

# YOUTH PRAYS-GOD ANSWERS!

Glen A. Coon

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson 12

### MARGARET PERSEVERED

ONE OF OUR very precious friends is Margaret Edge. Margaret Edge and Dorothy Robison are due a debt of gratitude for their faithful and loving assistance in doing "Youth Prays." Let us share first a scripture and then an experience Margaret thrillingly relates.

"For he is faithful that promised . . ." Hebrews 10:23.

Margaret was bubbling over with enthusiasm and joy as she told me of how the Lord had answered her prayer of reception and commitment. I did not even try to get a word in edge-wise. I just listened and thrilled with her as she told me of God's goodness. I'll just let her tell you that same story:

"It was Friday afternoon. While my daycare children were napping, I was hurriedly trying to catch up with the many and sundry duties that are so necessary in a busy household.

"Then the telephone rang, and all plans and ambitions to have the house and hearts in readiness for the Sabbath were suddenly taken away. The long-distance call, relayed to us through a relative, was to prepare us for the inevitable.

"Our niece's precious baby was seriously ill with a puzzling ailment. He had gradually been losing weight, was now down to fifteen pounds, and the doctors on the case had decided to operate. It was very discouraging, especially to the young mother, for Kevin was an only child and not quite one year old.

"It was very upsetting. My first impulse was to send a prayer heaven-ward; the second, to call a special friend, one whom I knew was in close touch with God at all times. She and her minister husband promised to have special prayer for little Kevin, and my sad heart was somewhat comforted. We had also been praying for the baby's mother who had left the church and had married out of the faith.

"This must be one of the means that will bring her back,' I thought as I continued my preparations for the Sabbath. The Lord has promised that, 'All things work together for good.' (Romans 8:28). I kept thinking; and He is 'not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance' (II Peter 3:9).

"Neither of these Bible verses contained a definite promise for healing, so I saw I could only pray the prayer of commitment, 'Thy will be done.' (Matthew 26:42), and 'Not as I will, but as Thou wilt.' (Matthew 26:39).

"Thus I reasoned and prayed during the remaining hours of the day: and thus I kept close to Jesus.

"In due time, the parents came for the day-care children. The holy Sabbath hours were drawing near as I sat down on the big, screened porch to watch the glowing colors in the western sky. I picked up some copies of the "Youth's Instructor" and glanced through the pages. My eyes fell upon the story of a young

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mother whose child was also sick. She claimed the promise in Psalms 46:1: 'God is my refuge and strength . . .' as she hurried to the side of her child. This text greatly cheered my heart.

"As the comforting darkness of Sabbath evening enveloped the house, I made my way to the bedroom and gave in to the flood of tears that just could not be held back any longer. This brought relief to tired nerves, and I could listen better to the still, small voice of God.

"God is my refuge and strength,' I repeated, 'a very present help in trouble.' Then I asked that my niece, Kevin's mother, whom I have always called 'my little girl,' would accept God as her strength in this great trouble.

"And so I prayed and wept for both of them. Then the Lord gave me a mental picture of two of my little day charges, leaping for joy (Luke 6:23), and saying in their childish voices, 'pwaise da Ward! Pwaise da Ward!' This came as a direct message to my heart 'It's time to praise the Lord.'

"I sat up, snapped on the light, and reached out to pick up my Bible. I wondered what promise I might claim for myself. But 'before they call, I will answer', (Isaiah 65:24) the Lord has promised, and His answer was right there beside me.

The Bible was open to Jeremiah 31. In amazement I carefully picked it up. What a feeling of joy swept over me as my eyes were drawn to the words in the 16th verse, the only one on the two pages that was underlined and marked:

"Thus saith the Lord; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears; for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the LORD; and they shall come again from the land of the enemy.'

"Now my heart could sing, and my lips could praise the Lord. Instinctively I began singing aloud a simple little melody which I've always believed God helped me compose:

I praise the Lord in the morning,  
When the birds their carols sing;  
My heart is glad, I can't be sad,  
The air with joy does ring.

