



When you pray, do you have a vague feeling that something is lacking...that there isn't any power in your prayers? Do you struggle with doubt or fear, or simply lack confidence that God even hears you at all?

I used to have feelings like this and would think, "Maybe I didn't say the right thing, or pray long enough, or my words

weren't eloquent enough." It was so frustrating because I didn't want to waste time, wondering if it was doing any good. After I pray, I want to know that God is working and my prayers are making a difference.

It's easy to complicate our relationship with God and think we have to do certain things a certain way for them to be ef-

fective. But I've discovered that powerful, life-changing, dynamic prayer is amazingly simple!

Two Things We Must Do

It's vitally important for us to have faith in God when we pray. Hebrews 11:6 (AMPC) says, "Without faith it is impossible to please and be satisfactory to Him. For whoever would come near to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He is the rewarder of those who earnestly and diligently seek Him [out]."

Ask yourself, "Do I believe God hears me, that He cares about me and wants to be involved in every area of my life?" If we don't really believe

God loves us and wants to help us, we will struggle to have faith in Him. That's why knowing and experiencing the love of God is critical to developing a powerful prayer life.

It's also important to approach God with a sincere heart. James 5:16 says, "...The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]."

A sincere heart is focused on God, trusting that He hears you and will answer. It doesn't mean you have to cry or raise your voice to pray with sincerity; it's all about the attitude of your heart toward God.

The Key to Praying for God's

Will

If you're not sure whether you're asking for God's will in your life (and we all go through times like this), then you need to take time to just abide in Christ. In John 15:7, Jesus says, "If you live in Me [abide vitally united

to Me] and My words remain in you and continue to live in your hearts, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you."

To abide means to live, dwell and remain; it's not just spending time with God on Sunday.



They were married for 47 years. Mary was the owner/partner of C&C Cutting, owner/bookkeeper of Cook's Carpets, and a homemaker. She was an avid reader and enjoyed bowling, travel, hunt-

Mary Cook 1934-2017

Mary G. Cook, 82, of Eugene, formerly of Cottage Grove, Oregon, passed away on July 1, 2017. She was born on November 9, 1934, in Yoncalla, Oregon, to Charles and Mary (Ross) Palmer. Mary attended Cottage Grove High School and worked to obtained her GED while raising six children. She married Samuel T. Cook on October 7, 1950, in Stevenson, Washington.

ing, and her grandchildren. She is survived by her daughter Linda (Dan) Ely, Beaverton, Oregon, son Marvin (Karen) Cook of Springfield, Oregon, daughter Bonnie (Jerry) Davis of Eugene, Oregon, son Chuck Cook of McMinnville, Oregon, brother Lindsey Palmer of Chicago, Illinois, brother Richard Palmer of Eugene, Oregon, brother Tom Palmer of Salem, Oregon, and brother David (Mary) Palmer of Crescent, Oregon, 15 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by her husband Samuel T. Cook, Jr. (1997), sons Bruce Cook (1980) and Vernon Cook (2012). The funeral was held at Smith-Lund-Mills Chapel, 123 S. 7th St., Cottage Grove, Oregon, on July 10, 2017, at 1:00pm. Burial at Fir Grove Cemetery. Reception was from 2:00-5:00pm at the Elks Lodge on River Road in Cottage Grove. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, Cottage Grove.



On Jan. 9, 1963 in Goshen, Ore., Walter and Sonja Marie Robertson were married.

He worked as a timber faller and decided to try commercial fishing for a few years. Walter went back to the woods as an independent, self-employed timber faller.

His hobbies and interests were reading to gain knowledge of his-

Walter Parsons 1941-2017

Walter Parsons, 75, of Cottage Grove died June 30, 2017.

Walter was born in Kokomo, Ind. on Nov. 15, 1941 to Rufus and Arlene (Barlow) Parsons.

He served in the U.S. Navy from 1959-1961 as a Radio Technician Helper.

tory pertaining to the United States. He enjoyed mining in Bohemia Mines and using his metal detector. Walter enjoyed reading western and history books as well as watching movies from his extensive movie collection.

He is survived by son Bill (Terri) Parsons of Cottage Grove; daughter Vandi (Rob) Parsons of Cottage Grove; daughter Coleen (Troy) Jentzsch of Lorane; son Ben (Heidi) Parsons of Creswell; son, John (Lisa) Parsons of Cottage Grove; son Zack Parsons of Portland; daughter Jenny (Brian) Parsons of Cottage Grove; and son Jake Parsons of Portland; 24 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Walter was preceded in death by his wife Sonja Parsons, brothers George, Rufus, Max, Lawrence, and Jim Parsons.

There is a private family memorial service planned at Bohemia Mines. Arrangements in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, Cottage Grove.



married John E. Thies on September 21, 1984 in Cottage Grove, OR. Sam enjoyed sewing, knitting, crossword puzzles, and traveling. Sam and her husband John danced consistently for 10 years, she sang in The Grove Tones Women's Barbershop and was famous for her knitted slippers. She was an active member of the United Methodist Church for more than 40 years. Sam is survived by her husband, John Thies, Cottage Grove, OR; son, Craig Kulm and wife Cindy, Creswell, OR; daughter, Cindy Thies, Springfield, Or; daughter, Cheryl Kerns and husband Kevin, Cottage Grove,

Joyce "Sam" Thies 1939-2017

Joyce "Sam" Thies, 78 of Cottage Grove, OR passed away on July 7, 2017. She was born February 3, 1939 in Chauvin, LA to parents Horce and Beulah (Bourg) Boudreaux.

She graduated from Terrebonne High School in Houma, LA. She was a bank teller for Wood Products Credit Union for 16 years. She

OR; son, Jim Thies and wife Lori, Coquille, OR; daughter, Shannon Grove, Coppell, TX; brother, Dallas Boudreaux, Houma, LA; sister, Barbara Daily, Houma, LA; sister, Shirley Lien, Menna, AR; brother, Larry Boudreaux, Springfield, OR; 12 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her first husband, Kenneth Kulm in 1978. Memorial contributions may be made to United Methodist Church, 334 Washington St., Cottage Grove, OR. Burial at Fir Grove Cemetery, Cottage Grove, OR. Arrangements in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, Cottage Grove, OR.

DEATH NOTICE

Greer- J.C. "Bob" Greer, 89 of Cottage Grove, died July 4. Arrangements by Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel in Cottage Grove.

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You're invited to our upcoming events:

Fall Prevention Seminar

Thursday, July 20th
@2:30pm

Join Mindy Bench in this special free seminar to learn tips and tricks to save you from the fall. Refreshments will be provided.

The Price is Right

Friday, July 28th
@ 2:30 pm.

We will have lots of prizes and delicious desserts. Invite friends to join the fun. Also enter to win a free day trip to Florence, Oregon which includes lunch and bus ride.

Bahamas Bingo Bash

Friday, August 18th
@ 2:30pm

Get out your flip flops and Hawaiian tops and be ready to win! Lots of fun, fresh fruit and tropical drinks. Bingo games are free to seniors and you can win cash prizes.

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