



God's Provision through 2001

2001 is not a year I would like to repeat, but at the same time it was a year when God showed great kindness to us in many ways. At that time we were working through several difficult issues, two of which were my husband's heart problem and a closure on the oyster farm. It turned out that closure lasted for seven months. I wondered how we would earn money to pay for food, but God knew about our struggles.

One event in particular that happened during that time stands out in my mind. Towards the end of the closure we were permitted to relay oysters to another harbour. A friend kindly allowed us to use space on his farm. We already had oysters 'cleaning out' on our friend's farm so this particular day we needed to uplift these oysters and then off load new ones to purify. Our son who normally works with us was away at this time. We collected our bins of oysters from our farm, hooked up our boat behind the truck and travelled the 50 kilometres

to where our friend's farm is situated. We put the boat in the water and off loaded half the oysters into the boat. As we headed down the tidal estuary we realized that we would not have enough time to complete the second load, pick up the oysters for sale for a waiting truck and then get back to the truck before the tide dropped away.

We off loaded the first load and headed back up the stream. As we did so another boat followed us, the two men jumped out, helped load the boat and sent us on our way. They later returned to help us with binning the oysters for sale and then assisted in loading them for the market.

With our task completed we returned home to find \$160 of food vouchers hanging on the door. This was one of many times the Lord provided for us during those months. In total we received over \$10,000 in gifts along with many groceries.

We can truly say, 'The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him. (Nahum 1:7)

Answers to Prayer

Have you ever hoped and dreamed for something like a special gift, a friend to get well, or something that seems impossible?

I'm sure you can think of lots of things you have hoped for and those hopes and dreams haven't happened.

How about asking God? He loves you and wants the very best for you. But, don't expect God to give you things that aren't good for you. He may answer your prayer straight away, He may keep you waiting, or what you've asked for may not be the very best for you. In that case, God may lovingly say 'no'.

Remember the verse in Luke 11:9-10:

ASK

Prayer Puzzle

Did you know that God is never too busy to listen to His children when they speak to Him?

Unscramble the following words to find out what happened to the poor man below:

“. nda het rdol rdahe mih, nda vdesa imh tuo fo lal shi btrulseo” lmsap 34:6

Always remember,
whenever we need to talk,
the Lord is ready to listen.

How does prayer work?

JACK'S pet hamster is sick. Jack prays God will make Toby better, but after three days, Toby dies. Jack is disappointed and wonders if God cares about the small things in life.

SHELLY gets knocked off her bicycle and is unconscious in hospital. Her friends and family are praying she will recover. Shelly does survive, but has brain damage and will never live a normal life again. Why did God allow this to happen to a lovely girl with so much potential?

GRANNY JOHNSON is concerned about her grandchildren. They are getting into trouble and have no time for God. She prays for them every day. Granny is now in heaven. Will her earthly prayers ever be answered?

KEN wanted to be a lawyer but missed out on a place at university. He's now studying at a Bible School and feels God wants him to become a missionary. Did this happen by accident or did God have other plans for Grant's life?

JULIE has bad eye sight and needs special glasses, but her parents can't afford to buy them. They prayed about it and the next week her father received an award for being the best worker at his factory. The prize money was enough to pay for Julie's glasses. They are grateful to God for this amazing answer to prayer.

It's wonderful when God answers prayer, as in Julie's case. But as we can see from the other examples, God doesn't always answer our prayers in the way we expect or would like.

So how does prayer work? Does God hear every prayer we utter? Why does He appear to answer some prayers while others seem to go unanswered? Can we really trust God?

The problems arise when we try to understand God in human terms. We see everything in the 'here and now' and forget that God is eternal, that His ways are not our ways, and that He knows the whole story. We often forget that God created everything and He did it for His glory and pleasure - not ours.

In 1 Peter 3:12, we read: "The Lord watches over everyone who obeys him, and He listens to their prayers."

We can believe what God's Word tells us, because God cannot lie.

