

Earlier we discussed the awesomeness of being able to touch the infinite nature of God through prayer. Of course, we usually think of praying to God for something that we want personally. But what if this power was concentrated on those around us, on every one we come in contact in our daily lives? Have you ever seen someone that was suffering, perhaps someone that you didn't even know, and ask God to bless them? I remember reading this idea in a book, and I've tried it a few times. It gives you a blessing, too.

It feels like you are "projecting" the power of God. If you have read Tom Clancy's books, you may know that he speaks of the aircraft carrier as essential to the Navy because it can project power over large distances in any direction. This may sound presumptuous of us, but what if that is all it takes to cause God to bless someone? We talk about praying for each other; we have to believe that God responds in His own way. It just seems even better when it is someone we don't know and who doesn't know who loves them.

Jesus projected power to the centurion's servant in Matthew 8:5-10,

When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering." Jesus said to him, "I will go and heal him." The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.

You may remember the "church lady" on Saturday Night Live when she got mad at someone she "prayed against" them. We cannot do this and be like Christ. We must project blessings instead of insults. Jesus said in Luke 6:28, "bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." This is echoed a couple of times by Paul as well. If we truly have the spirit of Christ then we will want to make everyone's life a little better, even people that we are not close to.

Be a blessing to someone today,
Take a hand in your hand, show the way;
Let the blessing you give
Be the Jesus who lives.
Be a blessing to someone today.

Larry Giddings