

ISSUE 66
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For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
Romans 10:13

Promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Inner City.

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Most all pictures link.

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the **SOUWINNER**
One soul at a time

Faith and Obedience for Another's Sake

Does Ours Bring a Blessing to *Someone Else*?

The greatest thing in the world happened today, October 2, 2014. I was soul winning at a bus stop in Albany, NY and there was an old man standing there who I thought would just brush me away. Quite to my surprise, he was interested in the gospel. Furthermore he said the sinner's prayer and got saved right there in public. And I wondered if my relationship with God had something to do with our paths crossing.

In the book of [Luke 5:17-25](#), Jesus healed a man because of the faith of four other men, not because of the faith of the man he healed. This was identified by the sick man being lowered through the roof to Jesus by four other men whom Jesus said had faith. In the same way Jesus commends the four men's faith, can we have faith for the sake of someone else?

In [Exodus 32:1-14](#) Moses was up in the mount where he got the ten commandments on a stone, and he returned to the camp of the Hebrews to find them dancing naked around a molten calf. Both God and Moses were angry, but God said he would destroy all the Hebrews and raise up another nation from Moses.

Moses was a very faithful man to God. He pleaded with God to spare the people, and because of Moses' righteousness, *God spared the people*. It was Moses' faith and obedience to God that provoked God to answer his prayer and spare the Hebrews.

In the story of Joseph, Israel's son (Genesis Chapters 38-50), we see that Joseph was mistreated by his brothers horrifically and sold into slavery. As a slave in Potiphar's House (the Egyptian) the Bible says in [Genesis 39:5](#) that *God blessed Potiphar's house for the sake of Joseph*. Joseph also wound up in an Egyptian prison for a crime he didn't commit. But after 13 years in prison, he became next in line to Pharaoh over Egypt and he blessed his brothers and the whole world with food during a famine ([Genesis 42](#)). *God used Joseph to provide food during a famine for others because of Joseph's faith and obedience to God*.

How many people do we know that do not pray, read the Bible, go to church or go soul winning or follow any of God's commandments who have a problem they can not solve. How much can God bless that person for **our**

faith and obedience if we pray for him? The Bible says that it rains on the just and the unjust, so likewise a person who is not serving God may get a blessing if a person who serves God prays for him.



(photo courtesy Microsoft Publisher) Many things in life, such as healing from surgery, never depend on man. Sometimes God blesses, sometimes He does not bless no matter what the medical society does. If a sick or injured person is not saved or is saved and not living right, it may be that another person who is praying for that sick person can bring a blessing from God because he is saved and living right.

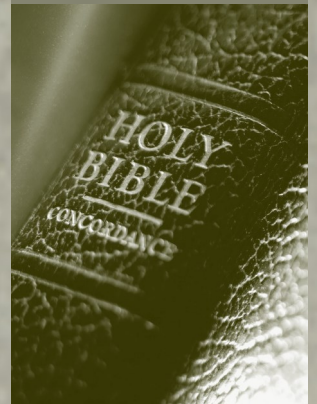
God's will will always prevail, but sometimes God will repent of a decision he made based on the prayer of a faithful servant. You have seen it in the case of Moses and Joseph. This is because we know that God always punishes sin, but the punishment can be lightened or shortened if we pray a faithful prayer. The Bible says In James 5:16: *The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much*. This is a prayer coming from someone who serves God, loves and honors God. God does hear the prayer we have for others who are not right with God, but once again God's will will always prevail.

God makes it clear in the Bible that he will not listen to the prayer of someone who defies him continuously. Psalm 66:18 says: *If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me*. So then it takes the prayer of a righteous man to convince God to answer that other unrighteous man's prayer. Still, however, God may not answer that prayer just like he will not answer any prayer that is outside of his will.

The Bible says: *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance*. It is God's ultimate will that everyone be saved so we can rest assured he has our best intentions in mind. At the same time, God can not allow sin in people's lives and have them expect to be blessed. It is a fine line with which God deals with us every day.

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(photo courtesy Microsoft Publisher)