

*Enrich your
Prayer Life*



Edited by B.T. Turner

Enrich Your Prayer Life

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What a Friend!

*What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.*

*Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.*

*Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.*

*Blessed Saviour, Thou hast promised Thou wilt all our burdens
bear*

*May we ever, Lord, be bringing all to Thee in earnest prayer.
Soon in glory bright unclouded there will be no need for prayer
Rapture, praise and endless worship will be our sweet portion there.*

Table of Contents

Introduction - 1

Your Prayer Questions Answered - 2

What are the steps to a fulfilling prayer life? _____	2
Why are my prayers not being answered? _____	3
Are there any other conditions of answered prayer? _____	4

Real-life Stories - 5

<i>All Our Needs</i>	5
The oil was red _____	5
The right men for the job _____	6
A planned trip _____	7
More than Bread _____	8
Who Sends the Rain? _____	8
<i>He Cares</i>	9
A home and a piano _____	9
Awakened to Pray _____	10
<i>In Sickness</i>	11
It Could have been Fatal _____	11
Sequel _____	12
<i>Reaching the Husband's Heart</i>	13
Anger _____	13
World War III _____	13
<i>Submitting to His Will</i>	14
Joy through pain _____	14
<i>Cherished Sin</i>	15
I thought I was hard done by. _____	15

Table of Contents

Favourite Prayer Texts - 17

Food for the Soul - 18

The Privilege of Prayer	18
Why Prayer _____	18
Praying and ceasing _____	19
Need _____	19
Sins that I love _____	20
When you don't get an answer _____	20
<i>The Widows Wood and Flour</i> _____	21
Stick with it _____	22
Secret Prayer _____	22
Pray - anywhere _____	23
The name of Jesus _____	24
Be Friends with God's children _____	25
What you think about _____	25
Exult in His goodness _____	25
The Lord's Prayer	27
"After this manner therefore pray ye" _____	27
"When ye pray, say, Our Father" _____	28
"Hallowed be Thy name" _____	29
"Thy kingdom come" _____	29
"Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" _____	30
"Give us this day our daily bread" _____	31
"Forgive us our sins" _____	32
"Bring us not into temptation" _____	34
"Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory" _____	35
In the Garden of Gethsemane _____	37
The Secret in Secret Prayer _____	42
How to Become a Child of God _____	44
<i>For His Sake</i> _____	47
<i>The Harvest is Passed</i> _____	51

Introduction



Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend, one Christian author writes. The Bible tells us that Abraham was called the friend of God. We can liken prayer to having a conversation with God, a way of developing a relationship with Him. The Bible also tells us that God made us in His image. God made man like himself to be someone who could understand and sympathize with Him.

Talking to God through prayer means we can also ask for assistance when we need it, and like a caring father He will help us. A former young Hindu guru tells of a time a cobra was about to strike when he remembered his mother (also a devoted Hindu) had told him that when all else failed there was another god he could call out to - Jesus. He cried, "Jesus, save me!" and the cobra dropped its hood and disappeared.

When my mother-in-law's marriage was experiencing hard times the only resource she found useful was Stormie Omartian's book, *The Power of a Praying Wife*.

When my three month old baby died in his sleep, His promise that "My grace is sufficient for you," proved true to my husband and I and through dependence on God in prayer, He gave us peace and even joy with which to face the new day and an empty cot.

You too will find that prayer is the solution to every problem, the only help for every need and the only door that will lead you into truly fulfilling intimacy with God.

Your prayer questions answered

Q. What are the steps to a fulfilling prayer life?

- **Talk to God as you would to a friend.** Praying and 'saying a prayer' are not the same thing. Just like no friendship can grow by simply repeating set greetings, like "Hello, how are you?" God wants you to share with Him what's on your heart, not repeat set phrases. "But when you pray, don't use vain repetitions, as the heathen do, for they think they will be heard for their much speaking" Matthew 6:7.
- **Confess your sins** so that He can forgive your sins and clear you of guilt. In this way you can be cleansed so that you might come 'boldly before the throne of grace.' "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the Lord" Acts 3:19.
- **Surrender yourself to Him** and ask Him to make that surrender a reality. This gives God permission to work in your life to answer your prayers and to transform you back into His likeness. "Submit yourselves therefore to God" James 4:7.
- **Make a habit of thanking God** for everyday blessings in your prayers. Everyone likes appreciation. God does too. Praise is not only for His benefit, though. The atmosphere of praise is the atmosphere of heaven. "Continue in pray... with thanksgiving" Colossians 4:2.
- **Read His letters to you - the Bible.** This is a wonderful way to get to know the Person you are talking to. Putting the Word of God in your mind helps bring your mind into harmony with the mind of God and in this way, to pray according to His will. Make a habit of reading the word of God for at least half an hour every day. "Thy word hath quickened me" Psalms 119:50.
- **Watch and pray.** Watch what you put in your mind. Have you ever noticed that it's harder if not impossible to really pray after listening to certain types of music or watching a movie? "Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity" Psalms 119:37.

Q. Why are my prayers not being answered?

● **Unbelief:** When we pray, we must believe that God hears us and will answer our prayers. This is very important. Of the man who prays and expects not to be heard, James wrote, “Let not that man think that he will receive anything of the Lord” James 1:7. Jesus said to His disciples, “Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them and you will have them” Mark 11:24. If you find it hard to grasp the promises of God, pray as did the father of the sick child, “Lord, help Thou my unbelief” Mark 9:24. Choose to believe His promises. “He who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him” Hebrews 11:6.

● **Willful disobedience:** If we know what God requires of us and refuse Him obedience, we cannot expect Him to answer our prayers. “He who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer will be an abomination” Proverbs 28:9.

● **Irreverence:** When we come into the presence of God, we should remember that He is the King of kings, the Ruler of the universe, the great Creator of all things. Even the angels veil their faces when they approach Him. We should keep the “fear of the Lord” in our hearts when we address Him. “Be still and know that I am God.” Psalm 46:10

● **An unforgiving spirit:** If we wish God to forgive us our sins, we must forgive others to the same extent that we hope to be forgiven. “If ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” Matthew 6:12, 15.

● **Selfishness:** Sometimes we pray selfishly for things which would not be a blessing to us. Wise parents do not give their children everything they ask for. God also, will not give us that which will take us further away from Him, and result in eternal loss. “Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts” James 4:3.

● **Cherished sin:** If there is something in your life you are holding onto that you know is wrong, you need to give it up to God and cooperate with Him in the removing of it from your life. Cherished or secret sins are like cancer. Just as cancer eats away your physical health, so secret sins destroy spiritual life. Give them to Jesus and let Him remove them from your life. “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me” Psalm 66:18.

Q. Are there any other conditions of answered prayer?

● **Praying according to His will.** We should always submit our requests to God in an attitude of submission, not one of demand. Remember that what you are asking for may not be in your best interest and only He knows what is for your best. So when you make requests to God, add the clause 'only according to Your will' from your heart. "And this is the confidence we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, he heareth us" Luke 12:47

● **Praying in the name of Jesus.** He was our substitute and is now our Mediator and it is only when presented to God through His Son that our prayers can be acceptable to the Almighty God. Jesus tells us, "Whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do," John 14:13. We need the 'signature' of Christ added to our prayers to made them valid.

QUICK TIPS:

Pray aloud - go somewhere private and pour your heart out.



Real-Life Prayer Stories

The experiences you will find in this section are all true and personal some happened to me, the others to close to friends. They are by no means exhaustive; they are only a very small sample of God's dealings in our lives. But we hope that, from sharing them with you, you will both be encouraged and reminded of your own experiences where God has answered prayer in special ways.

-- All our Needs

"Your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him." Matt.6: 7,8

The oil was red.



On Sunday, 20 July this year, I was getting ready to travel with my young daughter K-L to my friend's house at Maryborough. I had planned to meet my sister and her son Tarryn on the highway near Nambour and we would drive up together, convoy style. I packed the car and buckled K-L in her seat, when my husband Michael decided to check under the bonnet again. He found that the automatic transmission oil was not just low, but that it was completely gone. He was amazed it was so low, because he checked it the week before and the level was fine. Michael went inside to get some automatic transmission oil, but found none. He then asked our neighbour if we could borrow some from him, but the neighbour searched his shed and found nothing also. I thought I'd have to buy some oil, but a quick check in the purse reminded me that it was 2 days before pay day and I didn't have any money. My eyes fell on the jar where we keep our tithe money. I remembered that I recently dropped some money into that jar which wasn't tithe. It was only \$3.00, not even enough to buy a bottle of oil, but I was thinking that even \$3 would help. I rationalised that the \$3 wasn't tithe, it had only been an offering, so I could "legally" take it back out of the tithe jar. Then I thought, "I pay tithe. God promised to provide my needs. And if He promised it, He will do it." So I stood in front of that tithe jar and I said aloud, "God said He would provide for

my needs. Well, I need oil. Now, God, how are You going to get me some oil?" I don't think it really even constituted a proper prayer.

I walked out to the car and called my sister on the mobile. She was already waiting for me in Nambour, some 30 km away. Her 9-year-old son answered on their mobile phone. I told him that I would be held up, since I had no oil in the car. He asked me, "What type of oil do you need, aunty?" I told him not to worry about it because it wasn't normal oil. He persisted and so I told him I needed red oil. I wasn't expecting the reaction when he yelled at me, "Stop! Don't buy oil! Mum just bought some by accident. You can have ours."

I heard the full story later. My sister had gone to the service station to buy ordinary engine oil for her car, but she'd forgotten to take her glasses with her. She chose a bottle from a range of oils, some blue, some green, some red. She bought what she thought was engine oil, but when she got back to the car, and opened it, she realised that it was the wrong colour. It was red. She tried to return the bottle, but the service station owner refused to refund her money since the bottle was opened. My sister was quite upset, since she hadn't used a drop of the oil. On top of this, she then had to purchase another bottle of the usual engine oil. Her car has a manual gearbox and she had no use whatever for automatic transmission oil.

It was after this incident, that I rang saying that I needed "red" oil. On hearing the news, I drove to Nambour confident that my car's transmission would not seize en route. I knew God had supplied the oil I needed and He would not allow the gearbox to seize before I got the oil.

Tarryn told me that his mother said, "You know, I think God looks after Christians." ~ Sherlene Turner

The right men for the job

Driving the inland Qld road from Mt Isa, just after Boulia, Marty noticed his alternator light come on. It was necessary for him to drive through the night and he wouldn't make it to Winton until after 5 pm. What to do? Should he turn around and try to get back to Mt Isa? He pulled over, lifted the bonnet up and got back in the car and prayed. Soon after, he noticed a car approaching. On the inland road traffic is almost an event. This car stopped on Marty's side of the road.

Two young men jumped out and asked what was wrong. Marty explained his

situation.

“Jack, lets have a look at it, but lets have a cuppa first,” one said to the other. After putting the billy on and having their cuppa, they asked Marty to start the car and yes, they saw the alternator light too. Marty was asked to remove the alternator and they put it in a vice in the back of their car and pulled it apart .The brushes were gone.

“You wouldn't happen to have any spare parts ,” they asked Marty.

Yes, he did have a spare alternator, but the casing was gone.

“That will do.”

They pulled that apart and repaired the faulty alternator.

Marty was bewildered how on the road between Mt Isa and Winton, a car with all the right tools had come along just when he needed it. He asked who the men might be and how did they happen to have all this in the vehicle?

“We are mechanical engineers on our way to Mt Isa to start a new job.” In answer to prayer, God had sent just the right men along. ~ Angela Zujic

A planned trip

My husband got the idea last year that we should travel to the US to stay with a married daughter while she was having a baby. It was a wild idea because we don't have money for travel and we have a number of young children ourselves still. To humour him, I suggested we pray about the idea. To me the children was the biggest issue. We hadn't mentioned it to anyone. Just discussed it the once between ourselves and now we were praying. We were just getting off our knees when the phone rang.

