



Reflections on 'The Greater Things'

September 2019

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"Amen, Amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater things than these, because I am going to the Father." (John 14:12)

MIGHT THERE BE A "CURSE" OPERATING IN YOUR LIFE?

By Michael Brown

This can happen in a variety of ways, many unnoticed. We can curse ourselves with negative words. We can curse others by wishing them less than the best. We can curse in our thoughts. And we can *be* cursed, including by what has been passed down to us from our parents and grandparents, or transferred via our spouses and children and friends.

Ridding a possible curse can be as easy as uttering a few commands, especially: *"In the Name of Jesus, I break the Curse of the Law regarding [here name the aspect of life it is affecting finances, emotions, happiness, depression, fear, sickness]. I break this curse, in Jesus' Name."*

Then replace it with a blessing: *"I claim the Blessing of Abraham by the Power of God in the Name of Jesus."*

It's a peculiar phrase: "curse of the law." It comes to us from a preacher in Transatlantic, Florida, who says, "Until the devil is told to leave and take the Curse of the Law with him, in the Name of Jesus, he is going nowhere. Why should he leave your life if he doesn't have to? He enjoys tormenting you because that is what he does."

For your discernment.

I break the Curse of the Law of allergy.

I break the Curse of the Law of heart trouble.

I break the Curse of the Law of pain.

I break the Curse of the Law of division.

I break the Curse of the Law of loneliness.

I break the Curse of the Law of lust.

And so forth.

"A generational curse cannot be overcome," he believes, "but it can be broken."

A curse can be started with simple words, such as, "Every man in this family dies young of heart problems." Negative words can bring negative

results, a curse of sorts. When we say the opposite, positive things, we bring a blessing. Watch what you say! Words can have much more of an effect than you reckon.

Some phrases to avoid:

I can't get over this.

Bad things always happen to me.

I must be losing my mind.

I can't do this.

I will never get these bills paid.

I can't lose weight.

People don't like me.

Never use "can't words," or you are limiting yourself.

"If you do say any of those things and believe what you say, you have just given the devil the legal right to come back," says Jim Kibler. "He will be loosed from Heaven and the Curse of the Law will be back in your life until it is commanded to leave again in the Name of Jesus.

"There is a connection between what we say here and what is bound or loosed from Heaven."

"Say good things about yourself [and others] all day long, every day," he urges. "Your life will eventually conform to the words you speak about yourself."

No greater love is there, than he who blesses!

<https://spiritdailyblog.com/inspiration/watch-your-words>

**Amen, I say to you, whatever you
bind on earth shall be bound in
heaven, and whatever you loose on
earth shall be loosed in heaven.**

Matthew 18:18 NABRE

WHOEVER LOVES ME By: Elaine Sinnott

I used to drink to get drunk, watch trashy tv, play trashy games, gossip like it was my job, etc. I said I was a Christian but acted like I wasn't. I did what I wanted to do when I wanted to do it; I totally ignored the Lord's commandments. I allowed my head to be filled with everything the world was shoving in my face because it was all attractive to the flesh. And I intentionally pushed myself away from the most Loving Arms I'd ever encounter, all because I wanted to do what I wanted to do.

Then, my heart cracked open. I was about as low as I could've been and reached out to God in desperation. The Holy Spirit cultivated good fruit in me as I called upon Him for help and made me realize my life was full of bad fruit; He made me begin to hate the sin in my life. Suddenly, all the desires I had that were hurting me and my relationship with the Lord vanished! The trashy TV was never watched again. The trashy games made me incredibly uncomfortable. The thought of getting drunk made me sick. And I try to avoid gossiping as much as possible. I have seen too many times someone living the same way I did. I *said* I had

faith, but my actions spoke otherwise, and they spoke it loudly. I blatantly ignored the rules the Lord gave me (which are only for my own good!). But after I extended the invitation into my life the Lord had so patiently waited for, he came rushing in with a force of love so strong that I suddenly I realized I was always in the presence of the Lord; that I am a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:19). And things that would make God upset began to make me upset. Suddenly *I wanted Him to know* that I LOVED HIM! "Whoever loves me will keep my word..." (John 14:23, NABRE). If I loved Him, I had to show Him that by keeping His word.