Sometimes we may feel as though we're nagging when we keep asking God for the same thing. If God knows everything, then do we need to keep asking over and over again?

In Luke 18, Jesus told a parable about a widow who kept pleading with the town's judge to sort out her enemy. She was so persistent that eventually the judge gave in and granted her justice.

Jesus told this story to show his followers that they should always pray and not give up.

Our prayers require purpose, patience and perseverance.

Prayer is the key that unlocks faith in our lives and releases God's power.

It's the privilege we have of being able to communicate with the God of the universe. How amazing is that!

1 Caleb Cameron
Lynda Head
Kaha Head
Jurie Henry
Hardrain Hungurma
Joseph Kilepak
Jacob Lane
Francis Lobb
Lorna McEwan
Jeremiah Nkanga
Isaiah Prescott
Elijah Prescott
Samantha Staniforth
Samuel Weir

2 Molly Brickell
Jeff Driver
Danielle Jago
Liam Mitchell
Joel Mitchell
Jessica Mitchell
Rebekah Moodley
Thereasa Rampersaud
Karen Roberts
Elizabeth-Joy Symington
Aubrey Vivian

3 Etin-Osa Akonofua
Faith Aldridge
Deana Barfoote
Jessica Buckham
Saba Charles
Doris Ifiok
Bianca Jago
Isaac Mui
Ebuka Obojiofor
Samson Okoh
Seini Schaumkel
Isaac Seiuli
Hannah Share
Edgar Smits
Lucille Smits
Olivia Smits

Bethany Tyler
Anne Wright
4 Stanley Brown
Grace Hince
Tai Nimo
Aasha Nimo
Nathan Pook
Benjamin Shepherd

5 Michael Andrews
Jasmin Harrison
Geno Iruna
Ruth Lauridsen
Chiadi Nnoli
Amanda Procter
Geoff Procter
Daniella Shivas

6 Sharon Swami
7 Kelly Hall
Laura-Jane Lauridsen

8 Ben Hince
9 Aimee Allan
Lydia Nuttall
Michael Peach

12 John Dairo
Dorothy Lowry
Elenoa Ram
Keith Webster

13 Uzochukwu
Ezukwo
Mathew Lowry

16 Darren Maharaj
19 Darryl Alexander

23 Ulamila Tabutabu
24 Anita Erskine
Utulele Faumui

44 Bevan Dick



"We can remember to read these."

BIBLE READINGS

MAY

DATE	BOOK	REFERENCE		
1	Sat	1 Sam	1:1-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Sun	1 Sam	1:9-18	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Mon	1 Sam	1:19-28	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Tue	1 Sam	2:11-21	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Wed	1 Sam	3:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Thu	1 Sam	3:10-21	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Fri	1 Sam	4:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Sat	1 Sam	4:12-18	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Sun	1 Sam	7:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Mon	1 Sam	7:10-17	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Tue	1 Sam	8:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Wed	1 Sam	8:10-22	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Thu	1 Sam	10:17-27	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Fri	1 Sam	12:1-5, 13-17	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Sat	1 Sam	12:18-25	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Sun	1 Sam	13:5-14	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Mon	1 Sam	15:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Tue	1 Sam	15:10-23	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	Wed	1 Sam	15:24-35	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	Thu	Hab	1:1-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Fri	Hab	1:5-11	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	Sat	Hab	1:12-2:1	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	Sun	Hab	2:2-5	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	Mon	Hab	2:6-20	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	Tue	Hab	3:1-19	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	Wed	Job	1:1-5	<input type="checkbox"/>
27	Thu	Job	1:6-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
28	Fri	Job	1:13-22	<input type="checkbox"/>
29	Sat	Job	2:1-13	<input type="checkbox"/>
30	Sun	Job	3:1-26	<input type="checkbox"/>
31	Mon	Job	19:23-27	<input type="checkbox"/>




Readers' Response

Email: info@biblediscovery.org.nz
or write to us: 888 New North Road, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025



"Hey kids - this is YOUR page - so send in (original materials) your favourite joke, one of your own poems or prayers, a letter or a question about being a Christian and it might end up here!!"

