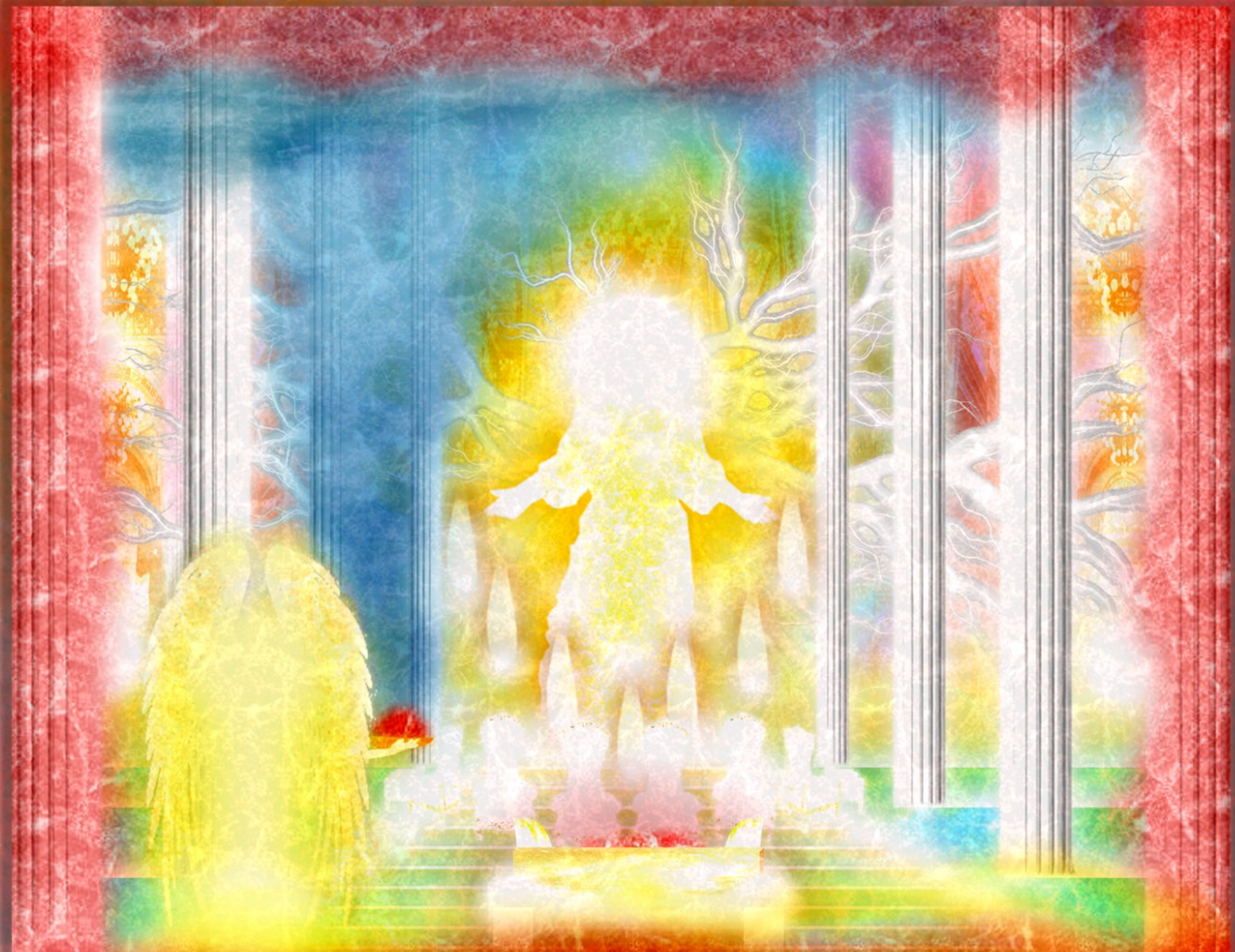


- PRAYER -

"When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel."

REVELATION 8:1-4



"Brought NEAR by the BLOOD of Christ."

(Ephesians 2:13b)



Berean Lamp Ministries
For the Body of Christ

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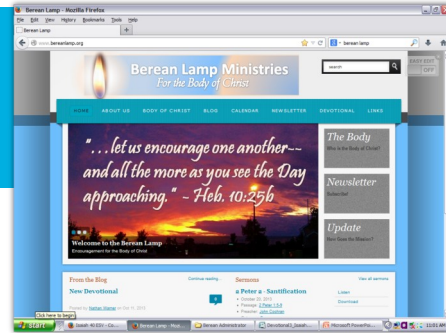


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The Berean Lamp Ministry seeks to:

1. Encourage and strengthen the Body of Christ by providing the means for each of its members to share their spiritual gifts with one another, rooted in the Word of God, thereby growing into deeper union with one another and with Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-31).
2. Minister to non-believers; be a witness for Christ and a testimony to His Body in the world.

We would appreciate your help in contributing to the content and in spreading the work of this ministry. Thank you, and God bless.

- Pastor Scott Moller

Visit www.bereanlamp.org/lampstand/ for an explanation of the cover art.

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Berean Lamp Ministries

For the Body of Christ

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God Is Listening

By Nathan Warner

Too often we are slow to see when God answers prayers for ourselves or for others. Sometimes, this causes us to spend less time in prayer or to stop having faith that God answers prayer.

We know that God is eternal, unchanging, and all-knowing, but for us frail mortals, time or distractions or our limited perspective can dull our senses so that we might not even see God's answer right in front of us. Consider the story of Peter's deliverance from jail:

“So Peter was kept in prison, but **earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church**. Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, ‘Get up quickly.’ And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, ‘Dress yourself and put on your sandals.’ And he did so. And he said to him, ‘Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.’ And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him.

When Peter came to himself, he said, ‘Now I am sure that the Lord has sent His angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.’ When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other

name was Mark, where **many were gathered together and were praying**. And when he knocked at the door of the gateway, a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer. Recognizing Peter's voice, in her joy she did not open the gate but ran in and reported that Peter was standing at the gate. They said to her, ‘You are out of your mind.’ But she kept insisting that it was so, and they kept saying, ‘It is his angel!’ But Peter continued knocking, and when they opened, **they saw him and were amazed**” (Acts 12:5-16).

All of these Believers were praying in earnest for Peter. God answered their prayers that very night, but they could not see that God was acting miraculously for Peter, and they could not believe that God had heard their prayer and was actually answering it. