

Christian Paraplegics

What if your pastor was like Jesus? You probably wouldn't like him at all! He left the 99 for the 1, He mocked people who were hypocrites, He was a friend of sinners, and He was confrontational in His messages. No wonder He was finally killed by His enemies (who were religious people)! TODAY'S MESSAGE IS A LITTLE BIT "IN YOUR FACE" ...

James 2:20-23 ²⁰ But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? ²² Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and **by works was faith made perfect?** ²³ And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

John 15:14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

Paraplegic – a person who is paralyzed from the waist down
Spiritual Paraplegic – a person who “talks” but doesn’t “walk”

Pentecostals pray some of the most ridiculous prayers I've ever heard!
There are some things that God wants YOU to do!

Nehemiah 4:9 Nevertheless **we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch** against them day and night, because of them.

2 Corinthians 7:6 Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, **comforted us by the coming of Titus;**

Titus was the answer to Paul's prayer! **Whose prayer can YOU answer?**

WE NEED “LEGS” ON OUR PRAYERS! (preach from wheelchair)

- Pray for revival ...

2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Don't just pray ... humble yourself and turn from sin!

- Pray for the presence of God in our services ...

Psalms 22:3 But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

Just worship and God will show up to “sit on His throne”!

- Pray over church problems ...

Romans 12:10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

Love in action will solve every church problem!

- Pray for the ministers to have strength to do their work ...

Acts 6:1-7 ¹ And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations. ² Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. ³ Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. ⁴ But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. ⁵ And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: ⁶ Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. ⁷ And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Break down the “Acts 6 barrier” – everyone is a minister!

- Pray for labourers in the harvest field ...

Matthew 9:37-38 ³⁷ Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; ³⁸ Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

What happens next? Jesus sends THEM out!

- Pray for people to obey the gospel ...

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

The Holy Ghost was given to make YOU a witness!

- Pray that I can quit sinning, get the Holy Ghost, get healed, etc ...

2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Push yourself into the presence of God – anything can happen!

John Bunyan

In 1660, when the British monarchy attempted to arrest the growth of independent churches by forbidding preaching, Bunyan refused to obey, was arrested and sentenced to remain in prison until he agreed to conform. He remained a prisoner of conscience for 12 years. During this time he turned to writing. He is most famous for his classic, *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

**“Run, John, run,” the Law commands
But gives me neither legs nor hands.
Far grander news the Gospel brings;
It bids me fly and gives me wings!**

Jesus to the crippled man at the pool of Bethesda (John 5, LB) ...
“Would you like to get well?” (v. 6) ... “Stand up!” (v. 8)