My choices had to change. I wanted Him to feel consolation from my love in the Garden of Gethsemane when He was terrified of dying, *rather than be one of the reasons He was begging the Father to take the chalice from Him.*

I ask you to do the same. Choose Him over this world. I BEG you!

Read this scripture again and ponder on it. Pray on it. Do you just say you love Him? Or does your life PROVE you love Him?

“Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him and we will come to him.”
John 14:23, NABRE

Jesus, Son of God, in whom the fullness of the Divinity dwells, You call all the baptized to "put out into the deep," taking the path that leads to holiness.

Waken in the hearts of young people the desire to be witnesses in the world of today to the power of your love. Fill them with your Spirit of fortitude and prudence, so that they may be able to discover the full truth about themselves and their own vocation. Our Savior, sent by the Father to reveal His merciful love, give to your Church the gift of young people who are ready to put out into the deep, to be the sign among their brothers of Your presence which renews and saves. Holy Virgin, Mother of the Redeemer, sure guide on the way towards God and towards neighbor, You who pondered his word in the depth of your heart, sustain with your motherly intercession our families and our ecclesial communities, so that they may help adolescents and young people to answer generously the call of the Lord. Amen.

—John Paul II—



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THIS IS YOUR BRAIN, THIS IS YOUR BRAIN ON PRAYER! (PART 1)

By Kathryn Wilcox—interview with Jacqueline Phillips-Sabol, PhD

I read the headline, then the article. Can this be true? Have scientists really been able to prove that praying in tongues is real (those who don't understand frequently think it's fake)? As I read further, the quoted scientist said that they actually have done studies where they observed subjects' brains and tracked brain activity in various parts of the brain while subjects prayed. I was skeptical so I decided to contact Dr. Jacqueline Phillips-Sabol, PhD., who is on our Word of Life Board of Directors and is the editor of our newsletter. She is also a Board Certified Neuropsychologist, so if anyone would know about this, it is Jaci. What follows is a re-creation of our conversation, my questions and her answers.

Kathy: Hi Jaci, I just read something that sounds too good to be true? An article I read said that Dr. Andrew Newberg performed research at and made some amazing discoveries about what happens to our brains when we pray in tongues. Have you heard of him and his study, and is he credible?? Before you answer that, what exactly is a 'neuropsychologist.'

Dr Sabol: Thanks for asking, Kathy! Clinical Neuropsychologists, similar to Behavioral Neurologists, are trained in understanding the brain and identifying brain disorders or identifying the effects of a brain or central nervous (brain and spinal cord) system disorder. It requires extensive knowledge and training beyond the general field of psychology. Clinical neuropsychologists use this knowledge in the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of patients with neurological, medical, neuro-developmental and psychiatric conditions, etc. We diagnose dementias. We work with epilepsy patients to identify where seizures are originating, we evaluate people with brain tumors and any other type of brain disorder you could think of. One of the coolest things I did at the hospitals I was at was to perform testing on an exposed brain during brain surgery. This is done so that the neurosurgeon knows what is safe to remove in terms of vital functions (like speech or memory, etc.) and what needs to be left in place.

Said in a more personal way, the brain has always fascinated me. This is a field that is always moving fast forward as we learn more and more about the brain. As I attempt to keep up with this ever-changing field, the brain continues, like all of creation, to prove and to shout to me that God is real and God is AMAZING!

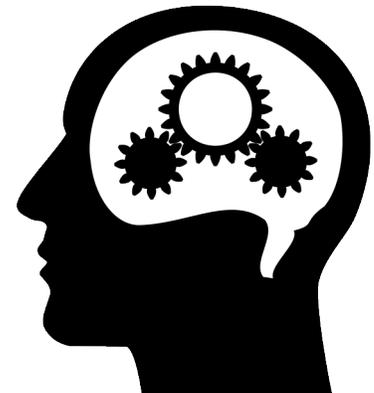
Kathy: Who is Dr. Newberg?

