

YOUTH PRAYS-GOD ANSWERS!

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Name: _____

Date: _____

Lesson 08

MODERN DAY MIRACLES

"WE'LL NEVER be the same," were the words of Sue Winner when she and her husband Frank came to visit me one day. They were rejoicing and praising the Lord for the miraculous answers to prayer He had given them during the past six months.

Frank Winner had faced financial bankruptcy. He had had three business failures. He was without a job. The finance company was about to foreclose on his home. The utility bills were all in arrears. At times there was not even any bread in the cupboard. On top of all of these problems Frank and Sue were entertaining the idea of separation because of incompatibility.

The picture had become so dark that Sue found herself in tears in church repeatedly. Things were at an impasse. Both Frank and Sue decided that it was impossible for them to live together under the present circumstances. But "man's extremity is God's opportunity."

About that time Frank began to attend a class in the Prayer of Reception conducted by Hugh James at Angwin Hall on the La Sierra College campus. He was obviously frustrated, but Hugh treated him kindly. In fact Hugh gave Frank so much of his time that I tried diplomatically to encourage Hugh not to let people divert too much of his time from his college work, and also from the important prayer classes he was supervising.

But it soon became evident that the time Hugh spent with Frank was beginning to produce fruit. Never before, in his entire life, had Frank had an answer to prayer. Now he began to receive answers—almost daily. It was just like a miracle!

There was the time the water was turned off, as Sue told it to me: "A notice came one day telling us that the water would be turned off in five days if the bill wasn't paid. It was read and duly filed with all the other long-overdue bills. In all of our pressing problems it was soon forgotten.

"Five days later when I turned on the faucet to fill the tub so I could do a washing, no water came out. The very silence of that particular faucet, which had always played a drip, drip, drip, should have told me that something was wrong, even before I tried to turn it on. For now it was silent.

"At any rate, I ran next door to find out whether they were having a water problem. NO problem there. They had all the water they needed, so it wasn't a broken line. I decided to call the water company and find out what was wrong. To my chagrin they said, 'We shut the water off. Didn't you receive the cutoff notice?' I told them I hadn't. Then something pricked my memory. I looked to make sure, and there filed neatly away among the unpaid bills was the notice.

Youth Prays . . . God Answers

"What was I going to do? There wasn't any money to pay the bill, much less the turn-on charge. Maybe God would help Frank get hold of some cash. So I knelt down in prayer and claimed the promise in Philippians 4:19, 'My God shall supply all your need.'

I said, 'Dear God, You know we have NEED of water. Please help Frank get some cash today so this bill can be paid. I believe You are helping Frank to get hold of some money, and thank You for it. In Jesus' name, Amen. As I rose from my knees I saw I would have to hurry or I would be late to work.

"That night, upon arriving home, sweet music greeted my ears. Drip, drip, drip! I thanked the Lord right then for helping Frank get some money to pay the water bill.

"When Frank arrived home, I asked him where he had gotten the money.

"What money?" Frank exclaimed.

"Well, didn't you pay the water bill?" I asked.

"Why, no!"

"Well, how did the bill get paid then? It was turned off this morning when I went to do the washing, but that drip, drip, drip tells me the bill has been paid.

"The mystery was soon solved. The next-door neighbor came over and handed Frank a receipt. 'Your water bill is paid,' he said. 'I had to go pay my bill today, so I just paid yours too. You can worry about paying me back when you get on your feet financially,' he said.

Then with a smile, Sue continued, "God was good. He didn't answer my prayer the way I expected with cash, but He did answer it. From that I learned a very valuable lesson. Never try to tell God HOW to answer your prayers. He has a thousand ways, of which we know nothing. No, we'll never be the same. Our trust in our heavenly Father is growing by leaps and bounds.

Then Sue told me of the time there was no bread in the house and no money to buy any. But she found some oatmeal flour and what she thought was whole-wheat flour, but later found it was buckwheat pancake flour. Then she found some dried yeast in the back of the refrigerator that was over a year old, according to the expiration date.

"It was all I had," Sue said, and so I claimed the promise of Philippians 4:19 and decided to make some bread with what I had and leave the results with God.

I proceeded to make the bread dough. This was not the procedure I generally followed when making bread; but then, it seemed nothing was following its usual procedure these days. I watched the dough rise, fascinated with the fact that God was answering my prayer right before my eyes.

"When the bread was done a more delicious loaf I never tasted! Truly God does provide as He has promised if we have fulfilled all the conditions He has laid down."

But Frank and Sue were still faced with many problems. Many times Frank was ready to declare bankruptcy and forget it all.

One day Frank came over to inquire of me what course he should follow. My answer was, I have had many financial problems too, but as serious as they were, I did not have to go bankrupt. I always claimed Philippians 4:19, "My God shall supply all your need."