A friend rang to say that she would mind our children anytime we needed. I was shocked. We have never been made such an offer before. What about for a whole month, I asked. The offer still stood.

God took us to the US. We had so little money, I asked him to provide us a place to sleep every night and food to eat. We travelled to places in North America where we didn't know anyone but every night we had somewhere to sleep and we had food to eat and we didn't have to pay money for it. God answered our prayers and provided our needs. ~ Angela Zujic

More than bread

When I ran into Coco's I only planned on buying bread because we were pretty low on funds. But once I reached the shelves of fresh produce I changed my mind. I knew we needed some. It was when I was standing in line at the checkout that I remembered that I had a limited amount of cash on me. And the trolley was well filled. I quickly counted out the cash I had, then mentally picked out items I would put back if it wasn't enough. If? I knew I really ought to go and put some back right away, but we needed all of it.



So I lifted up my thoughts to God. “Father, if it is pleasing to You, could You please make it that my money will be able to cover all this?”

The checkout guy was chatty and I almost forgot my problem almost. When he was ready to give me the total, I held my breath and glanced at the lineup behind me.

“Thirty two dollars and five cents, thankyou.”

What joy! I would have enough and fifteen cents to spare.

That was definitely too close to be a coincidence. It was just a small thing, yes, but I found it to be such beautiful evidence that our Father in heaven cares about even the smallest details of our life. ~ Bethany Turner

Who sends the rain?

-09/2004-

We had just sold our property, so were looking for another property to buy. We wanted to move to Childers. Mum and dad took me with them to see a real estate agent. The real estate agent was a country man. He told us that it wasn't going to rain for at least 2 weeks. It already hadn't rained for a long time. I asked him, “How do you know that?” The real estate agent said something about Mother Nature.

So that night at home I asked God in prayer, to please make it rain so that Trevor (the real estate agent) would know it wasn't Mother Nature that sent the rain but God. That night it poured! ~ Samuel, 12 years old.

– *He cares*



“Casting all your care upon Him, for He careth for you.” 1 Peter 5:7.

A home and a piano

It was night and my husband-to-be and I were discussing our future as we walked, hands clasped, both looking at the stars. Our wedding was only months away and we had no idea of how we would find a home, with rent being so expensive, no deposit to buy with and neither of us had a job. That might sound very foolish, but Benjamin was self-employed so we did have some income, just not one that was consistent enough to consider renting on. We'd discussed asking God for a home and had been praying about it together on our nightly walks and that seemed like a big enough ask. But tonight Benjamin suggested adding something else to the request. Now I had taken piano lessons, could play almost well and we spent a lot of our time together squeezed onto the piano stool together, singing hymns.

And so, now, Benjamin was saying, “Let's ask God for a home and a piano!”

Even to me, it seemed almost like too much to ask. Yes, I knew God could provide us with a home, because it was something big, something we needed, but wouldn't it be presumptuous to ask for something so unimportant, for such a petty desire as a piano? But we were young and carefree, full of faith - and dreams. And so, together, we knelt.

In the months that followed, God did miraculously provide us with a home, one that was not only rent free, but came with a weekly allowance. It was a caretaking position for a small church owned campground in a stunning mountain range. There were so many fingerprints of providence in the whole deal; the position became vacant immediately after our planned honeymoon ended, it was advertised in a church paper the only time we picked up and read that paper and though there were other applicants, we, so young and inexperienced, were chosen.

There was the fairy tale wedding, also largely provided for by prayer, a happy,

luxurious honeymoon, we moved into our new home with delight, our request for a piano as well completely forgotten. Then, mere weeks after settling into our new home, there was a whirlwind trip to Sydney to pick up some furniture my (not rich) Uncle had promised us.

It included a piano. An old, but beautiful piano, with lovely tone, touch and in immaculate condition. God had heard and answered that petty, but earnest heart's desire, too. ~ Bethany Turner

Awakened to pray

I was laying in bed almost asleep. Suddenly, I felt the urgency that is experienced when we witness an impending life and death situation. I couldn't explain it, but I also couldn't ignore it. I got out of bed and dropped to my knees. I prayed, "Father, I don't know who is in danger, but whoever it is, please help them." The overwhelming urgency and feeling of imminent danger left me after I prayed and I settled down to sleep again. Then, in about an hour, my sons Ben and Russell arrived home. I got up to meet them and soon I understood why I had strange experience.

Ben had been driving home with Russell from Mt. Glorious, along that winding road. Without warning, the brakes on the car failed and Ben's foot went straight to the floor. I believe it was a miracle that prevented them from careening down the side of the mountain that night. I also believe it was an angel that stirred me to pray for help at the time that my sons were in danger. I wasn't told what to pray for, but I was certainly impressed that there was danger for someone and that I needed to pray for their safety.

Sequel

My son Ben was driving Andrew Carter, his best friend, to the Pathfinder Rally at Bribie Island. The weather was rainy and the roads were slippery. I was again overcome by this same feeling that I experienced 5 months earlier; the fear that something dreadful was about to happen. This time, I was a little wiser, and I prayed that God would help whoever it was who was in trouble. I didn't have to wait long for the phone call. Ben's car had been "wrecked" as they slid across an oily round-about, as several other cars had also done. Ben's car had only just missed hitting a concrete power pole. Ben and Andrew were both uninjured, once again, thanks to unseen angels. ~Sherlene Turner



– *In Sickness*

“And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him” James 5:15.

It could have been fatal.

“It was at midnight on Father's Day that my six year old daughter, Keira-Lyn, woke me by calling out that she was very sick. Her temperature was already high at 39o, she had a severe headache, her neck was so stiff she couldn't bend it, she became sensitive to light and was nauseous, her breathing was very rapid, she had cold hands and feet, and gradually became delirious. I immediately used hydrotherapy treatments that usually help to control fever, but this time K-L's temperature continued to soar to 40.2o. For three hours I watched her get increasingly more ill and I became more alarmed as I compared her symptoms to those of meningitis. I checked her symptoms on the Internet and found that she had all the symptoms of meningitis except for the rash, which wasn't comforting - the internet said not all cases present with a rash.

There are two types of meningitis-- Bacterial and Viral. Bacterial meningitis is a true medical emergency, and requires immediate hospital-based treatment. However, Viral meningitis is milder and occurs more often than bacterial meningitis. I knew that if K-L didn't respond to treatment soon, I'd have to take her to the hospital and they would do a painful, spinal tap on her to diagnose the germs that were causing the disease.

I didn't know if K-L had meningitis, but I knew she was the sickest she'd ever been in her life. At 3 a.m. in desperation, I knelt beside her and prayed, “Dear Father, if it is your will that K-L die now, then I accept it. But if it is not your will for her to die now, then please heal her.” It was a prayer that came from the depths of my soul. I continued to take K-L's temperature and within the next half hour, her temperature dropped almost a whole degree. My sister, Cheryl is an Intensive Care nurse. She told me later that temperatures don't usually go down that quickly, but K-L's temperature just kept coming back down. The next

morning her temperature was only a little higher than normal, but she was walking around, almost back to normal. I don't know what the medical diagnosis was for the illness that K-L had, but I do believe with all my heart that God healed her.

Sequel - 22/09/2003

“And Hezekiah said unto Isaiah, What shall be the sign that the LORD will heal me, and that I shall go up into the house of the LORD the third day?” 2 Kings 20:8.

Last Monday my friend Angela who lives in Maryborough phoned me to say that her 7-year-old daughter Christella, became ill. As she described her symptoms I realised that it was the same type of illness that K-L had suffered. Angela's husband, Marty is an Intensive Care nurse, but he was away from home at the time. Angela phoned Marty and described Christella's symptoms. He was familiar with the symptoms of meningitis and became very alarmed when Angela told him that she had done the Brudzinski and the Kernig's tests and that Christella tested positive to both. The child's legs were tucked up in the pose typical of meningitis. (Straightening the calf muscles causes extreme pain, so the legs are bent.) She couldn't walk because of the pain and was distressed and becoming delirious. Angela called me back to tell me that the blotchy, purple rash was now spreading over her face, hands and arms. I told her to pray quickly. She said, “I can't. I'm too worried. I can't cope.” Marty had their only car and Angela had to wait for him to come home from town. I said to her, “Alright, you watch 'Stella until your husband gets home and I'll pray.”

I prayed immediately and most earnestly the same prayer that God had answered when I prayed for K-L to be healed. And then I added something extra. I asked God to please give me a sign that He was healing Christella. I felt the presence of God as I prayed. It was about 3 minutes later as I walked into the kitchen, that I began to grow very weak. As the weakness got more severe, I had to lay down on the bed. It was about 5 minutes before I finally realised that my weakness was probably connected with my prayer for a sign. I thought that something must be happening in Maryborough and so, while on the bed, I rang my friend again. I said to her, “What is happening?” My friend replied, “Christella just sat up in bed and said, “Mummy, I'm well.” Angela said that she got out of bed, saying, “Mummy, I can walk now.” Christella then even climbed onto the trampoline and had a little jump. Angela said to me, “When 'Stella sat up and said she was well, I just thought, I wonder when Sherlene prayed.” I believe with all my heart that God used a miracle to heal that little girl too. The heart of love is touched when we pray out of a heart that also longs to help others and realises our own helplessness. ~ Sherlene Turner

– *Reaching the husband's heart*



“The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: He turneth it whithersoever He will” Proverbs 21:1.

Anger

Prayer has changed my husband's mood so many times. There have been times his fuse had come to its end. He was just in a rage. I would go to my bedroom or just anywhere so that he wouldn't see me. Sometimes I would gather the frightened children around me too. The main thing is that I prayed. I asked God to send His angels and to calm my husband down. Its wonderful how not long after that, everything would change and a little bit later, he would apologise too. I have prayed for my husband often. Now it just about doesn't happen anymore. Thanks to God who answers prayer. ~ Name Withheld

World War 3

I was married to a man that called himself an atheist. It was October 1985, and in twelve months time our eldest daughter would be starting school. I had recommitted my life to the Lord three years previous, much to the smouldering anger of my husband. Well, we were sitting at the table and I asked him if we could send our girl to a church school. It was like World War 3 had broken out. I went to God and said “I can't put my family through such turmoil again and I can't change my husband's heart but You can.”

In August the following year I went to a prayer meeting and put forward my prayer request regarding my child's education. I firmly believe in the power of public prayer and also openly verbally putting forth our requests. Nothing had been said all year about our daughter's education. October came along and she turned five. We were sitting at the table and my husband turned to our daughter and said, "Well what school do you want to go to?" Our daughter timidly says, “The one Mummy wants me to go to.” He turns to me (its as if he has forgotten the conversation/war approximately 12 month before) and says “Which one is that?” I repeated the name of the Christian school I had in mind. He quietly says “Well as long as she is not on her knees all day she can go.” ~ Gloria Hodges



-- *Submitting to His will*

“For this cause we...desire that you might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.” Colossians 1:9.

Joy through pain

I could hardly pray, just cry, “Lord, please save my baby. Don't let him die.” Samuel, my adorable three and a half month old son, was purple and there was no heartbeat.

Benjamin and I, and our much-loved Samuel, had come to visit my family for a birthday. The party had been over, and we were ready to leave, when I asked my younger sister to bring the sound asleep boy downstairs to me. That was when we'd realized something was wrong. It couldn't be right, but he looked... he really looked dead. Someone called the ambulance and Benjamin started doing CPR, but I couldn't stand to watch. My little boy, who was usually so bright eyed and happy, was lying on the cold floor, purple, lifeless and still. I stood outside crying and praying.