Dr. Sabol: Dr. Newberg is a research neuropsychologist. He focuses his studies on the effects of various types of spiritual exercises and experiences on the brain. The specialty is called 'Neuro-theology,' and Dr. Newberg has been a pioneer. The research is generally viewed as quite sound. However, like many things with the brain, even though we can now see changes in the brain as people engage in spiritual experiences, there may be other explanations for some of the findings. There are so many facets and issues in studying religious experiences, which are so varied and subjective, that it is often difficult to know what, with confidence, to attribute these changes to. For example, as charismatics, we know that (pardon me) some people give prophecy under the power of the Holy Spirit while others, possibly believing that it is the Holy Spirit speaking, are prophesying from their own intellect (thoughts). And very often, the gift of prophecy is a mix between the Holy Spirit and our own human

thoughts and personalities. In the context of a scientific study, this would skew the results because the researcher makes the assumption that all of the people in their study are using an authentic gift of prophecy. So this introduces a problem to the study and it is a safe assumption that most researchers are not familiar with the gift of discernment. 😊

Kathy: So what area of the brain is active when we pray verbally, and sing? What effect does prayer have on our brain?

Dr. Sabol: These are fascinating questions. When we speak, there are portions of our dominant hemisphere (left side in most people, even left-handers) that process understanding what people say and our ability to express responses. These areas are more in the anterior (front half) portion of our brains (with a bit of posterior area as well) and include the frontal and temporal lobes (with some in the parietal area, kind of behind our left ear). Music, although this could very logically be called a 'language



By The Word of Their Testimony

“But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they did not cling to life even in the face of death.”
(Revelation 12:11)



THE “LITTLE” THINGS by Elaine Sinnott

*I have to share a little miracle I recently received!
I have to share how good the Lord is!*

Last August I received charms on a bracelet as a beautiful gift from my sisters and mom. Each charm had one of my four boys' thumbprints with their names and birth years on the back. Well, not even two weeks after receiving them I lost them after a day at the beach in Erie, PA. And I had no idea where they had fallen off, as we had visited multiple sites that day. They ALL slipped right off my bracelet. I was devastated. They were extremely expensive gifts and completely priceless to me.

Ever since I lost them, I have been praying for the past year on and off to find them, especially asking St. Anthony's intercession since he's the man at finding lost things. Recently though, just in the past two weeks had I begun really praying every day and begging the

Lord to help me find them. I KNEW He could! And I upped my game asking for St. Anthony to help me out. He has never let me down yet so I knew he could ask the Lord's help on this one, too. I even asked for some ladies' prayers in a Catholic moms Facebook group for some extra intercession this past Wednesday (8/14).

Well, today (8/17) I got a text from my mother in law with a picture of this charm (pictured to the right) asking if it looked familiar. My jaw dropped!

They found it between dock boards on the pier of Horseshoe Pond on Presque Isle. She said my father in law was sitting in the boat at the pier figuring out how to get out when he looked over and noticed something shiny that had the name “Benjamin” on the back. Then he asked her how old my son Ben was to double check the years and realized it was the charm I lost over

a year ago. He had to put gum on a nut driver to reach it between the boards because he couldn't reach it with his hands.

That charm survived the pier being moved... twice. It survived waves; it survived the freeze; and it survived boats being knocked up against it all summer this year. I mean, really? How else could this have happened?? God is so good! I want to ask for your prayers as well to help me find the remaining missing charms for my sons Caleb, Micah, and Jacob.



“Come to Jesus!”

