

God Helps Us Accomplish His Will

Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. [Philippians 2:12, 13.](#) {UL 185.1}

Talk of God's blessings. Let us ... bring all the pleasantness possible into our lives. When others begin to question and criticize, let us be determined, either by silence or by turning the conversation into another channel, to cut off the words which would not be spoken in wisdom. We are to continue to wait upon the Lord by humble prayer and supplication, making every effort to keep the door of our lips, so that we shall not utter one foolish word savoring of unbelief. {UL 185.2}

We are to talk faith, practicing the very things we have asked the Lord to give us grace to do. Thus we work out our own salvation, trying to help and save those in trouble by faithful words and kind deeds. It is God which worketh in us, both to will and to do of His good pleasure. The finite and the infinite are to unite in accomplishing the work that needs to be done. God has pledged himself to supply us with strength, cheerfulness, pleasantness, and joyfulness in our Saviour. [When we are] abiding in Him, the word that would cast a shadow over others is left unspoken. {UL 185.3}

Let us remember that everyone has some dark spot in his experience. Let us do all we can to bring cheerfulness and hope into the lives of others. What a blessing this will be to them. In their turn they will speak words of good cheer to others to bring sunshine into their hearts. As we do this work, we shall be in a position to realize that the Lord hears our prayers, because we work in harmony with them, fulfilling all the duty we owe to God and to ourselves. We shall go about our work in a thankful, prayerful frame of mind, but by faith we claim the promise, "Ask, and ye shall receive; seek, and ye shall find." {UL 185.4}

Yes, we shall find the answer to our prayers; for God will do exceedingly abundantly above our highest expectation. What precious witness we shall then bear for God. What an honor we shall be to the truth of His word. We shall be able to say, "I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord. Blessed is that man that maketh the Lord his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies" (Psalm 40:1-4).—[Letter 87, June 20, 1900](#), to Edson and Emma White. {UL 185.5}

TIS LOVE THAT MAKES US HAPPY

1 'Tis love that makes us happy,
'Tis love that smooths the way;
It helps us "mind," it makes us kind
To others ev'ry day.

Refrain:

God is love; we're his little children.
God is love; we would be like him.
'Tis love that makes us happy,
'Tis love that smooths the way;
It helps us "mind," it makes us kind
To others ev'ry day.

2 This world is full of sorrow,
Of sickness, death, and sin;
With loving heart we'll do our part,
And try some soul to win. [Refrain]

3 And when this life is over,
And we are called above,
Our song shall be, eternally,
Of Jesus and his love. [Refrain]

OPENING PRAYER

Let us remember that everyone has some dark spot in his experience. Let us do all we can to bring cheerfulness and hope into the lives of others. What a blessing this will be to them. In their turn they will speak words of good cheer to others to bring sunshine into their hearts. As we do this work, we shall be in a position to realize that the Lord hears our prayers, because we work in harmony with them, fulfilling all the duty we owe to God and to ourselves. Father let this be our prayer. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

GOOD MANNERS

It appears to me that good manners seem to be lacking these days. Many of us were taught from childhood how to be polite. We learn to say please and thank you, how to be respectful to our elders, how to be nice to other children and animals.

However, as our society has become more mobile, fast paced, and "I want it now!" the use of manners seems to have decreased. With the rise in divorce rates, a prevalence of drug and alcohol abuse, and increasing world violence; many families are struggling to survive and thrive. Manners are tossed aside.

Take notice, adults having temper tantrums in the fast-food drive through, young and old not saying please and thank you but demanding and expecting others to treat them as a King or Queen.

Being rude and insensitive seems to be common these days. Without good manners people get offended and hurt. Communication breaks down.

As human beings: we make mistakes, get in a hurry, and sometimes forget how to be nice in the daily rat race. It can be easy to slip up and accidentally cut off another driver or rush through the door without noticing someone else waiting to go through.

Being able to say you are sorry and mean it can heal many a wrong. The importance of good manners seems obvious to me but not to others who want to bully, demand, and want entitlement for things not earned.

It is important to acknowledge and appreciate good manners from others. Give positive feedback when you see someone doing the right thing.

Be a role model for good behavior. Remember young and old are watching how you respond and manage situations. Manners create expectations for how people will act.

Would you give yourself a thumbs up or thumbs down to these statements?

1. I try to be polite and considerate all the time.
2. I say please and thank you.
3. I use the Golden Rule (treat others like you would like to be treated).
4. I keep my word. I turn off my cell phone in meetings, banks, doctor's office, etc.

Tips for adults interested in improving children's social behavior include the following:

- Stress to children the importance of treating others the same way they like to be treated.
- Help children understand the harm caused by thoughtless, unkind words and actions.
- Role-play difficult situations for children in order to demonstrate appropriate responses.
- Establish a politeness policy for basic manners.
- Teach children the importance of thinking of others, like writing thank you notes.

Manners have changed a lot through the years and are still changing. They are more relaxed than they were 100 years ago. Our society needs manners to function in a healthy and productive manner.

The lack of manners and self-respect does not seem to be working. Use your good manners- teach your children and let us strive for a healthier community, city, state, and world.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Yes, we shall find the answer to our prayers; for God will do exceedingly abundantly above our highest expectation. What precious witness we shall then bear for God. What an honor we shall be to the truth of His word. We shall be able to say, "I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord. Blessed is that man that maketh the Lord his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies" (Psalm 40:1-4).

Devotional Book: *The Upward Look*

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