“Lord please save the life of my child. But only if it's Your will, Father.”

Even though my parent's home is out of town, it was mere minutes later that the ambulance arrived. While they hurried into the lounge room where Samuel lay on the floor with Ben still trying to revive him, I ran into my parent's bedroom and fell to my knees beside the bed. And I gave the life of my child into the Father's hands.

“Lord, I know You are the source of all life,” I prayed, “You can give it back so easily! Please bring him back to life like you raised Lazarus. I know nothing is too hard for You. But, Father, if it is not Your will that's ok, too. Do whatever You see as best.”

I wasn't on my knees long before they called me and asked if I wanted to travel with my boy to the hospital. I prayed all the way there, and I felt peace, though my heart was breaking.

In the hospital I waited in a side room, praying and crying, while they injected my little boy with two lots of adrenalin and put him on an artificial heart pump. But he didn't respond to anything. And soon they told me. There was nothing else to be done.

My baby was dead.

Do I even need to explain a mother's grief? I know I don't. Anyone could understand. But the peace that comforted both of us is beyond my understanding. God knew that little Samuel's death was for our best and his, so He did not answer my prayer for healing, but as we clung to Him through prayer He gave us grace and peace to cushion the pain and He healed us.

The death of our child gave both me and my husband a richer walk with God and a more meaningful life. It also guarantees him a future childhood in a perfect world where we will be able to be perfect parents. No, I don't know that these are the reasons God had for laying our baby in the grave, but I do know that He did it in incomprehensible love.

He gave us such incredible joy during that sad time that I felt almost as if heaven had already begun. And when it does, I know that Samuel will be with us again. Without prayer I'm sure that the experience would have been too much and I would have gone crazy, but our prayers drew us so close to the Almighty that we could almost feel His comforting arms around us. ~ Bethany Turner

-- *Cherished Sin*

"So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him." Isa.59.19. "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:21

I thought I was hard done by.

I had argued with my husband and I allowed myself the luxury of indulging in self-pity. Instead of submitting my carnal nature to the Lord, I cherished those thoughts. I made the mistake of dwelling on my husband's actions instead of my own. Causing one spouse to blame the other, is unfortunately one of the most successful snares that the devil lays for us. The "injured" spouse then, in a carnal way of thinking, believes they are justified to respond in a cold, unchristian way. Jesus told us how we are to respond in this situation, but the carnal nature prevents us. We need the spirit and mind of Jesus to control us and to keep us

loving in any situation.

However, I made a very unwise decision that night. I moved myself into another room to sleep. I tried to pray, but I was so angry and felt that I was justified in being angry; that I actually told God that I would pray properly in the morning when I wasn't so tired and had calmed down a bit more. I lay on the top bunk bed and went into a deep sleep - until about 2 a.m.

Then, I heard a loud noise, which seemed to be outside the window. I thought it was the dog. However, then I “felt” the “being” at the foot of the double bunk, and it began to move the bunks from side to side. The evil presence was tangible. I realised that a demon was in the room. It moved from the foot of the bed and came level with my waist. I had been sleeping with my hands above my head on the pillow.

The demon grabbed my right arm and started pulling me out of the bed. With my left arm, I grabbed onto my right arm and tried to resist the pulling. This was no use, since the demon grabbed that arm too. It was then I felt like I needed desperately to pray, but I couldn't utter a word. In my mind I prayed to be able to call aloud the name of Jesus.

Finally, I was given the ability to call out and I yelled, “Jesus help me, Jesus.” Instantly I was dropped back into the bed and a peace came over me. The fear left me as instantly as Jesus saved me. I asked the Lord to give me a Bible verse that I could think about if I was ever scared again. “He shall cover thee with his feathers and under his wings shalt thou trust” came into my mind.

After praying and thanking my Saviour for His mercy, I went straight to my husband and apologised to him for my attitude. I determined that I never wanted anything to separate me from my Saviour again. Cherishing feelings of being “hard done by” is sin. I learned that the hard way. ~ Sherlene Turner

QUICK TIPS:

Go for prayer walks. Or just find somewhere quiet in nature where you can talk to God freely and sing or cry or just meditate - “with Jesus alone.”

Favourite **Prayer Texts**

“Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. And I will be found of you, saith the LORD”
Jer 29:12-14.

“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not” Jer 33:3.

“And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left” Is 30:21.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts” Is 55:8, 9.

“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose” Rom 8:26-28.

“And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them” Mark 11: 22-24

Food for the Soul

This section of the Helps contains devotional readings to nourish your soul and give you deeper insights into the role God has designed for prayer. It has been intermingled with more stories of answered prayer not from our personal lives this time, but from the pages of history. All of these also are true.

The Privilege of Prayer

Why prayer?

Through nature and revelation, through His providence, and by the influence of His Spirit, God speaks to us. But these are not enough; we need also to pour out our hearts to Him. In order to have spiritual life and energy, we must have actual intercourse with our heavenly Father. Our minds may be drawn out toward Him; we may meditate upon His works, His mercies, His blessings; but this is not, in the fullest sense, communing with Him. In order to commune with God, we must have something to say to Him concerning our actual life.

Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. Not that it is necessary in order to make known to God what we are, but in order to enable us to receive Him. Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him.

When Jesus was upon the earth, He taught His disciples how to pray. He directed them to present their daily needs before God, and to cast all their care upon Him. And the assurance He gave them that their petitions should be heard, is assurance also to us.

Jesus Himself, while He dwelt among men, was often in prayer. Our Saviour identified Himself with our needs and weakness, in that He became a petitioner, seeking from His Father fresh supplies of strength, that He might come forth braced for duty and trial. He is our example in all things. He is a brother in our infirmities, "in all points tempted like as we are;" but as the sinless one His nature recoiled from evil; He endured struggles and torture of soul in a world of sin. His humanity made prayer a necessity and a privilege. He found comfort and joy in communion with His Father. And if the Saviour of men, the Son of God, felt the need of prayer, how much more should feeble, sinful mortals feel the necessity of fervent, constant prayer.

Praying and ceasing

Our heavenly Father waits to bestow upon us the fullness of His blessing. It is our privilege to drink largely at the fountain of boundless love. What a wonder it is that we pray so little! God is ready and willing to hear the sincere prayer of the humblest of His children, and yet there is much manifest reluctance on our part to make known our wants to God. What can the angels of heaven think of poor helpless human beings, who are subject to temptation, when God's heart of infinite love yearns toward them, ready to give them more than they can ask or think, and yet they pray so little and have so little faith? The angels love to bow before God; they love to be near Him. They regard communion with God as their highest joy; and yet the children of earth, who need so much the help that God only can give, seem satisfied to walk without the light of His Spirit, the companionship of His presence.

The darkness of the evil one encloses those who neglect to pray. The whispered temptations of the enemy entice them to sin; and it is all because they do not make use of the privileges that God has given them in the divine appointment of prayer. Why should the sons and daughters of God be reluctant to pray, when prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence? Without unceasing prayer and diligent watching we are in danger of growing careless and of deviating from the right path. The adversary seeks continually to obstruct the way to the mercy seat, that we may not by earnest supplication and faith obtain grace and power to resist temptation.

Need

There are certain conditions upon which we may expect that God will hear and answer our prayers. One of the first of these is that we feel our need of help from Him. He has promised, "I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground." Isaiah 44:3. Those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, who long after God, may be sure that they will be filled. The heart must be open to the Spirit's influence, or God's blessing cannot be received.

Our great need is itself an argument and pleads most eloquently in our behalf. But the Lord is to be sought unto to do these things for us. He says, "Ask, and it shall be given you." And "He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" Matthew 7:7; Romans 8:32.

Sins that I love

If we regard iniquity in our hearts, if we cling to any known sin, the Lord will not hear us; but the prayer of the penitent, contrite soul is always accepted. When all known wrongs are righted, we may believe that God will answer our petitions. Our own merit will never commend us to the favor of God; it is the worthiness of Jesus that will save us, His blood that will cleanse us; yet we have a work to do in complying with the conditions of acceptance.

When you don't get an answer: believe

Another element of prevailing prayer is faith. "He that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Hebrews 11:6. Jesus said to His disciples, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:24. Do we take Him at His word?

The assurance is unlimited, and He is faithful who has promised. When we do not receive the very things we asked for, we are still to believe that the Lord hears and that He will answer our prayers. We are so erring and short-sighted that we sometimes ask for things that would not be a blessing to us, and our heavenly Father in love answers our prayers by giving us that which will be for our highest good--that which we ourselves would desire if we could see all things as they really are. When our prayers seem not to be answered, we are to cling to the promise; for the time of answering will surely come. But to claim that prayer will always be answered in the very way and for the particular thing that we desire, is presumption. God is too wise to err, and too good to withhold any good thing from them that walk uprightly. Then do not fear to trust Him, even though you do not see the immediate answer to your prayers. Rely upon His sure promise, "Ask, and it shall be given you."

If we take counsel with our doubts and fears, or try to solve everything that we cannot see clearly, perplexities will only increase and deepen. But if we come to God, feeling helpless and dependent, as we really are, and in trusting faith make known our wants to Him, He can and will attend to our cry, and will let light shine into our hearts. Through sincere prayer we are brought into connection with the mind of the Infinite. We may have no remarkable evidence at the time that the face of our Redeemer is bending over us in compassion and love, but this is even so. We may not feel His visible touch, but His hand is upon us in love and pitying tenderness. *To be continued...*

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The Widow's Wood and Flour

A widow who trusted in God came into hard times. She had two daughters, who did knitting to earn a livelihood; and at that time they were so busily engaged in trying to finish some work that they forgot to make provision for their ordinary wants, until they found themselves one winter's day in the midst of a snow-storm, with food and fuel almost run out and they lived a distance from any neighbours.

The daughters began to be alarmed, but the good old mother said: 'Don't worry, girls, the Lord will provide; we have enough for today, and tomorrow may be pleasant,' and in this hope the girls settled down again to their labor.

Another morning came, and the storm still raged, and all was dark and dismal without. Noon came, and the last morsel of food was eaten, the wood was almost gone, and there was no token of any relief for their necessities. The girls became distressed, but the good mother said: 'Don't worry, the Lord will provide.' But they had heard that story the day before, and they knew not the strong foundation upon which that mother's trust was builded, and could not share the confidence she felt.

"If we get anything today the Lord will have to bring it Himself, for nobody can get here if he tries," said one of the daughters, impatiently; but the mother said: 'Don't worry.' And so they sat down again to their sewing, the daughters to muse upon their necessitous condition, and the mother to roll her burden on the Everlasting Arms in prayer.

Now at this time, Michael sat at his fireside, about a mile away, surrounded by every bounty and comfort needed to cheer his heart, with his only daughter sitting by his side. For a long time not a word had been spoken, and he had seemed lost in silent meditation, till at length he said: "Mary, I want you to go and order the cattle yoked, and then get me a bag. I must go and carry some wood and flour to Sister Camelia."

"Why, father, it is impossible for you to go. There is no track, and it is all of a mile up there. You would almost perish."

The old man sat in silence a few moments, and said: "I must go."

Soon all things were ready, and the patient oxen took their way to the widow's home, wallowing through the drifted snow, and dragging the sled with its load of wood and flour. About 4 o'clock in the afternoon, the mother had arisen from her work to fix the fire, and looking out of the window, she saw the oxen at the door, and she knew that the Lord had heard her cry.

When we come to ask mercy and blessing from God we should have a spirit of love and forgiveness in our own hearts. How can we pray, "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors," and yet indulge an unforgiving spirit? Matthew 6:12. If we expect our own prayers to be heard we must forgive others in the same manner and to the same extent as we hope to be forgiven.

