

Robber of the Cruel Streets: The Prayerful Life of George Mueller

Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, 36 I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me, I was in prison and you came to Me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38 And when did we see You a stranger and welcome You, or naked and clothe You? 39 And when did we see You sick or in prison and visit You?' 40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brothers, you did it to Me.' Matthew 25:34-40 ESV

George Mueller lived the life of a scheming, conniving German playboy; drinking, gambling and chasing women. His fondness for a rich lifestyle required money. He stole from his father before he was 10 years old. By the time he was a teenager he was an expert, cheating and stealing from even his best friends. Locked up in prison with thieves and murderers he had time to reflect on the misery he had caused. Even though George knew his lifestyle was wrong he was powerless to change.

Do you have peace in your life? Is there something you need to change?

When George asked to go to a Bible Study with his friend, Peter, his life was changed. Peter was hesitant to invite George thinking he wouldn't like it. Instead George told him, "This is what I've been looking for all of my life." George learned that God is a God of love. When he confessed his sins to God and believed in Jesus as his Savior his whole life was transformed and filled with purpose.

Do you feel an emptiness in your life? Ask God to come and fill your heart with His love.

George Mueller said he was "fascinated by being more adventurous and trusting in God". When George fell in love the woman he asked to be his wife was just as committed to a life of faith and following God as he was. They also decided as a couple that they would make their needs known only to God and trust that He would provide in His time. Mueller said this helped them see the tender mercies and love of God.

Have you identified the values that are important to you? Do your friends and family share those values?

In England orphans were treated very badly and were often mistreated in workhouses or were homeless. George saw the plight of the street children and felt called by God to build them homes. George recalled a large campus that was built in Germany to care for the elderly, widows and orphans relying on God to provide what was needed. He believed that the same could be done in Bristol and trusted God to do it.

What are some of the greatest needs you see? Will you allow God to help you make a difference?

George Mueller vowed to never ask anyone for funds except God. Without any type of fundraising, during his lifetime he received over two and a half million dollars that was used for the care of orphans. In today's money that would be over one hundred eighty million dollars. He never borrowed money from the bank or from other people. He didn't begin any project until he had the money to do so.

Do you buy things when you don't have the money to pay for them? Will you let God guide your finances?

George believed in a God who can do miracles. He trusted that if he lived in the will of God, doing what God asked of him, that God would provide the means to do so. Many people made fun of George. Even those who believed in God often did little more than go to church on Sunday. Few people experienced God at work in their lives because they failed to truly trust in God and let Him guide their daily lives.

Trusting God is a wonderful adventure. Knowing that He loves us we trust that His plans for us are good.

Dear Lord, we come to You, empty and in need of Your healing love. Come into every part of our lives. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit so that we can rely on You in all things. Show us how to let go of our fears and struggles, trusting that You will lead and guide us in all things. Bless and keep Your precious children all over the world. Show us how we can help. In Jesus' name, Amen.