God Hears When I Pray

By Janet Fleming 


God hears when I pray,
He'll listen today,
He'll answer my prayer
In the very best way.

Sometimes He'll say "no,"
And so I can know,
He sees what is best
And the way I should go.

And when I've been bad
And my heart is so sad,
I'll pray He'll forgive
And once more I am glad.

I'll trust Him today
To show me the way,
God knows what is best
And He hears when I pray.

WORD FIND

By Janet Fleming 

There are 10 Bible people, listed in the non-shaded portion of this wordfinder, whose prayer God answered. Can you find them?

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
D	A	N	I	E	L	Y	1
H	A	J	I	L	E	R	2
A	S	O	R	I	U	A	3
N	U	S	E	S	M	C	4
N	S	H	T	H	A	H	5
A	E	U	E	A	S	E	6
H	J	A	P	A	U	L	7

Now using the clues go to the shaded part above to find the letter and the shaded part to the right to find the number. The point where the number and letter cross is the letter you need to fill the space. See how you get on filling in the gaps in the puzzle below.

B _ f _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ w _ _ _ _ _
 F2 C3 G2 D4 D5 A7 B6 G1 G4 E6 E2 G7 D2 E3 G7 E2

_ _ _ _ _ w _ _ _ _ ; w _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
 B1 A5 E4 D6 D3 E5 D2 E2 B6 D5 A2 G6 G1 E6 D3 D6

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ p _ _ _ k _ _ _ g _ _ w _ _ _ _ _
 F6 D5 D1 G7 E2 B5 B6 B1 D1 A4 E3 D2 G7 G7

_ _ _ _ _ . Isaiah 65:24b
 A2 E1 B1 G2

ANSWERED PRAYER

Scene: Person stranded on cliff/mountain.

Characters: Person 1; God (voice only)

Props: Simple version - have picture on AV behind of rocky mountain.

Harder version - have a painted backdrop of mountain, or cardboard boxes stacked and painted or covered with material.

Have some rocks scattered at base where person stands.

Person: *(facing outwards, tries to edge along the base of mountain. Cries of fear/fright as pretends to slip and looks down.)* I'm never going to make it. I knew I should have stuck to the main track. This ledge is too narrow and it doesn't go anywhere. I'm stuck.

(Pause) Help! Help! Is there anyone up there? It's no use. *(tries to edge along and pretends to slip)* Help! God, if you're up there, I could do with some help right now!

God's Voice: I can see that. I'd like to help you.

Person: Great! I'd like you to get me off this ledge please.

God: Sure. It is a rather narrow ledge, isn't it?!

Person: You're telling me! I must have taken the wrong track.

God: Well, you called, and here I am.

Person: Thanks. Right, I'm ready to be rescued.

God: Okay then. Step off the ledge.

Person: Excuse me? What did you say?

God: Step off the ledge.

Person: No way! That's ridiculous!

God: You called, I answered, and this is how I will rescue you. Step off the ledge.

Person: *(Pause)* Is there anybody else up there?!

Sometimes we ask God to help us, but when He tells us what we have to do, we don't like the answer. Trusting God means trusting that the way He answers us is the very best option for our lives, even if it makes no sense, it's not what we thought, or we don't like it. He will bless us for obeying Him.



Answered Prayer

Hannah was very sad. So sad, that she didn't feel like talking to anyone! She was going to worship the God of Israel where the chief priest was making the sacrifices for all the people, and she had no children to take with her. The other wife in the family was being mean and nasty, taunting her and saying that she wouldn't understand what it was like to be busy with babies and toddlers. She was bossing Hannah around, giving her all the hard jobs and cooking to do as they travelled. She said that she was far too busy looking after her little ones, and that Hannah had more time to do them.

It was bad enough for Hannah to have no babies of her own, but the teasing made it so much worse. She felt like crying all the time, and her husband couldn't comfort her.