Stick with it perseverance

Perseverance in prayer has been made a condition of receiving. We must pray always if we would grow in faith and experience. We are to be "instant in prayer," to "continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving," Romans 12:12; Colossians 4:2. Peter exhorts believers to be "sober, and watch unto prayer." 1 Peter 4:7. Paul directs, "In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Philippians 4:6. "But ye, beloved," says Jude, "praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the love of God." Jude 20, 21. Unceasing prayer is the unbroken union of the soul with God, so that life from God flows into our life; and from our life, purity and holiness flow back to God.

There is necessity for diligence in prayer; let nothing hinder you. Make every effort to keep open the communion between Jesus and your own soul. Seek every opportunity to go where prayer is wont to be made. Those who are really seeking for communion with God will be seen in the prayer meeting, faithful to do their duty and earnest and anxious to reap all the benefits they can gain. They will improve every opportunity of placing themselves where they can receive the rays of light from heaven.

Secret prayer

We should pray in the family circle, and above all we must not neglect secret prayer, for this is the life of the soul. It is impossible for the soul to flourish while prayer is neglected. Family or public prayer alone is not sufficient. In solitude let the soul be laid open to the inspecting eye of God. Secret prayer is to be heard only by the prayer-hearing God. No curious ear is to receive the burden of such petitions. In secret prayer the soul is free from surrounding influences, free from excitement. Calmly, yet fervently, will it reach out after God. Sweet and abiding will be the influence emanating from Him who seeth in secret, whose ear is open to hear the prayer arising from the heart. By calm, simple faith the soul holds communion with God and gathers to itself rays of divine light to strengthen and sustain it in the conflict with Satan. God is our tower of strength.

Pray in your closet, and as you go about your daily labor let your heart be

often uplifted to God. It was thus that Enoch walked with God. These silent prayers rise like precious incense before the throne of grace. Satan cannot overcome him whose heart is thus stayed upon God.

Pray - anywhere

There is no time or place in which it is inappropriate to offer up a petition to God. There is nothing that can prevent us from lifting up our hearts in the spirit of earnest prayer. In the crowds of the street, in the midst of a business engagement, we may send up a petition to God and plead for divine guidance, as did Nehemiah when he made his request before King Artaxerxes. A closet of communion may be found wherever we are. We should have the door of the heart open continually and our invitation going up that Jesus may come and abide as a heavenly guest in the soul.

Although there may be a tainted, corrupted atmosphere around us, we need not breathe its miasma, but may live in the pure air of heaven. We may close every door to impure imaginings and unholy thoughts by lifting the soul into the presence of God through sincere prayer. Those whose hearts are open to receive the support and blessing of God will walk in a holier atmosphere than that of earth and will have constant communion with heaven.

We need to have more distinct views of Jesus and a fuller comprehension of the value of eternal realities. The beauty of holiness is to fill the hearts of God's children; and that this may be accomplished, we should seek for divine disclosures of heavenly things.

Let the soul be drawn out and upward, that God may grant us a breath of the heavenly atmosphere. We may keep so near to God that in every unexpected trial our thoughts will turn to Him as naturally as the flower turns to the sun. Every little thing

Keep your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your fears before God. You cannot burden Him; you cannot weary Him. He who numbers the hairs of your head is not indifferent to the wants of His children. "The Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." James 5:11. His heart of love is touched by our sorrows and even by our utterances of them. Take to Him everything that perplexes the mind. Nothing is too great for Him to bear, for He holds up worlds, He rules over all the affairs of the universe. Nothing that in any way concerns our peace is too small for Him to notice. There is no chapter in our experience too dark for Him to read; there is no perplexity too difficult for Him to unravel. No

calamity can befall the least of His children, no anxiety harass the soul, no joy cheer, no sincere prayer escape the lips, of which our heavenly Father is unobservant, or in which He takes no immediate interest. "He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds." Psalm 147:3. The relations between God and each soul are as distinct and full as though there were not another soul upon the earth to share His watchcare, not another soul for whom He gave His beloved Son.

The name of Jesus

Jesus said, "Ye shall ask in My name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you: for the Father Himself loveth you." "I have chosen you: . . . that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in My name, He may give it you." John 16:26, 27; 15:16. But to pray in the name of Jesus is something more than a mere mention of that name at the beginning and the ending of a prayer. It is to pray in the mind and spirit of Jesus, while we believe His promises, rely upon His grace, and work His works.

God does not mean that any of us should become hermits or monks and retire from the world in order to devote ourselves to acts of worship. The life must be like Christ's life--between the mountain and the multitude. He who does nothing but pray will soon cease to pray, or his prayers will become a formal routine. When men take themselves out of social life, away from the sphere of Christian duty and cross bearing; when they cease to work earnestly for the Master, who worked earnestly for them, they lose the subject matter of prayer and have no incentive to devotion. Their prayers become personal and selfish. They cannot pray in regard to the wants of humanity or the upbuilding of Christ's kingdom, pleading for strength wherewith to work.

Be friends with God's children

We sustain a loss when we neglect the privilege of associating together to strengthen and encourage one another in the service of God. The truths of His word lose their vividness and importance in our minds. Our hearts cease to be enlightened and aroused by their sanctifying influence, and we decline in spirituality. In our association as Christians we lose much by lack of sympathy with one another. He who shuts himself up to himself is not filling the position that God designed he should. The proper cultivation of the social elements in our nature brings us into sympathy with others and is a means of development and strength to us in the service of God.

If Christians would associate together, speaking to each other of the love of

God and of the precious truths of redemption, their own hearts would be refreshed and they would refresh one another. We may be daily learning more of our heavenly Father, gaining a fresh experience of His grace; then we shall desire to speak of His love; and as we do this, our own hearts will be warmed and encouraged. If we thought and talked more of Jesus, and less of self, we should have far more of His presence.

What you think about

If we would but think of God as often as we have evidence of His care for us we should keep Him ever in our thoughts and should delight to talk of Him and to praise Him. We talk of temporal things because we have an interest in them. We talk of our friends because we love them; our joys and our sorrows are bound up with them. Yet we have infinitely greater reason to love God than to love our earthly friends; it should be the most natural thing in the world to make Him first in all our thoughts, to talk of His goodness and tell of His power. The rich gifts He has bestowed upon us were not intended to absorb our thoughts and love so much that we should have nothing to give to God; they are constantly to remind us of Him and to bind us in bonds of love and gratitude to our heavenly Benefactor. We dwell too near the lowlands of earth. Let us raise our eyes to the open door of the sanctuary above, where the light of the glory of God shines in the face of Christ, who "is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him." Hebrews 7:25.

Exult in His goodness

We need to praise God more "for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men." Psalm 107:8. Our devotional exercises should not consist wholly in asking and receiving. Let us not be always thinking of our wants and never of the benefits we receive. We do not pray any too much, but we are too sparing of giving thanks. We are the constant recipients of God's mercies, and yet how little gratitude we express, how little we praise Him for what He has done for us.

Anciently the Lord bade Israel, when they met together for His service, "Ye shall eat before the Lord your God, and ye shall rejoice in all that ye put your hand unto, ye and your households, wherein the Lord thy God hath blessed thee." Deuteronomy 12:7. That which is done for the glory of God should be done with cheerfulness, with songs of praise and thanksgiving, not with sadness and gloom.

Our God is a tender, merciful Father. His service should not be looked upon as a heart-saddening, distressing exercise. It should be a pleasure to worship the

Lord and to take part in His work. God would not have His children, for whom so great salvation has been provided, act as if He were a hard, exacting taskmaster. He is their best friend; and when they worship Him, He expects to be with them, to bless and comfort them, filling their hearts with joy and love. The Lord desires His children to take comfort in His service and to find more pleasure than hardship in His work. He desires that those who come to worship Him shall carry away with them precious thoughts of His care and love, that they may be cheered in all the employments of daily life, that they may have grace to deal honestly and faithfully in all things.

We must gather about the cross. Christ and Him crucified should be the theme of contemplation, of conversation, and of our most joyful emotion. We should keep in our thoughts every blessing we receive from God, and when we realize His great love we should be willing to trust everything to the hand that was nailed to the cross for us.

The soul may ascend nearer heaven on the wings of praise. God is worshiped with song and music in the courts above, and as we express our gratitude we are approximating to the worship of the heavenly hosts. "Whoso offereth praise glorifieth" God. Psalm 50:23. Let us with reverent joy come before our Creator, with "thanksgiving, and the voice of melody." Isaiah 51:3. ~ Steps to Christ, White



The Lord's Prayer

"After this manner therefore pray ye."

The Lord's Prayer was twice given by our Saviour, first to the multitude in the Sermon on the Mount, and again, some months later, to the disciples alone. The disciples had been for a short time absent from their Lord, when on their return they found Him absorbed in communion with God. Seeming unconscious of their presence, He continued praying aloud. The Saviour's face was irradiated with a celestial brightness. He seemed to be in the very presence of the Unseen, and there was a living power in His words as of one who spoke with God.

The hearts of the listening disciples were deeply moved. They had marked how often He spent long hours in solitude in communion with His Father. His days were passed in ministry to the crowds that pressed upon Him, and in unveiling the treacherous sophistry of the rabbis, and this incessant labor often left Him so utterly wearied that His mother and brothers, and even His disciples, had feared that His life would be sacrificed. But as He returned from the hours of prayer that closed the toilsome day, they marked the look of peace upon His face, the sense of refreshment that seemed to pervade His presence. It was from hours spent with God that He came forth, morning by morning, to bring the light of heaven to men. The disciples had come to connect His hours of prayer with the power of His words and works. Now, as they listened to His supplication, their hearts were awed and humbled. As He ceased praying, it was with a conviction of their own deep need that they exclaimed, "Lord, teach us to pray." Luke 11:1.

Jesus gives them no new form of prayer. That which He has before taught them He repeats, as if He would say, You need to understand what I have already given. It has a depth of meaning you have not yet fathomed.

The Saviour does not, however, restrict us to the use of these exact words. As one with humanity, He presents His own ideal of prayer, words so simple that they may be adopted by the little child, yet so comprehensive that their significance can never be fully grasped by the greatest minds. We are taught to come to God with our tribute of thanksgiving, to make known our wants, to confess our sins, and to claim His mercy in accordance with His promise.

"When ye pray, say Our Father."

Jesus teaches us to call His Father our Father. He is not ashamed to call us brethren. So ready, so eager, is the Saviour's heart to welcome us as members of the family of God!

Here is the announcement of that wonderful truth, so full of encouragement and comfort, that God loves us as He loves His Son. This is what Jesus said in His last prayer for His disciples, Thou "hast loved them, as Thou hast loved Me."

The world that Satan has claimed and has ruled over with cruel tyranny, the Son of God has, by one vast achievement, encircled in His love and connected again with the throne of Jehovah. Cherubim and seraphim, and the unnumbered hosts of all the unfallen worlds, sang anthems of praise to God and the Lamb when this triumph was assured. They rejoiced that the way of salvation had been opened to the fallen race and that the earth would be redeemed from the curse of sin....

How can we ever be in doubt and uncertainty, and feel that we are orphans? It was in behalf of those who had transgressed the law that Jesus took upon Him human nature; He became like unto us, that we might have everlasting peace and assurance. We have an Advocate in the heavens, and whoever accepts Him as a personal Saviour is not left an orphan to bear the burden of his own sins. ...

The perception of God's love works the renunciation of selfishness. In calling God our Father, we recognize all His children as our brethren. We are all a part of the great web of humanity, all members of one family. In our petitions we are to include our neighbours as well as ourselves. No one prays aright who seeks a blessing for himself alone...

God dwells in every abode; He hears every word that is spoken, listens to every prayer that is offered, tastes the sorrows and disappointments of every soul, regards the treatment that is given to father, mother, sister, friend, and neighbour. He cares for our necessities, and His love and mercy and grace are continually flowing to satisfy our need.