I praise the Lord in the morning,  
And angels join the song!  
We praise the name of Jesus,  
We all to Him belong.

"During the following week an exchange of phone calls verified the fact that 'God stands back of every promise He has made.'"Christ's Object Lessons p. 147.

"Our 'prayer baby' was literally brought back from the land of the enemy. The doctors had postponed the exploratory surgery, and since the baby had gained back a pound, they allowed him to go home.

"Although I continued to pray for little Kevin and his mother, the cares of this life gradually crowded in and I failed to persevere in Prayer. Some days were more pressing than others, but I managed to send a soft, cuddly toy to Kevin for his first birthday, so thankful that he was still with us.

Before he received it, the 'enemy' struck again, and God allowed my faith to be tried severely. I forgot for the moment that the Lord promises in James 1:3, 'The trying of your faith worketh patience.'

"When the telephone rang at midnight, I was not prepared for the stunning message that I received. Kevin's mother anxiously told me that the baby was in the hospital again, this time with what the

doctors thought was pneumonia. She said they would not let even her see him. I tried to comfort her by telling her that I would be praying for him, and that I loved her dearly.

"When I put down the receiver and slowly made my way back to bed, I was sick at heart. Was this God's way of saving 'my little girl' and bringing them back from the 'land of the enemy?' What about the promise that just a few days ago had seemed so definite: 'Thus saith the Lord; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the Lord; and they shall come again from the land of the enemy.' (Jeremiah 31:16). I began to ask myself where my faith and confidence had gone. It had been So strong just a few days before. Now I was back down in the doldrums of despair again.

"The answer came after I went to the Lord in prayer: 'Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord.' (Isaiah 1:18) The Lord is not slack concerning his promise (II Peter 3:9) 'Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward, . . . that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.' (Hebrews 10:23). Hold fast the profession of your faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised) (Hebrews 10:23).

"Then again I turned to Jeremiah 31:16, and with confidence and assurance in my heart thanked God for His promises, and for bringing Kevin back from the 'land of the enemy' once more.

"I continued to pray this way—'without ceasing' (I Thessalonians 5:17).

"Because no more telephone messages were received, I took the silence to mean that all was well. I continued to thank the Lord for making Kevin well again, and for all that his health would mean in the salvation of both mother and baby. One day as I was having my private devotions, I read something that I thought was so good. It was in the book, Early Writings, page 73:

"We should be much in secret prayer. . . I asked the angel why there was no more faith and power in Israel. He said, "ye let go of the arm of the Lord too soon. Press your petitions to the throne, and hold on by strong faith. The promises are sure. Believe ye receive the things ye ask for, and ye shall have them.

"I was rewarded for my faith, for in just a few weeks I received another phone call. This time my niece was calm and happy. The doctors had found the cause of the illness and had been able to successfully treat the baby. The baby is learning to walk and looks like a butter-ball, according to the last report I received.

"How good God is. He may test us and try our faith, but if we will but persevere, the reward for our faithfulness will be sure.

"I thank God for all He has done, and for all He is going to do in the days to come."

In all our prayer classes we make clear that the prayer for the sick is to be one of commitment. We also have made it a practice to hand each student several type-written pages explaining why prayer for the sick must be one of commitment. This is why Margaret, in relating her experience in praying for Kevin, stated that it was one of commitment as well as reception--commitment for the physical healing, and reception for the spiritual life of both her niece and Kevin. And how wonderful is our Father in heaven! He gave her a wonderful answer to the prayer of commitment; and some day, if she persists, we doubt not but what the Prayer for her loved ones will result in their being among the saved.

## Quiz 12

1. Complete: "Let us hold \_\_\_\_\_ the profession of our faith without \_\_\_\_\_;  
(for he is \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_.)" Hebrews 10:23.
2. Complete: "Although I continued to pray for little Kevin and his mother, the cares of this life gradually crowded in and I \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ in prayer."
3. When E. G. White asked the angel why there was no more faith and power in Israel, what did the angel answer? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
4. Multiple choice (circle one): When God tests our faith, we should:
  - a. Give up.
  - b. Persevere.