

HEALTHY CHURCH INITIATIVE  
“UNBINDING THE HEART

An unknown 19th Century American Civil War wrote the following prayer:

I asked for strength that I might achieve;  
I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.  
I asked for health that I might do greater things;  
I was given infirmity that I might do better things.  
I asked for riches that I might be happy;  
I was given poverty that I might be wise.  
I asked for power that I might have the praise of others;  
I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.  
I asked for all things that I might enjoy life;  
I was given nothing that I might enjoy all things.  
I got nothing that I had asked for, but everything I had hoped for.  
Almost despite myself my unspoken prayers were answered;  
I am, among all (people), most richly blessed.

How is it in your prayer life? Fulfilling? Frustrating? Growing? Dormant? Let this week be a time for considering how seemingly unanswered prayers may be receiving answers filled with unexpected blessings. What have you learned over the years through lingering struggles that you asked God to take away? Have you found yourself being grateful for a challenge after the fact, that you desperately wished away at the time? The Christ of the cross invites us to believe God is at work even when we aren't immediately aware of it. Perhaps today is the day to ask God for faith enough to believe God will bring a blessing through whatever is happening in your life--even if, especially if, it is not what you want. Perhaps today is the day to pray, "God, show me what you'd have me learn. Grow me where you'd have me grow." May God richly bless your life of prayer.

Pastor Roger