But if you call God your Father you acknowledge yourselves His children, to be guided by His wisdom and to be obedient in all things, knowing that His love is changeless. You will accept His plan for your life. As children of God, you will hold His honour, His character, His family, His work, as the objects of your highest interest....



"Hallowed be Thy name."

To hallow the name of the Lord requires that the words in which we speak of the Supreme Being be uttered with reverence. "Holy and reverend is His name." Psalm 111:9. We are never in any manner to treat lightly the titles or appellations of the Deity. In prayer we enter the audience chamber of the Most High; and we should come before Him with holy awe. The angels veil their faces in His presence. The cherubim and the bright and holy seraphim approach His throne with solemn reverence. How much more should we, finite, sinful beings, come in a reverent manner before the Lord, our Maker!

But to hallow the name of the Lord means much more than this. We may, like the Jews in Christ's day, manifest the greatest outward reverence for God, and yet profane His name continually. "The name of the Lord" is "merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, . . . forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin." Exodus 34:5-7. Of the church of Christ it is written, "This is the name wherewith she shall be called, The Lord our Righteousness." Jeremiah 33:16. This name is put upon every follower of Christ. It is the heritage of the child of God.

This name is hallowed by the angels of heaven, by the inhabitants of unfallen worlds. When you pray, "Hallowed be Thy name," you ask that it may be hallowed in this world, hallowed in you. God has acknowledged you before men and angels as His child; pray that you may do no dishonor to the "worthy name by which ye are called." James 2:7. God sends you into the world as His representative. In every act of life you are to make manifest the name of God. This petition calls upon you to possess His character. You cannot hallow His name, you cannot represent Him to the world, unless in life and character you represent the very life and character of God. This you can do only through the acceptance of the grace and righteousness of Christ.

"Thy kingdom come."

God is our Father, who loves and cares for us as His children; He is also the great King of the universe. The interests of His kingdom are our interests, and we are to work for its upbuilding.

The disciples of Christ were looking for the immediate coming of the kingdom of His glory, but in giving them this prayer Jesus taught that the kingdom was not then to be



established. They were to pray for its coming as an event yet future. But this petition was also an assurance to them. While they were not to behold the coming of the kingdom in their day, the fact that Jesus bade them pray for it is evidence that in God's own time it will surely come.

The heavenly gates are again to be lifted up, and with ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands of holy ones, our Saviour will come forth as King of kings and Lord of lords. Jehovah Immanuel "shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and His name one." "The tabernacle of God" shall be with men, "and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God." Zechariah 14:9; Revelation 21:3.

But before that coming, Jesus said, "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations." Matthew 24:14. His kingdom will not come until the good tidings of His grace have been carried to all the earth. Hence, as we give ourselves to God, and win other souls to Him, we hasten the coming of His kingdom. Only those who devote themselves to His service, saying, "Here am I; send me" (Isaiah 6:8), to open blind eyes, to turn men "from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God" (Acts 26:18)-- they alone pray in sincerity, "Thy kingdom come."

"Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."

The will of God is expressed in the precepts of His holy law, and the principles of this law are the principles of heaven. The angels of heaven attain unto no higher knowledge than to know the will of God, and to do His will is the highest service that can engage their powers.

But in heaven, service is not rendered in the spirit of legality. When Satan rebelled against the law of Jehovah, the thought that there was a law came to the angels almost as an awakening to something unthought of. In their ministry the angels are not as servants, but as sons. There is perfect unity between them and their Creator. Obedience is to them no drudgery. Love for God makes their service a joy. So in every soul wherein Christ, the hope of glory, dwells, His words are re-echoed, "I delight to do Thy will, O My God: yea, Thy law is within My heart." Psalm 40:8.

The petition, "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven," is a prayer that the reign of evil on this earth may be ended, that sin may be forever destroyed, and the kingdom of righteousness be established. Then in earth as in heaven will be fulfilled "all the good pleasure of His goodness." 2 Thessalonians 1:11.

"Give us this day our daily bread."



The first half of the prayer Jesus has taught us is in regard to the name and kingdom and will of God --that His name may be honored, His kingdom established, His will performed. *When you have thus made God's service your first interest, you may ask with confidence that your own needs may be supplied.*

If you have renounced self and given yourself to Christ you are a member of the family of God, and everything in the Father's house is for you ... The ministry of angels, the gift of His Spirit, the labors of His servants--all are for you. The world, with everything in it, is yours *so far as it can do you good*. Even the enmity of the wicked will prove a blessing by disciplining you for heaven. If "ye are Christ's," "all things are yours." 1 Corinthians 3:23, 21.

But you are as a child who is not yet placed in control of his inheritance. God does not entrust to you your precious possession, lest Satan by his wily arts should beguile you, as he did the first pair in Eden. Christ holds it for you, safe beyond the spoiler's reach. Like the child, you shall receive day by day what is required for the day's need. Every day you are to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." Be not dismayed if you have not sufficient for tomorrow. You have the assurance of His promise, "So shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed." David says, "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." Psalm 37:3, 25...

He who lightened the cares and anxieties of His widowed mother and helped her to provide for the household at Nazareth, sympathizes with every mother in her struggle to provide her children food. He who had compassion on the multitude because they "fainted, and were scattered abroad" (Matthew 9:36), still has compassion on the suffering poor. His hand is stretched out toward them in blessing; and in the very prayer which He gave His disciples, He teaches us to remember the poor.

When we pray, "Give us this day our daily bread," we ask for others as well as ourselves. And we acknowledge that what God gives us is not for ourselves alone. God gives to us in trust, that we may feed the hungry...

The prayer for daily bread includes not only food to sustain the body, but that spiritual bread which will nourish the soul unto life everlasting... Our Saviour is the bread of life, and it is by beholding His love, by receiving it into the soul, that we feed upon the bread which came down from heaven.

We receive Christ through His word, and the Holy Spirit is given to open the word of God to our understanding, and bring home its truths to our hearts. We are to pray day by day that as we read His word, God will send His Spirit to reveal to us the truth that will strengthen our souls for the day's need.

In teaching us to ask every day for what we need --both temporal and spiritual blessings--God has a purpose to accomplish for our good. He would have us realize our dependence upon His constant care, for He is seeking to draw us into communion with Himself. In this communion with Christ, through prayer and the study of the great and precious truths of His word, we shall as hungry souls be fed; as those that thirst, we shall be refreshed at the fountain of life.

**"Forgive us our sins;
for we also forgive everyone that is indebted to us."**

Jesus teaches that we can receive forgiveness from God only as we forgive others. It is the love of God that draws us unto Him, and that love cannot touch our hearts without creating love for our brethren.

After completing the Lord's Prayer, Jesus added: "If ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." He who is unforgiving cuts off the very channel through which alone he can receive mercy from God. We should not think that unless those who have injured us confess the wrong we are justified in withholding from them our forgiveness. It is their part, no doubt, to humble their hearts by repentance and confession; but we are to have a spirit of compassion toward those who have trespassed against us, whether or not they confess their faults. However sorely they may have wounded us, we are not to cherish our grievances and sympathize with ourselves over our injuries; but as we hope to be pardoned for our offenses against God we are to pardon all who have done evil to us.

But forgiveness has a broader meaning than many suppose. When God gives the promise that He "will abundantly pardon," He adds, as if the meaning of that promise exceeded all that we could comprehend: "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:7-9. God's forgiveness is not merely a judicial act by which He sets us free from condemnation. It is not only forgiveness for sin, but reclaiming from sin. It is the outflow of redeeming love that transforms the heart. David had the true conception of forgiveness when he prayed, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Psalm 51:10. And

again he says, "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us." Psalm 103:12.

God in Christ gave Himself for our sins. He suffered the cruel death of the cross, bore for us the burden of guilt, "the just for the unjust," that He might reveal to us His love and draw us to Himself. And He says, "Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, even as God also in Christ forgave you." Ephesians 4:32, R.V. Let Christ, the divine Life, dwell in you and through you reveal the heaven-born love that will inspire hope in the hopeless and bring heaven's peace to the sin-stricken heart. As we come to God, this is the condition which meets us at the threshold, that, receiving mercy from Him, we yield ourselves to reveal His grace to others.

The one thing essential for us in order that we may receive and impart the forgiving love of God is to know and believe the love that He has to us. 1 John 4:16. Satan is working by every deception he can command, in order that we may not discern that love. He will lead us to think that our mistakes and transgressions have been so grievous that the Lord will not have respect unto our prayers and will not bless and save us. In ourselves we can see nothing but weakness, nothing to recommend us to God, and Satan tells us that it is of no use; we cannot remedy our defects of character. When we try to come to God, the enemy will whisper, It is of no use for you to pray; did not you do that evil thing? Have you not sinned against God and violated your own conscience? But we may tell the enemy that "the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin." 1 John 1:7. When we feel that we have sinned and cannot pray, it is then the time to pray. Ashamed we may be and deeply humbled, but we must pray and believe. "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." 1 Timothy 1:15. Forgiveness, reconciliation with God, comes to us, not as a reward for our works, it is not bestowed because of the merit of sinful men, but it is a gift unto us, having in the spotless righteousness of Christ its foundation for bestowal.

We should not try to lessen our guilt by excusing sin. We must accept God's estimate of sin, and that is heavy indeed. Calvary alone can reveal the terrible enormity of sin. If we had to bear our own guilt, it would crush us. But the sinless One has taken our place; though undeserving, He has borne our iniquity. "If we confess our sins," God "is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9. Glorious truth!-- just to His own law, and yet the Justifier of all that believe in Jesus. "Who is a God like unto Thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He retaineth not His anger forever, because He delighteth in mercy." Micah 7:18.

"Bring us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

Temptation is enticement to sin, and this does not proceed from God, but from Satan and from the evil of our own hearts. "God cannot be tempted with evil, and He Himself tempteth no man." James 1:13, R.V.

Satan seeks to bring us into temptation, that the evil of our characters may be revealed before men and angels, that he may claim us as his own. In the symbolic prophecy of Zechariah, Satan is seen standing at the right hand of the Angel of the Lord, accusing Joshua, the high priest, who is clothed in filthy garments, and resisting the work that the Angel desires to do for him. This represents the attitude of Satan toward every soul whom Christ is seeking to draw unto Himself. The enemy leads us into sin, and then he accuses us before the heavenly universe as unworthy of the love of God. But "the Lord said unto Satan, The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan; even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?" And unto Joshua He said, "Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment." Zechariah 3:1-4.

God in His great love is seeking to develop in us the precious graces of His Spirit. He permits us to encounter obstacles, persecution, and hardships, not as a curse, but as the greatest blessing of our lives. Every temptation resisted, every trial bravely borne, gives us a new experience and advances us in the work of character building. The soul that through divine power resists temptation reveals to the world and to the heavenly universe the efficiency of the grace of Christ.

But while we are not to be dismayed by trial, bitter though it be, we should pray that God will not permit us to be brought where we shall be drawn away by the desires of our own evil hearts. In offering the prayer that Christ has given, we surrender ourselves to the guidance of God, asking Him to lead us in safe paths. We cannot offer this prayer in sincerity, and yet decide to walk in any way of our own choosing. We shall wait for His hand to lead us; we shall listen to His voice, saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it." Isaiah 30:21.

It is not safe for us to linger to contemplate the advantages to be reaped through yielding to Satan's suggestions. Sin means dishonor and disaster to every soul that indulges in it; but it is blinding and deceiving in its nature, and it will entice us with flattering presentations. If we venture on Satan's ground we have no assurance of protection from his power. So far as in us lies, we should close every avenue by which the tempter may find access to us.

The prayer, "Bring us not into temptation," is itself a promise. If we commit ourselves to God we have the assurance, He "will not suffer you to be tempted

above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." 1 Corinthians 10:13.

