

Mandrell's Prayer for Healing

Barbara Mandrell is a country music singer, musician and actress known for a long series of country hits in the 1970s and 1980s, as well as her own prime-time variety television show on NBC. That show helped her become one of country's most successful female vocalists of that period.

Mandrell gave her last concert at the Grand Ole Opry on Oct. 23, 1997, and subsequently retired from performing music. She was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2009.



In her book, *Get to the Heart: My Story*, Mandrell relates about being involved with her two children in a serious automobile accident in September 1984. A car pulled into their lane so quickly they couldn't get out of the way. The car smashed into them head-on.

Mandrell was badly hurt, receiving serious head injuries and a broken ankle, and her hip was shattered. Many months of healing were required. The process was slow and painful, and the accident also caused a personality change. This vibrant, lively entertainer became so discouraged that she believed she could never perform again.

At one low point, one of Mandrell's friends suggested that she see a faith healer. Mandrell was unsure, but was willing to give it a try. They agreed to meet at a coffee shop.

"This is not about me," the faith healer said. "It has nothing to do with me. It's only the Lord Jesus doing this." Mandrell remembers that he made biblical reference to the time Jesus cursed the fig tree as He and His disciples were walking down the road. The disciples were astonished that nothing happened to the tree when Jesus cursed it.

A few days later, though, they were walking past the tree and noticed it was withering and dying "because Jesus had cursed the roots." "Even though I had not been praying to Christ to heal me in the past days," Mandrell recalled, "I was now ready to pray for it."

The preacher said, "Your child asks you for something, maybe a sandwich, and you're going to give it to him, but maybe you're doing something else. If the kid keeps asking, 'Please give me a sandwich, I asked for a sandwich, please give me a sandwich,' you don't like it. You say, 'Please be patient.' You're talking about the Heavenly Father. Maybe He wants you to be patient. Maybe it wouldn't do any good to keep asking Him. Who knows? Maybe the Lord is going to take away your pain instantly. Maybe He's going to curse the roots of the tree. Just accept it."

(more)

Mandrell felt her spirits lift. “His attitude made me feel good. He did not raise his voice or wave his hands. He was not impassioned, the way you imagine healing preachers to be. The four of us held hands when we prayed for a few minutes. It was very matter-of-fact. And my tailbone did not feel any better when we left. I was still hurting, but something else felt good. I did not feel the urgency anymore that maybe I was doing something wrong. I realized I was in God’s hands. I had always trusted God. I still trusted Him. And that made me feel immensely better. I accepted the healing, knowing the pain would go away in God’s time, and I thanked Him for it.”

That’s a good lesson for us. God answers our prayer in His time, not ours. But He does hear, and He does answer.

Thus, three words are key to a believer’s life or prayer – persistence, patience and Parent, our Heavenly Parent, who does care and teaches us to pray always and never become discouraged.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God (Philippians 4:6 ESV.)

– Beecher Hunter