With a sigh of relief, Frank replied, "That's my answer, too."

Later Frank claimed this promise, and the wholesome manner in which He asked, believed, and claimed by returning thanks that he HAD received, was most inspiring. Frank told me how he had knelt down,

Youth Prays . . . God Answers

with his Bible open, and prayed in childlike simplicity, claiming Philippians 4:19. Then he had returned thanks to God that he HAD received a job.

And, bless his heart, after four long months of grinding trial, God gave Frank a job which averaged more than two hundred dollars take-home pay per week. Although the job is seasonal, and the pay isn't always this high, Frank and Sue have learned to trust their heavenly Father.

At the time when Frank first got the job, a notice came saying that the finance company was going to foreclose on their house. Frank went to the finance office and was informed that he must immediately catch up on all the six hundred dollars that he was in arrears, or the house would be sold to the highest bidder. Frank told them he could now keep up the present payments of ninety-five dollars a month and also pay one hundred and five dollars on the delinquent bill. He offered to pay two hundred dollars a month for a period of six months. But the finance company was adamant and wanted the entire amount NOW! All or nothing!

Frank had Someone more powerful than a finance company working with him. Frank and Sue had claimed two promises from God's word concerning their home: Philippians 4:19, and Jeremiah 33:3, "I will . . . shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

They had knelt and asked, believed, and returned thanks that they HAD received their home. They had faith to believe that the finance company would not be allowed to foreclose on their home. But they had to do something quickly. Time was of an essence.

Frank was impressed to go to the Veterans Administration office and lay his problem before the man in charge. Then things started humming! The man called the finance company, took Frank's house out of their hands, and wrote Frank up a new contract with payments of only one hundred and twenty-five dollars a month instead of the two hundred dollars Frank had offered to pay. This answer to their prayer had happened in a matter of moments. It was something that would ordinarily have taken months to complete.

Truly, this is a story of modern day miracles, demonstrating that God is ready and willing to do for His obedient and believing children "great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

Esther and Eli are happy for a good neighbor. Sometimes the Lord uses neighbors like Mrs. Garrison to bring answers to prayers. At least He did in this case.

Esther was baptized and became a member of the Seventh-day Adventist church as the result of the prayers and efforts of members of the prayer class. With two small children and expecting the third soon, it was inevitable that a washing machine of some kind would have to be purchased. But they had no money.

Mrs. Garrison, the good neighbor, heard about it, and went over to see Eli and Esther, saying, "Let's pray about it." Claiming the promise in III John 2, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper . . ." Then they thanked the Lord for hearing them and awaited the answer.

Later, Mrs. Garrison, passing by the College Market, was impressed to stop and read the ads on the bulletin board. "FOR SALE," she read, "NEW KENMORE AUTOMATIC WASHER-DRIER." She knew that Esther and Eli could hardly afford the old type washer, let alone one like this one; but faith was strong and she was soon talking to the owner on the telephone.

Yes, she still had it, and would be glad for them to see it. She was asking one hundred dollars for it. Mrs. Garrison explained the situation and plans were made for them to see it.

Youth Prays . . . God Answers

Like most women, Esther was excited over the prospects of owning an automatic washer for the first time in her life! But when her eyes beheld it, she exclaimed, "Oh! What a beautiful machine! We could never afford one like this!"

How the Lord must delight in opening the windows of heaven and showering blessings and happiness upon His children. The lady looked at Esther and said, "I've just been offered one hundred and fifty dollars cash for this machine, but I'm willing to let you have it for twenty-five dollars."

"Did you say one hundred and twenty-five dollars?" Esther asked.

"No, I said twenty-five dollars." Esther was so excited she was almost in tears. "Only God would do such a thing for me," she exclaimed.

Eli was almost as happy as Esther. They paid the lady and then Eli immediately began to see about the installation. To his great dismay he discovered that the house had not been wired for the type of service they needed to operate the machine they had just purchased. This posed a real problem not easily solved. Eli began to wonder, "Now, why would God do a thing like that? He allowed us to buy a washer we can't use!"

Again the good neighbor came to the rescue. "Eli," she said, "didn't I hear you talking about finding another house?"

Yes, replied Eli, "we've been talking about it."

"All right," said Mrs. Garrison, "we'll just ask the Lord for a house for you."

A few days later Eli came home with some exciting news. He had found a house that he liked very much. There was only one thing wrong. The deposit was fifty dollars. There was something else that was not too good, either. The monthly rent was one hundred and twenty-five dollars, which he knew was too expensive for him. He had already anticipated what Mrs. Garrison was going to say about this problem!

His faith and confidence in God were growing. So this time when they knelt to pray, Eli sent up a prayer of his own. He prayed, "Lord, since You made the price of the washer come down, I know You can do the same with the house. If it be Thy will, may the rent be lowered to be within our means?"