The only safeguard against evil is the indwelling of Christ in the heart through faith in His righteousness. It is because selfishness exists in our hearts that temptation has power over us. But when we behold the great love of God, selfishness appears to us in its hideous and repulsive character, and we desire to have it expelled from the soul. As the Holy Spirit glorifies Christ, our hearts are softened and subdued, the temptation loses its power, and the grace of Christ transforms the character.

Christ will never abandon the soul for whom He has died. The soul may leave Him and be overwhelmed with temptation, but Christ can never turn from one for whom He has paid the ransom of His own life. Could our spiritual vision be quickened, we should see souls bowed under oppression and burdened with grief, pressed as a cart beneath sheaves and ready to die in discouragement. We should see angels flying swiftly to aid these tempted ones, who are standing as on the brink of a precipice. The angels from heaven force back the hosts of evil that encompass these souls, and guide them to plant their feet on the sure foundation. The battles waging between the two armies are as real as those fought by the armies of this world, and on the issue of the spiritual conflict eternal destinies depend.

To us, as to Peter, the word is spoken, "Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: but I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not." Luke 22:31, 32. Thank God, we are not left alone. He who "so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16), will not desert us in the battle with the adversary of God and man. "Behold," He says, "I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." Luke 10:19.

Live in contact with the living Christ, and He will hold you firmly by a hand that will never let go. Know and believe the love that God has to us, and you are secure; that love is a fortress impregnable to all the delusions and assaults of Satan. "The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe." Proverbs 18:10. 120



"Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory."

The last like the first sentence of the Lord's Prayer, points to our Father as above all power and authority and every name that is named. The Saviour beheld the years that stretched out before His disciples, not, as they had dreamed, lying in the sunshine of worldly prosperity and honor, but dark with the tempests of human hatred and satanic wrath. Amid national strife and ruin, the steps of the disciples would be beset with perils, and often their hearts would be oppressed by fear. They were to see Jerusalem a desolation, the temple swept away... and Israel scattered to all lands, like wrecks on a desert shore. Jesus said, "Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars." "Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows." Matthew 24:6-8. Yet Christ's followers were *not to fear that their hope was lost* or that God had forsaken the earth. The power and the glory belong unto Him whose great purposes would still move on unthwarted toward their consummation. In the prayer that breathes their daily wants, the disciples of Christ were directed to look above all the power and dominion of evil, unto the Lord their God, whose kingdom ruleth over all and who is their Father and everlasting Friend.

The ruin of Jerusalem was a symbol of the final ruin that shall overwhelm the world. The prophecies that received a partial fulfillment in the overthrow of Jerusalem have a more direct application to the last days. We are now standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. A crisis is before us, such as the world has never witnessed. And sweetly to us, as to the first disciples, comes the assurance that God's kingdom ruleth over all. *The program of coming events is in the hands of our Maker...*

He who is the King, the Lord of hosts, sitteth between the cherubim, and amid the strife and tumult of nations He guards His children still. He who ruleth in the heavens is our Saviour. He measures every trial, He watches the furnace fire that must test every soul. When the strongholds of kings shall be overthrown, when the arrows of wrath shall strike through the hearts of His enemies, His people will be safe in His hands.

"Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is Thine. . . . In Thine hand is power and might; and in Thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all." 1 Chronicles 29:11, 12. ~ Mount of Blessing, White

In the Garden of Gethsemane

In company with His disciples, the Saviour slowly made His way to the garden of Gethsemane. The Passover moon, broad and full, shone from a cloudless sky. The city of pilgrims' tents was hushed into silence.



Jesus had been earnestly conversing with His disciples and instructing them; but as He neared Gethsemane, He became strangely silent. He had often visited this spot for meditation and prayer; but never with a heart so full of sorrow as upon this night of His last agony. Throughout His life on earth He had walked in the light of God's presence. When in conflict with men who were inspired by the very spirit of Satan, He could say, "He that sent Me is with Me: the Father hath not left Me alone; for I do always those things that please Him." John 8:29. But now He seemed to be shut out from the light of God's sustaining presence. Now He was numbered with the transgressors. The guilt of fallen humanity He must bear. Upon Him who knew no sin must be laid the iniquity of us all. So dreadful does sin appear to Him, so great is the weight of guilt which He must bear, that He is tempted to fear it will shut Him out forever from His Father's love. Feeling how terrible is the wrath of God against transgression, He exclaims, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death."

As they approached the garden, the disciples had marked the change that came over their Master. Never before had they seen Him so utterly sad and silent. As He proceeded, this strange sadness deepened; yet they dared not question Him as to the cause...

Near the entrance to the garden, Jesus left all but three of the disciples, bidding them pray for themselves and for Him. With Peter, James, and John, He entered its secluded recesses. These three disciples were Christ's closest companions. They had beheld His glory on the mount of transfiguration; they had seen Moses and Elijah talking with Him; they had heard the voice from heaven; now in His great struggle, Christ desired their presence near Him...

"Tarry ye here," He said, "and watch with Me."

He went a little distance from them--not so far but that they could both see

and hear Him--and fell prostrate upon the ground. He felt that by sin He was being separated from His Father. The gulf was so broad, so black, so deep, that His spirit shuddered before it. This agony He must not exert His divine power to escape. As man He must suffer the consequences of man's sin. As man He must endure the wrath of God against transgression...

In His agony He clings to the cold ground, as if to prevent Himself from being drawn farther from God. The chilling dew of night falls upon His prostrate form, but He heeds it not. From His pale lips comes the bitter cry, "O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me." Yet even now He adds, "Nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt."

The human heart longs for sympathy in suffering. This longing Christ felt to the very depths of His being. In the supreme agony of His soul He came to His disciples with a yearning desire to hear some words of comfort from those whom He had so often blessed and comforted, and shielded in sorrow and distress. The One who had always had words of sympathy for them was now suffering superhuman agony, and He longed to know that they were praying for Him and for themselves...

Rising with painful effort, He staggered to the place where He had left His companions. But He "findeth them asleep." Had He found them praying, He would have been relieved. Had they been seeking refuge in God, that satanic agencies might not prevail over them, He would have been comforted by their steadfast faith. But they had not heeded the repeated warning, "Watch and pray." At first they had been much troubled to see their Master, usually so calm and dignified, wrestling with a sorrow that was beyond comprehension. They had prayed as they heard the strong cries of the sufferer. They did not intend to forsake their Lord, but they seemed paralyzed by a stupor which they might have shaken off if they had continued pleading with God. They did not realize the necessity of watchfulness and earnest prayer in order to withstand temptation.

Just before He bent His footsteps to the garden, Jesus had said to the disciples, "All ye shall be offended because of Me this night." They had given Him the strongest assurance that they would go with Him to prison and to death. And poor, self-sufficient Peter had added, "Although all shall be offended, yet will not I." Mark 14:27, 29. But the disciples trusted to themselves. They did not look to the mighty Helper as Christ had counseled them to do. Thus when the Saviour was most in need of their sympathy and prayers, they were found asleep. Even Peter was sleeping..

The disciples awakened at the voice of Jesus, but they hardly knew Him, His face was so changed by anguish. Addressing Peter, Jesus said, "Simon, sleepest

thou? couldst not thou watch one hour? Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak." The weakness of His disciples awakened the sympathy of Jesus. He feared that they would not be able to endure the test which would come upon them in His betrayal and death. He did not reprove them, but said, "Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation." Even in His great agony, He was seeking to excuse their weakness. "The spirit truly is ready," He said, "but the flesh is weak."

Again the Son of God was seized with superhuman agony, and fainting and exhausted, He staggered back to the place of His former struggle. His suffering was even greater than before. As the agony of soul came upon Him, "His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground." The cypress and palm trees were the silent witnesses of His anguish. From their leafy branches dropped heavy dew upon His stricken form, as if nature wept over its Author wrestling alone with the powers of darkness.

A short time before, Jesus had stood like a mighty cedar, withstanding the storm of opposition that spent its fury upon Him. Stubborn wills, and hearts filled with malice and subtlety, had striven in vain to confuse and overpower Him. He stood forth in divine majesty as the Son of God. Now He was like a reed beaten and bent by the angry storm. He had approached the consummation of His work a conqueror, having at each step gained the victory over the powers of darkness. As one already glorified, He had claimed oneness with God. In unfaltering accents He had poured out His songs of praise. He had spoken to His disciples in words of courage and tenderness. Now had come the hour of the power of darkness. Now His voice was heard on the still evening air, not in tones of triumph, but full of human anguish. The words of the Saviour were borne to the ears of the drowsy disciples, "O My Father, if this cup may not pass away from Me, except I drink it, Thy will be done."

The first impulse of the disciples was to go to Him; but He had bidden them tarry there, watching unto prayer. When Jesus came to them, He found them still sleeping. Again He had felt a longing for companionship, for some words from His disciples which would bring relief, and break the spell of darkness that well-nigh overpowered Him. But their eyes were heavy; "neither wist they what to answer Him." His presence aroused them. They saw His face marked with the bloody sweat of agony, and they were filled with fear. His anguish of mind they could not understand. "His visage was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men." Isa. 52:14.

Turning away, Jesus sought again His retreat, and fell prostrate, overcome by the horror of a great darkness. The humanity of the Son of God trembled in that

trying hour. He prayed not now for His disciples that their faith might not fail, but for His own tempted, agonized soul. The awful moment had come--that moment which was to decide the destiny of the world. The fate of humanity trembled in the balance. Christ might even now refuse to drink the cup apportioned to guilty man. It was not yet too late. He might wipe the bloody sweat from His brow, and leave man to perish in his iniquity. He might say, Let the transgressor receive the penalty of his sin, and I will go back to My Father. Will the Son of God drink the bitter cup of humiliation and agony? Will the innocent suffer the consequences of the curse of sin, to save the guilty? The words fall tremblingly from the pale lips of Jesus, "O My Father, if this cup may not pass away from Me, except I drink it, Thy will be done."

Three times has He uttered that prayer. Three times has humanity shrunk from the last, crowning sacrifice. But now the history of the human race comes up before the world's Redeemer. He sees that the transgressors of the law, if left to themselves, must perish. He sees the helplessness of man. He sees the power of sin. The woes and lamentations of a doomed world rise before Him. He beholds its impending fate, and His decision is made. He will save man at any cost to Himself. He accepts His baptism of blood, that through Him perishing millions may gain everlasting life. He has left the courts of heaven, where all is purity, happiness, and glory, to save the one lost sheep, the one world that has fallen by transgression. And He will not turn from His mission. He will become the propitiation of a race that has willed to sin. His prayer now breathes only submission: "If this cup may not pass away from Me, except I drink it, Thy will be done."

Having made the decision, He fell dying to the ground from which He had partially risen. Where now were His disciples, to place their hands tenderly beneath the head of their fainting Master, and bathe that brow, marred indeed more than the sons of men? The Saviour trod the wine press alone, and of the people there was none with Him.

But God suffered with His Son. Angels beheld the Saviour's agony. They saw their Lord enclosed by legions of satanic forces, His nature weighed down with a shuddering, mysterious dread. There was silence in heaven. No harp was touched. Could mortals have viewed the amazement of the angelic host as in silent grief they watched the Father separating His beams of light, love, and glory from His beloved Son, they would better understand how offensive in His sight is sin.