"Come on Hannah", he said kindly, putting his arm around her, "Aren't I better to you than TEN babies?"

"Oh Elkanah", Hannah sobbed, "I can't help it! How I wish I had my own baby instead of having to help look after someone else's! It's the same every year that we come here!"

At last the journey was over, and they had arrived where the priest was. Elkanah gave all his family offerings to give to the priest, but he gave an extra special one to Hannah. The other wife rolled her eyes, and made some more smart remarks.

That night after the evening meal, Hannah went to the altar of God, and knelt in front of it. She couldn't help sobbing as she prayed to God in a whisper. "Oh God," she prayed, "if you will only give me a baby of my own, I promise I will give him back to You to serve You all his life!"

Eli the priest noticed this woman kneeling there. He could hear her sobbing and saw her lips moving. He thought she was drunk, and said, "Why have you been drinking too much? You shouldn't have so much wine!"

"Oh no, Sir," she said. "I have a really bad problem and have told it all to God."

"Well," he said, "God has heard your prayer, and He will surely give you what you have asked for."

The family went back home, and shortly afterwards Hannah found she was going to have a baby of her own! How happy she was!

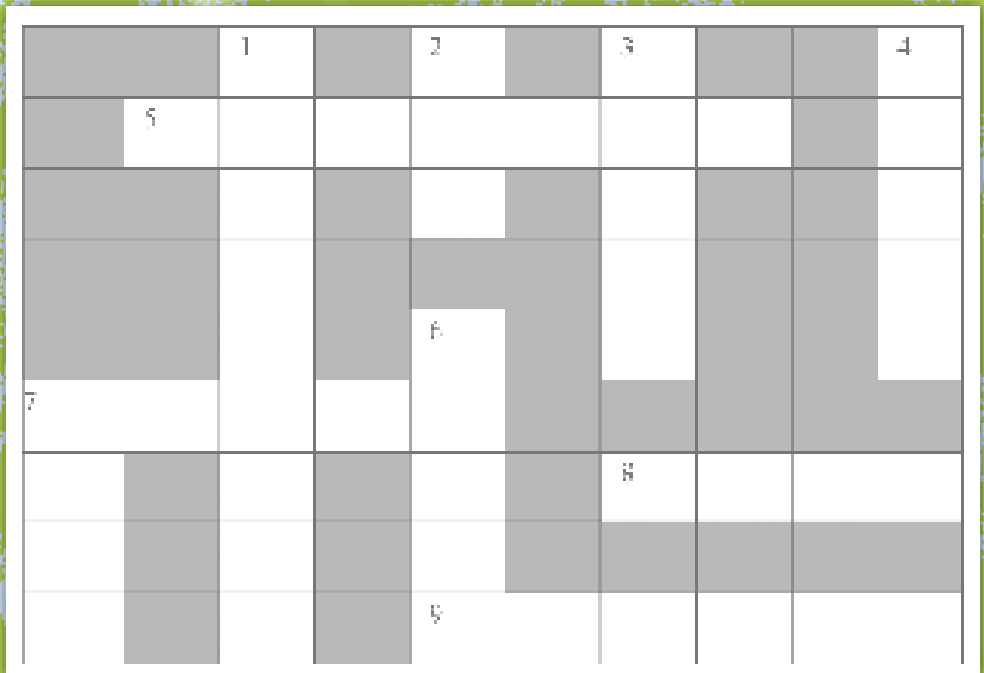
"I won't go to the feast this year," she said to Elkanah, "I'll wait until baby Samuel is old enough to be left with the priest, and then I'll give him back to the Lord."

Hannah never forgot her promise to God, and when Samuel was about three or four, she took him when the family went to sacrifice. She took him to Eli the priest, and said, "Do you remember me? I was praying here for this little boy and God has answered my prayer. So I'm giving him back to God, and he is old enough to help you now."