Back went Eli, thinking about that fine house and hoping and believing that he would occupy it one day soon. And God did for him just what He promises to do for all, "Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." Psalm 37:4.

The owner brought the deposit down to twenty dollars and said that the rent would be one hundred and five dollars a month instead of the original one hundred and twenty-five dollars.

True it is that when we obey God's requirements, "God stands back of every promise He has made." Christ's Object Lessons, p. 147.

A very dear friend of ours, Dorothy Robison, wrote these words:

"My daughter's school bill was high. Realizing that she could not take her nine-weeks' test until it was paid, I prayed and claimed the promise, 'My God shall supply all your need.' Philippians 4:19.

"My husband and I dedicated our Income Tax refund toward this bill. We thought it would amount to one hundred and nineteen dollars, but we received only seventy-nine dollars. I was greatly disappointed, to say the least, but we managed to scrape together a little more money and the school allowed my daughter to take her tests, although the bill was not paid in full.

Youth Prays . . . God Answers

"Last year I had performed some services for which I received a fifty dollar gift. I assumed that the same amount would be forthcoming for the same services this year. This, also, I had dedicated toward the school bill.

"A few days ago I received a letter containing the gift. Instead of fifty dollars, it was only ten dollars. I was really discouraged, and shed a few tears. I know the Bible says we ought to 'leap for joy', Luke 6:23, when trials come, but I was ready to leap in anger. There was bitterness, resentment and discouragement in my heart.

"I said, 'Why, Lord, why?' I was not really accepting the trial which the Lord had allowed to come to me. I went around all that evening talking discouragement. I was discouraging everybody.

"During the night I realized I was doing Satan's work, and I asked the Lord for forgiveness. A peace came over me, and I know, mentally at least, what it was to 'leap for joy'. The Lord took away the bitterness and discouragement. I didn't know where the money was coming from, but I felt that the Lord would provide, and with this I went to sleep.

The following day another letter came containing a forty dollar check. It said that a mistake had been made and this was the balance of the fifty dollars that was due me. I then realized why the Lord had delayed this money in coming. He was testing my faith, and endeavoring to strengthen me.

"I praised the Lord that the bitterness and disappointment had been taken from my heart before He supplied the need. The bill is still not completely paid, but I have faith that the Lord will supply the rest of the money, even as He has promised. I know the bill will be paid in time for my daughter to take her final exams."

Dorothy sent me this postscript a few days later: "Not only has the Lord provided for the payment of the old school bill, but He has given my daughter a job for the summer which will pay almost all of her next year's school bill as well! Truly the Lord has supplied all my need, abundantly, more than I could ask or think. Praise His name! Never again will I ever hesitate to 'leap for JOY' when trouble comes my way. I know the Lord will see me through."

Out of the depths of her experience, Dorothy has written a poem (which has been set to music), and gave us permission to share it with our readers. It follows:

BELIEVE GOD'S PROMISES

Do not fail nor be discouraged,
As you walk the upward way;
For the loving arms of Jesus
Are about you as you pray.

As you kneel before your Maker,
Open now your heart to Him;
Tell Him of your trials and sorrows,
Ask Him to forgive each sin.

Kneeling there in calm submission,
Let your eyes toward heaven look;
Ask God's Spirit now to guide you,
As you open wide His Book.

Tell Him of your joys and pleasures,

Youth Prays . . . God Answers

Tell Him of each trial and care;
And then read each precious promise,
He has written for you there.

Thou art precious to the Saviour,
On the cross He died for you;
All your past mistakes are covered;
Jesus' life hides them from view.

He has promised to forgive you;
He has covered every sin;
He has promised life eternal;
He has promised strength to win.

Turn, and read each precious promise,
And take courage now, anew;
For this is the voice of Jesus;
And it's speaking now, to you.

As you hear the voice of Jesus,
You may claim each promise true;
And then thank Him for the answer,
He has written there for you.

Ask, believe, and claim each promise,
Knowing God will do His part;
And you'll find a sweet peace filling
Each chamber of your heart.

God has given you the answer,
Sing a song of praise and love;
And when Jesus comes in glory,
He will take you home above.
—Dorothy Robison
December, 1960

Quiz 08

1. True or false: The story of Sue baking bread teaches us we are to do what we can to cooperate with God, then God does what we can not. _____.
2. True or false: After Frank claimed the promises, he did nothing except wait for God's answer. _____.
3. How did God answer Sue's prayer about the water bill? _____
_____.
4. After having read this chapter carefully answer the following:
 - a. True or false: God always fills our need when we pray, asking in faith. _____
 - b. True or false: God always gives us exactly what we think we need, and when we think we need it. _____