The worlds unfallen and the heavenly angels had watched with intense interest as the conflict drew to its close. Satan and his confederacy of evil, the legions of apostasy, watched intently this great crisis in the work of redemption. The powers

of good and evil waited to see what answer would come to Christ's thrice-repeated prayer. Angels had longed to bring relief to the divine sufferer, but this might not be. No way of escape was found for the Son of God. In this awful crisis, when everything was at stake, when the mysterious cup trembled in the hand of the sufferer, the heavens opened, a light shone forth amid the stormy darkness of the crisis hour, and the mighty angel who stands in God's presence, occupying the position from which Satan fell, came to the side of Christ. The angel came not to take the cup from Christ's hand, but to strengthen Him to drink it, with the assurance of the Father's love. He came to give power to the divine-human suppliant. He pointed Him to the open heavens, telling Him of the souls that would be saved as the result of His sufferings. He assured Him that His Father is greater and more powerful than Satan, that His death would result in the utter discomfiture of Satan, and that the kingdom of this world would be given to the saints of the Most High. He told Him that He would see of the travail of His soul, and be satisfied, for He would see a multitude of the human race saved, eternally saved.

Christ's agony did not cease, but His depression and discouragement left Him. The storm had in nowise abated, but He who was its object was strengthened to meet its fury. He came forth calm and serene. A heavenly peace rested upon His bloodstained face. He had borne that which no human being could ever bear; for He had tasted the sufferings of death for every man.

The sleeping disciples had been suddenly awakened by the light surrounding the Saviour. They saw the angel bending over their prostrate Master. They saw him lift the Saviour's head upon his bosom, and point toward heaven. They heard his voice, like sweetest music, speaking words of comfort and hope. The disciples recalled the scene upon the mount of transfiguration. They remembered the glory that in the temple had encircled Jesus, and the voice of God that spoke from the cloud. Now that same glory was again revealed, and they had no further fear for their Master. He was under the care of God; a mighty angel had been sent to protect Him. Again the disciples in their weariness yield to the strange stupor that overpowers them. Again Jesus finds them sleeping.

Looking sorrowfully upon them He says, "Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners."

Even as He spoke these words, He heard the footsteps of the mob in search of Him, and said, "Rise, let us be going; behold, he is at hand that doth betray Me." ~ Desire of Ages, White

The Secret in Secret Prayer

Family prayer and public prayer have their place; but it is secret communion with God that sustains the soul-life. It was in the mount with God that Moses beheld the pattern of that wonderful building which was to be the abiding-place of His glory. It is in the mount with God--the secret place of communion--that we are to contemplate His glorious ideal for humanity. Thus we shall be enabled so to fashion our character-building that to us may be fulfilled the promise, "I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people." [2 COR. 6:16.]

While engaged in our daily work, we should lift the soul to heaven in prayer. These silent petitions rise like incense before the throne of grace; and the enemy is baffled. The Christian whose heart is thus stayed upon God cannot be overcome. No evil arts can destroy his peace. All the promises of God's word, all the power of divine grace, all the resources of Jehovah, are pledged to secure his deliverance. It was thus that Enoch walked with God.

Prayer is the breath of the soul. It is the secret of spiritual power. Prayer brings the heart into immediate contact with the Well-spring of life, and strengthens the sinew and muscle of the religious experience. Neglect the exercise of prayer, or engage in prayer spasmodically, now and then, as seems convenient, and you lose your hold on God. The spiritual faculties lose their vitality, the religious experience lacks health and vigor.

It is only at the altar of God that we can kindle our tapers with divine fire. It is only the divine light that will reveal the littleness, the incompetence, of human ability, and give clear views of the perfection and purity of Christ. It is only as we behold Jesus that we desire to be like Him, only as we view His righteousness that we hunger and thirst to possess it; and *it is only as we ask in earnest prayer, that God will grant us our heart's desire.*

Because the life of Jesus was a life of constant trust, sustained by continual communion, His service for heaven was without failure or faltering. Daily beset by temptation, constantly opposed by the leaders of the people, Christ knew that He must strengthen His humanity by prayer. In order to be a blessing to men, He must commune with God, from Him obtaining energy, perseverance, steadfastness.

The Saviour loved the solitude of the mountain in which to hold communion with His Father. Through the day He labored earnestly to save men from destruction. He healed the sick, comforted the mourning, called the dead to life,

and brought hope and cheer to the despairing. After His work for the day was finished, He went forth, evening after evening, away from the confusion of the city, and bowed in prayer to His Father. Frequently He continued His petitions through the entire night; but He came from these seasons of communion invigorated and refreshed, braced for duty and for trial.

Are you tempted and buffeted by Satan? So also was He who knew no sin. In the hour of distress He turned to His Father. Himself a source of blessing and strength, He could heal the sick and raise the dead; He could command the tempest, and it would obey Him; yet He prayed, often with strong crying and tears. He prayed for His disciples and for Himself, thus identifying Himself with human beings. He was a mighty petitioner. As the Prince of life, He had power with God, and prevailed.

Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. The eye of faith will discern God very near, and the suppliant may obtain precious evidence of the divine love and care for him...

There is need of prayer, earnest, fervent, agonizing prayer, such prayer as David offered when he exclaimed, "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God." "I have longed after Thy precepts." "I have longed for Thy salvation." "My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God." [PS. 42:1; 119:40, 174; 84:2.]

Watch, pray, work--this is the Christian's watchword. The life of a true Christian is a life of constant prayer. *He knows that the light and strength of one day is not sufficient for the trials and conflicts of the next...* Every day we shall be placed in different circumstances; and constantly assailed by new and unexpected temptations. It is only through the strength and grace gained from heaven that we can hope to meet the temptations and perform the duties before us.

It is a wonderful thing that we can pray effectually; that unworthy, erring mortals possess the power of offering their requests to God. What higher power can man desire than this,--to be linked with the infinite God? Feeble, sinful man has the privilege of speaking to his Maker. We may utter words that reach the throne of the Monarch of the universe. We may speak with Jesus as we walk by the way, and He says, I am at thy right hand. [SEE PS. 16:8.]

We may commune with God in our hearts; we may walk in companionship with Christ. When engaged in our daily labour, we may breathe out our heart's desire, inaudible to any human ear; but that word cannot die away into silence, nor can it be lost. Nothing can drown the soul's desire. It rises above the din of the street, above the noise of machinery. It is God to whom we are speaking, and our prayer is heard. ~ Gospel Workers, E. G White



How to become a Child of God

God's promise is, "Ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13.

The whole heart must be yielded to God, or the change can never be wrought in us by which we are to be restored to His likeness. By nature we are alienated from God. The Holy Spirit describes our condition in such words as these: "Dead in trespasses and sins;" "the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint;" "no soundness in it." We are held fast in the snare of Satan, "taken captive by him at his will." Ephesians 2:1; Isaiah 1:5, 6; 2 Timothy 2:26. God desires to heal us, to set us free. But since this requires an entire transformation, a renewing of our whole nature, we must yield ourselves wholly to Him.

The warfare against self is the greatest battle that was ever fought. The yielding of self, surrendering all to the will of God, requires a struggle; but the soul must submit to God before it can be renewed in holiness.

The government of God is not, as Satan would make it appear, founded upon a blind submission, an unreasoning control. It appeals to the intellect and the conscience. "Come now, and let us reason together" is the Creator's invitation to the beings He has made. Isaiah 1:18. God does not force the will of His creatures. He cannot accept an homage that is not willingly and intelligently given. He desires that man, the crowning work of His creative power, shall reach the highest possible development. He sets before us the height of blessing to which He desires to bring us through His grace. He invites us to give ourselves to Him, that He may work His will in us. It remains for us to choose whether we will be set free from the bondage of sin, to share the glorious liberty of the sons of God.

In giving ourselves to God, we must necessarily give up all that would separate us from Him. Hence the Saviour says, "Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh

not all that he hath, he cannot be My disciple." Luke 14:33. Whatever shall draw away the heart from God must be given up. Mammon is the idol of many. The love of money, the desire for wealth, is the golden chain that binds them to Satan.

Reputation and worldly honour are worshiped by another class. The life of selfish ease and freedom from responsibility is the idol of others. But these slavish bands must be broken. We cannot be half the Lord's and half the world's. We are not God's children unless we are such entirely.

There are those who profess to serve God, while they rely upon their own efforts to obey His law, to form a right character, and secure salvation. Their hearts are not moved by any deep sense of the love of Christ, but they seek to perform the duties of the Christian life as that which God requires of them in order to gain heaven. Such religion is worth nothing. When Christ dwells in the heart, the soul will be so filled with His love, with the joy of communion with Him, that in the contemplation of Him, self will be forgotten. Love to Christ will be the spring of action. Those who feel the constraining love of God, do not ask how little may be given to meet the requirements of God; they do not ask for the lowest standard, but aim at perfect conformity to the will of their Redeemer. With earnest desire they yield all and manifest an interest proportionate to the value of the object which they seek. A profession of Christ without this deep love is mere talk, dry formality, and heavy drudgery.

Do you feel that it is too great a sacrifice to yield all to Christ? Ask yourself the question, "What has Christ given for me?" The Son of God gave all--life and love and suffering--for our redemption. And can it be that we, the unworthy objects of so great love, will withhold our hearts from Him? Every moment of our lives we have been partakers of the blessings of His grace, and for this very reason we cannot fully realize the depths of ignorance and misery from which we have been saved. Can we look upon Him whom our sins have pierced, and yet be willing to do despite to all His love and sacrifice? In view of the infinite humiliation of the Lord of glory, shall we murmur because we can enter into life only through conflict and self-abasement? *To be continued...*

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For His Sake

A year ago our house took fire. It was in the middle of the night, and we were all asleep. The flames were first discovered by a poor neighbour. The fire had already attacked the staircase which led to the rooms in which we were still sleeping. It seems almost a miracle that we were got out alive. We were dazed and suffocated, and it was only the heroic courage and strength of our neighbour that brought us down the blazing stairway into the open air. But it nearly cost him his life. As he stumbled out of the door with the last child in his arms, he fell down, utterly spent. I shall never forget the anguish of that hour. He had saved us, but himself seemed dying -- dying for our sakes. All thought of our misfortune at once left us. The best physicians were summoned, and we bore him tenderly to his own house. When the immediate danger had been averted, it became plain that it would take careful nursing of many months to bring him back to his ordinary health, if, indeed, he had not become disabled for life.

He was a labourer, and his family were wholly dependent on his daily earnings. The immediate and common thought of each of us, down to the youngest child, was, that we should at once take the whole care of this family upon ourselves. I had a business that gave us a comfortable support, though we had lived in a liberal way, quite up to the extent of our means. But we did not stay to ask whether we could afford it or not. We just settled it at once that this should be done first, and then we would somehow contrive to live on what remained.

We arranged that the women of our family should relieve the heart-broken wife from all household cares, that she might devote herself wholly to him. They were very tenderly attached, and no one could care for him as she could. "It was just like Jo," she said, as she patiently sat by his bedside; "he never thinks of himself." But a happy smile flitted across her wan face, as she added, "I wouldn't have him different."

It did not occur to us to ask whether we could do what we had undertaken without feeling it. We wanted to feel it. We somehow felt that it was the only way we could emphasize to our own hearts our great obligation, and show to him our gratitude; the only way in which we could in some small measure - it seemed very small to us sometimes - suffer with him in his great sufferings for us. I do not say that there was no conflict in doing this.

There was one untidy and expensive habit, which, it seems to me, I never could have broken off, had it not been for this new power that had come into my life. Upon a little calculation I found that it cost me more than a hundred dollars a

year. This might be saved. It was a defiling and unwholesome thing, and I could not but feel a loss of self-respect every time I gave way to its use. But I had no idea it had gained such a mastery over me; and when the intense craving for my daily indulgence came on, the battle would certainly have gone against me had I not been wont to say to myself: "It is for his sake -- for his sake!" That one word gave me the victory, and it was a real deliverance.

There was another stout fight I had to make.

