

February Fruit of the Spirit  
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It is on my mind that answered prayer is paramount to faith. Night before last my bride and I were about to go to bed with a burden on our hearts. Our youngest grandson had suffered a broken arm some months ago. It had not healed and was scheduled to be surgically repaired the following day. As is our custom we hold hands and pray our nightly prayers before bedtime. My bride prayed that the surgery would go well and our grandson and his family would be at peace. I prayed "Lord, I need a miracle for my grandson." We went to sleep with grandparent compassion welled up in our hearts. The next day we received news that our grandson had enough improvement to avoid surgery. Granny texted our son that we had prayed for a miracle the night before. Answered prayer!

Having been absent from our home while recovering from a stroke I prayed the ministry would be sustained. Each Lord's Day we had fellowship, apostolic doctrine, prayers and celebrated the Lord's Supper in the hospitals where I was staying. Answered prayer!

Every Friday a message that had previously been prepared was printed and mailed to our brethren. Answered prayer!

Restricted from my independence my dependence on the Lord increased. It was manifest that my vessel was being remodeled just as the potter made an honorable vessel in Jeremiah 18. Today I believe a Father was disciplining a strong willed child. Not long ago I could not have believed that my heart would have such love and admiration for physicians, therapists, nurses and those in the health care profession. I have been shown first hand the anointing upon those who cared for me in my affliction. I have held each up in prayer and prayed over some. Answered prayer!

I know the old man has passed away and that I am a new man. My discipline in living physically has come into agreement with my spiritual living. New wine is put in new bottles. Answered prayer!

My blood pressure is lower and being monitored daily. I understand the medications along with diet and exercise are required. I am being obedient and compliant. Evidence of the new man.

I am also confessing and sharing the sins of the father with my family and those in fellowship so that this curse of iniquity may end. More evidence of the new man. Answered prayer!

While in therapy I was asked how much recovery I expected. My reply was 100%. That answer was written down and is somewhere in my files. The prophet Habakkuk said write the vision and make it plain upon tables. The vision is for an appointed time. Wait for it; though it tarry it will surely come (Habakkuk 2:2-3). Today my speech is 100%. I am walking without a cane, but carry one for safety in crowded and public places. I am 95%. My left arm is weak and does not have the strength or dexterity to tie my shoes or open twist caps. I am 75%. I am patiently persisting so that I might receive full blessing. This, too, will be answered prayer. My bride and I covet your prayers in our trial.