Adoration
Worship
Concert

Sept. 13, 2019
7-9 PM

St. Joseph's Church



*But the hour is coming,
and is now here,
when true worshipers
will worship the Father
in Spirit and truth;
and indeed the Father
seeks such people to
worship him.”*

John 4:23



Worship Leader, Jaci Phillips, violinist, Louis Nicolia,
organist, Bruce Gingrich, & other special friends

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of notes,' is primarily localized to the opposite hemisphere (right in most people). This includes the ability to sing or play on key.

Verbal prayer is localized to the verbal areas of the brain, but the brain may be active in a slightly different manner than speaking to a person. Other types of prayer, such as visual prayer, can activate visual areas of the brain and also may show decreases in areas that focus attention; the individual is generally 'blocking out' the outside world. However, as I said, it is very clear to anyone who has been in deep vocal prayer, that we are also blocking out the outside world while we focus on God so this could look different than someone who is, for example, engaged in a conversation with a person; or someone who is reciting the Liturgy of the Hours, which has to be read; or rotely reciting memorized prayers.

Many scientific studies have found that prayer affects, not only us, but also other people, plants, or animals. People who have a strong faith life generally rate themselves as happier. Some studies show that faith (spirituality and religion) has positive effects on physical health, longevity, and mental health outcomes (person suffering from depression who has intercessory prayer); has benefits on immune function; have increased overall satisfaction in life, with increased hope and optimism; and generally lower rates of anxiety and depression. In a fascinating study, women who had intercessory prayer and were undergoing invitro fertilization had double the rate of successful pregnancy compared to women in the non-intercessory group. [Please note that invitro fertilization is not consistent with

Catholic morals and teaching].

Intercessory prayer has also been shown to positively affect wound healing in animals and increases the growth rate of plants. While I am citing the positive research, I also emphasize that this is difficult research since many studies do not categorize the type of prayer or the type of intercessory prayer or take other variables into account. As you are likely aware, this can have an impact on outcomes of prayer: Jesus "*did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith*" (Mt 14:38 NIV) and "*But this kind is not cast out [changed/overcome] but by prayer and fasting,*" (Mt 17:20 DRA). However, the results of the study of the women who were attempting to become pregnant are particularly strong and show what people of faith already accept without the benefit of scientific studies.

Regarding miracles, perhaps the most stringent body of research in the world comes from the Vatican. When there is a claim of a miracle, that claim is rigorously investigated (a process usually requiring years). There must be medical documentation of the affliction prior to the miracle and following the miracle. The Holy See approaches the miracle from the assumption that no miracle took place and, utilizing physician specialists, proceeds in the attempt to disprove the miracle. It is only when the committee is left with no other possible explanation that the event is then attributed to the supernatural intervention of a miracle.

Kathy: We believe in miracles! Is the scientific world finally catching up with us?

Dr. Sabol: As Catholics, the super-

natural is not limited only to our belief in God, but is central to our faith life. We take Jesus' words literally in John Chapter 6, "*unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of man and drink His Blood, you shall not have life within you.*" At every Mass we stand by and watch the supernatural miracle of what looks like bread and what looks like wine become "the Flesh of the Son of Man and... His Blood." We believe that Jesus supernaturally provides His Body and Blood as supernatural food for a supernatural journey. To paraphrase the extraordinary Jesuit theology expert, Servant of God Father John Hardon, to cease to believe that Jesus is present; Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, within the Eucharist, is to cease to be Catholic. Being Catholic is intricately tied to belief in the supernatural. The world that exists beyond a thin veil.

However, it is a wonderous thing when the scientific world provides convincing research that proves what we already know... that Prayer, whether it is in prayer in tongues or with our intellect (in English,) touches and moves the heart of God and creates positive effects and miracles, both big and small.

Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:12 NABE



WORD OF LIFE PRESENTS
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The Renewal's Call in the Midst of the
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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2019

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The purpose of this newsletter is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to provide teaching, news, and calendar of events, which help to foster Catholic Charismatic Renewal throughout the Diocese of Erie.

This newsletter may be copied to put in churches or shared with others.

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Volume XXXIII

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"Come to Jesus!"

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