Samuel lived with Eli the priest, and grew up to be a great priest of God and leader of Israel. Hannah never forgot her eldest son, and God gave her five more children because she honoured her promise.

Hannah never forgot her promise to God

Various Prayers that God Answered



CLUES

Across

5. This king prayed for wisdom (1 Kings 3:8 - 12)
7. Nehemiah prayed about going to rebuild Jerusalem's _____ (Nehemiah 1:11, 2:4 - 6)
8. King Hezekiah prayed that God would _____ him. (2 Kings 20:5)
9. They prayed for Peter to be released from prison. The _____ (Acts 12:5 - 12)

Down

1. This man prayed (Acts 10:30 & 31)
2. God told this man to pray for his friends (Job 42:8)
3. This man prayed inside a fish (Jonah 2:1 & 2)
4. This man prayed for his sister to be healed (Numbers 12:13)
6. He prayed that his wife might have a child (Genesis 25:21)
7. Abraham's servant prayed for a _____ for his master's son. (Genesis 24:12 - 15)

Yummy or Yucky, Bright or Dark?

"It's the last straw!" wailed Samantha. "I've lost my back-pack."

"Where did you leave it?" asked her Mother.

"On the bus, I was talking to my friends."

"That was careless Sam," grumbled her Mother. "But it will probably turn up."

"But my homework is in it - and my lunch-box, and my purse with \$5 in it," whined Samantha.

"I'll phone the bus depot after work," offered Mum.

"Now you go and check on Shania, she's feeling very uncomfortable. I'm off to work now."

Mum kissed Samantha goodbye, and Sam went to see her little sister. Poor Shania had chicken pox, and the spots were sore and itchy. She sat in a darkened room because the light hurt her eyes.

"Do you want to play a game, sis?" asked Samantha.

"I'm not allowed to watch TV or read or anything", Shania whimpered.

"And you're not allowed to scratch either", added Samantha seeing her sister trying to relieve the itchy spots.

Grandma bustled in. "How about helping me to make a cake, girls?" she enquired, helping Shania into her dressing gown. "Go and answer that, Sam," she added as the phone rang.

It was the girls' father, ringing to say that the car had broken down.

"I'll be home quite late", he added. "You'd better eat dinner without me."

Disappointed, because she enjoyed Dad's company,

"If you don't have dark places and shadows in your life, you don't appreciate the bright and happy experiences."

Sam wandered outside where her friend Dan was kicking his football.

"Guess what Sam?" he said awkwardly. "Mum just told me we're shifting. I'll be going to a new school. We won't be able to go swimming together any more." Poor Samantha was very upset, but she tried not to let Dan see how disappointed she was. It was a horrid end to a difficult day.

Sam went into the kitchen, where Shania was sitting on a stool while Gran bustled around collecting cooking equipment. Sam plonked down beside her sister, and a tear rolled down her cheek. She told Shania and Grandma what a miserable life she had. Gran listened quietly, weighing out ingredients. When Samantha finished grumbling Grandma asked her, "Would you like a snack dear?"

Samantha perked up. Maybe her day was improving. "Yes Gran - you know I love your cakes," she said.

"Here's a raw egg - you can eat that first", suggested Gran, rolling a big brown egg across the bench.

"That's disgusting!" said Sam in surprise.

"Then you may prefer some flour and baking powder", offered Gran, pushing the bowl over to Samantha.

"Yuk!" she groaned, pulling a face.

"What about a spoonful of cocoa or salt dear?" asked Gran innocently.

"No Gran," piped up Shania. "We want a REAL cake - properly cooked!"

"All these things are part of the cake," explained Gran. "Each part is unpleasant on its own, but when they are put together in the right way, they make something good and special."

"I'll wait 'til they're all measured and mixed and cooked," said Shania.

"Eating raw eggs would be just the last straw today - everything's gone wrong," muttered Samantha full of self pity.

Gran was vigorously stirring ingredients in a big basin. She paused and looked at Samantha. "All the things which happened today may have seemed awful, but when they are put together they form a pattern of God's guidance and care. Just the way all these yucky ingredients combine to form a yummy cake."

"Why does God let me have such difficult times? Why do such bad things happen Gran?" Sam's eyes filled with tears.

"God knows that when He lets things happen in the order He allows, they work together for good. Things may be difficult at the time, but later on you will look back and understand. Pray about your troubles and trust God in the bad times and you'll grow stronger and better for the experience."



Gran poured the cake mix into a tin and put it in the hot oven. She wiped her hands on her apron.

"Come, girls, I want to show you something." Gran lifted Shania down off her stool and led them to her bedroom. She opened her sewing box and took out an embroidered cloth.

"See this part, Sam? I've only embroidered bright colours - green, yellow, red and orange.

"What's it meant to be, Gran?" asked Shania, gently fingering the handwork.

"It will be flowers when I've finished", explained Gran.

"Now look at THIS piece where I've put grey shadows and dark stems and a dull background.

"The flowers look much clearer and brighter there, Gran", observed Samantha with growing interest.

"Yes dear", smiled Gran. "If you don't have dark places and shadows in your life, you don't appreciate the bright and happy experiences. There's nothing to contrast them with. You can't appreciate sun and light if you don't have dark and night"

"So you need both dark threads and light threads to make a good picture?" asked Shania.

"That's right, dear," said Gran smiling, "and there's another thing this cloth can teach us." She turned it over.

"That doesn't look very nice," observed Samantha doubtfully. "I can't even guess what the picture should be."

"Exactly!" said Gran. "The underside is knots and uneven bits and no pattern. That's just what life is like sometimes. We see only the underside while we go through difficult times. But God sees the upper side, the beautiful pattern He is making in our lives.

"Today has been a dark thread sewn in your life story. You just trust Him to guide you, and one day He will show you the upper side, and you will see how necessary the dark thread was in the pattern of your life.

The girls were fingering the neatly embroidered cloth, thinking about dark and bright threads in their lives. Now, let's pray about the lost bag, and Danny shifting house, and Shania's itchy spots. Then we will trust God to guide us, and go eat some hot cake."

After they had prayed Samantha smiled. "Thanks Gran, I feel much better now because I've shared that with God." She put her small hand into Gran's old wrinkled one. "I hope all those yucky things have mixed and baked properly", she said.

"Long ago, when I was about your age, My grandma taught me a poem" Gran replied. "It helped me such a lot when things were difficult".

"Tell us, Gran", begged Shania, quite forgetting to scratch her itches.

"If I can remember it", laughed Gran. Sitting down with her grand daughters, the old lady began.

"My life is but a weaving between my Lord and me. I cannot see the pattern He weaves endlessly. Sometimes He weaves sorrow, and I, with foolish pride

Forget He sees the upper, and I - the underside.

Not 'til the loom is silent, and the shuttles cease to fly Will He unroll the canvas and explain the reason why The dark threads are as needful in the Weaver's skillful hand

As the threads of gold and silver in the pattern HE has planned."

"That's so good, Gran!" Samantha was seeing that her day of disasters might be a day of blessings in disguise. "Please write it down for me to learn." Gran smiled, "Yes dear, I'll do that. Then, one day you can teach it to YOUR grandchildren."

Shania was staring at her sister. "Gran, look at Sam's face!" she said.

Gran peered through her glasses and remarked, "Oh dear, you have red spots around your forehead. I guess you've got chicken pox too."

"Oh goodie!" said Shania. "Now Sam will have to stay home from school and play with me."

Sam sighed and said, "Another dark thread, Gran, on a dark day. But it will give us a chance to find my backpack and do my homework, won't it?"

Gran hugged her two favourite little girls and said, "That's right. Now who wants some cake?"

We see only the underside while we go through difficult times...



♥ "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who have been called according to His purpose" Romans 8 v 28)

*“Ask and it will be given to you;
seek and you will find;
knock and the door
will be opened to you”*
(Matthew 7:7).