One day a business friend of mine drove up with his well-matched span, and took me to see the new house he was building. I was glad to look it over, for I had planned that, some day, I would build such a house for myself. The rooms were spacious and many. No modern convenience or appliance for comfort had been omitted. It was not strange that for a time my former desire for such a mansion-like residence came upon me with almost overpowering strength. It was a moment of weakness. The spirit of self-indulgence came back to its old home, and before I was aware, the chafing and impatience of my heart at the new expenses laid on me grew into a tumult; but it was only for a moment. As I walked away, and began to come to myself, and to see what I was really thinking about, what do you suppose I did?

Just stood still and hated myself for about half an hour!

Oh, what indignation! To make sure that I had utterly rid myself of meanness of this contemptible thought, I immediately went with my wife and bargained for a neat cottage in the next block, arranging easy terms which I could meet in the year to come; and then directed that the deed should be given to my brave, suffering deliverer, the first day he should be able to walk out. I felt as if I had grievously wronged him, and that nothing short of this would satisfy the demands of the case.

As our friend began to be able to walk, we found that there was something weighing upon his mind. It soon came out that he was the superintendent of a little Mission School which he had gathered in a neglected part of the town. Somehow it had come to him that in his absence it had sadly run down. You may be sure the whole teaching-force of our family was turned into that school the very next Sunday. I am ashamed to say that it was new business to us; but for his sake we were there, and we threw our whole souls into it.

And it was a great satisfaction to see how like medicine it was to the poor man, to hear our weekly report of the growing interest and numbers. And when in the winter there came a blessed revival, his joy knew no bounds. It was noticeable that from that time on, he showed a marked improvement. There was a natural,

but unlooked for result from the self-denials and solitudes of this year. We were drawn, not only to this man, who was making a brave fight for life in at the next door but we were also drawn to each other as we had never been before. A new tenderness and patience came into our lives. Somehow the common service and sacrifice upon which all our hearts were set, softened us and brought us together in a sympathy and oneness of feeling which was altogether new; and thus it proved to be the happiest period of our domestic life.

It is a year now since that terrible night. Our neighbour, to our great joy, has so far recovered that he has moved to the new house, and will soon be back again to his accustomed work.

Yesterday, as I looked over the footings of my inventory found, to my surprise, that after all, it had been one of my most successful years. Indeed, I had scarcely ever had so large a balance in hand. This was altogether unexpected. There had been no marked successes, or special interpositions.

But I could see, on looking back, that my own business habits had been toned up by the necessities which faced us; that needless expenses had been cut off; that my businessmen had steadily improved, and that I had been somehow kept from mistakes and bad adventures, and misplaced credits. Indeed, we have a settled and sweet consciousness that the hand of a good Providence had been constantly with us.

There had been quietly growing in our hearts for some months, the thought: If for this man's sake, why not even more for Christ's sake?

When we had read at our morning worship such passages as the 53rd of Isaiah, or the closing scenes of our Lord's life in the Gospels, and many expressions in the Epistles, the sufferings, sometimes the intense anguish in at the next door of which we were often the witness, and which were almost never out of our thoughts seemed to make very real to us our Lord's sacrifice and sufferings for us. We were also much moved by the beautiful patience of our neighbour, and by his joy in what he had done. He seemed to feel, with all his lowliness, a sense of having somehow gained an ownership in us, and in a quiet way, he rejoiced over us as if we were the trophies of a great victory. We were, indeed, as "brands plucked from the burning;" and this often led us to turn to the Lord Jesus, with much yearning and tenderness of soul. And there would sometimes appear to us, with the vividness of a new revelation, the words: "Ye are bought with a great price;" "Ye are not your own." And so, at the close of our review, there came out, in a formal covenant, the purpose which had thus been quietly growing in all our hearts, that we would never, any more, live unto ourselves; that we would keep right on doing for our Lord, just what we had been doing for this man. It seemed

easy and natural, and the most reasonable thing in the world that we would take to our hearts the things that were nearest to His heart; that henceforth His Church, His poor, His little ones, and the salvation of the world, for which His soul is still in travail, should be the chief care of our lives. ~ S.J Humphrey



...continued from page 48

The inquiry of many a proud heart is, "Why need I go in penitence and humiliation before I can have the assurance of my acceptance with God?" I point you to Christ. He was sinless, and, more than this, He was the Prince of heaven; but in man's behalf He became sin for the race. "He was numbered with the transgressors; and He bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors." Isaiah 53:12.

But what do we give up, when we give all? A sin-polluted heart, for Jesus to purify, to cleanse by His own blood, and to save by His matchless love. And yet men think it hard to give up all! I am ashamed to hear it spoken of, ashamed to write it.

God does not require us to give up anything that it is for our best interest to retain. In all that He does, He has the well-being of His children in view. Would that all who have not chosen Christ might realize that He has something vastly better to offer them than they are seeking for themselves. Man is doing the greatest injury and injustice to his own soul when he thinks and acts contrary to the will of God. No real joy can be found in the path forbidden by Him who knows what is best and who plans for the good of His creatures. The path of transgression is the path of misery and destruction...

Many are inquiring, "How am I to make the surrender of myself to God?" You desire to give yourself to Him, but you are weak in moral power, in slavery to doubt, and controlled by the habits of your life of sin. Your promises and resolutions are like ropes of sand. You cannot control your thoughts, your impulses, your affections. The knowledge of your broken promises and forfeited pledges weakens your confidence in your own sincerity, and causes you to feel that God cannot accept you; but you need not despair. What you need to understand is the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will. The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise. You cannot change your heart, you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; but you can choose to serve Him. You can give Him your will; He will then work in

you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus your whole nature will be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ; your affections will be centred upon Him, your thoughts will be in harmony with Him.

Desires for goodness and holiness are right as far as they go; but if you stop here, they will avail nothing. Many will be lost while hoping and desiring to be Christians. They do not come to the point of yielding the will to God. They do not now choose to be Christians.

Through the right exercise of the will, an entire change may be made in your life. By yielding up your will to Christ, you ally yourself with the power that is above all principalities and powers. You will have strength from above to hold you steadfast, and thus through constant surrender to God you will be enabled to live the new life, even the life of faith. ~ Steps to Christ, White

QUICK TIPS:

Memorize scripture and use the Word in your prayers - Psalms are especially good for this!



*"The Harvest is passed, and
I am not saved."*

A few years ago I went to close a meeting, and said: "Are there any here who would like to have me remember them in prayer? I would like to have them rise!" And there was a man rose, and when I saw him stand up, my heart leaped in me with joy. I had been anxious for him a long time. I went to him as soon as the meeting was over, and took him by the hand, and said: "You are coming out for God, are you not?" He said: "I want to, and have made up my mind to be a Christian; only there is one thing standing in my way." "What is that?" I asked. "Well," he replied, "I lack moral courage." Naming a friend of his, he added: "If he had been here tonight I should not have risen; I am afraid when he hears I have risen for prayer he will begin to laugh at me." I said: "If Christ is what he is represented in the Bible, he is worth standing up for; and if heaven is what we are told it is in the Bible, it is worth living for." "I lack moral courage," he answered; and the man was trembling from head to foot. I thought he was just at the very threshold of heaven, and that one step more was going to take him in, and that he would take the step that night. I talked and prayed with him, and the Spirit seemed to be striving mightily with him; but he did not get the light. Night after night he came, and the Spirit strove with him; but just one thing kept him back he lacked moral courage. At last the Spirit of God which had striven so mightily with him, seemed to leave him, and there were no more strivings, he left off coming to church and was off among his old companions. About six months afterward I got a message from him, and found him on what he thought was his dying bed, he wanted to know if there was hope for him at the eleventh hour. I tried to tell that there was hope for any man that would accept Christ. I prayed for him, and day after day I visited him.

Contrary to all expectations, he recovered; and when he was well, finding him one day sitting in front of his house, I sat by his side, and said: "You will soon be well enough to come up to the church, and when you are, you will come up; and you are just going to confess Christ boldly, are you not?" "Well," says he, "I promised God when I was on what I thought to be my dying bed I would serve Him, and I made up my mind to be a Christian; but I am not going to be one just now. Next spring I am going over to Lake Michigan, and I am going to buy a farm and then I am going to be a Christian." I said, "How dare you talk so! How do you know that you are going to live till next spring?" "I have never felt better. I have a fresh lease of my life, and will be well for a good many years yet," he answered. I said: "It seems to me you are tempting God;" and I pleaded with him

to come out boldly. “No,” he said; “the fact is I cannot serve God in Chicago.” I said “If God has not grace enough to keep you in Chicago, He has not in Michigan.” I urged him then and there to surrender; but the more I urged him the more irritated he got, till at last he said “Well, you need not trouble yourself any more about my soul; I will attend to that.”

I left him, and in about a week I got a message from his wife. Going to the house, I met her at the door weeping. I said: “What is the trouble?” “Oh, sir! I have just had a council of physicians here, and they have all given my husband up to die; they say he cannot live.” I said: “Does he want to see me?” She replied: “No.” “Why did you send?” “Why,” she said, “I cannot bear to see him die in this terrible state of mind.” “What is his state of mind?” “Why, he says that his damnation is sealed, and he is going to hell.”

I went into the room, but he turned his head away. I said: “How is it with you?” Not a word. I looked him in the face, and said “Will you not tell me how it is with you?” he turned, and fixed that awful, deathly look upon me, and, pointing to the stove, he said: “My heart is as hard as the iron in that stove; it is too late, my damnation is sealed.” I talked with him, and quoted promise after promise, but he said not one was for him. “Christ has come knocking at time door of my heart many a time, and the last time he came I promised to let Him in; and when I got well I turned away again, and now I have to perish without Him.” I saw I was doing no good, and so I threw myself on my knees. He said: “You can pray for my wife and children, you need not pray for me; it is too late.” I tried to pray, but it seemed as if what he said was true - it seemed as if the heavens were brass over me. I rose and took his hand, amid it seemed to me as if I were bidding farewell to a friend that I never was to see again in time or eternity. He lingered till the sun went down. His wife told me that his end was terrible. Just as the sun was sinking behind those western prairies he was going into the arms of death. As he was expiring, she noticed that his lips were quivering, he was trying to say something, and she reached over her ear, and all she could hear was “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and I am not saved.” D.L Moody

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Dear Reader, now is the time for you to come before the throne of grace and become a child of God. Don't fool yourself into thinking that the voice of conviction will always come again. Don't wait for your old age, your death bed or hard times to give God the first place in your life - it will be too late. Every time you say no to the Spirit's pleading, your heart hardens. There will come a time, when you will no longer be capable of responding. The harvest is passing now. Now is the time to make your choice for the Saviour and let His love and peace flood your heart.



“Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend.”

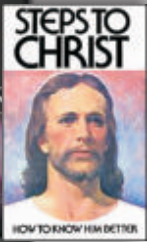
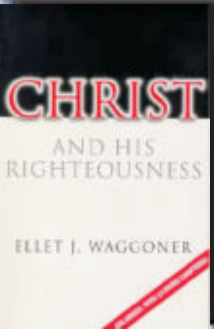
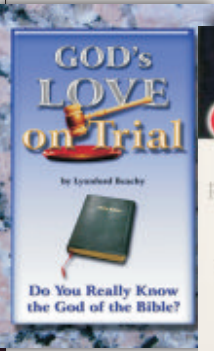
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Enrich your Prayer Life

Edited by B.T. Turner

Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend, one Christian author writes. The Bible tells us that Abraham was called the friend of God. We can liken prayer to having a conversation with God, a way of developing a relationship with Him. But often in the rush of life, we can forget the intimacy God planned and prayer can turn into a meaningless ritual.

It is to bring life and meaning back into your relationship with God that this little book has been put together. You will find it packed with prayer helps - real life experiences, practical tips and rich inspirational readings. In opening this booklet, remember that God said, "Draw near to Me and I will draw near to you."

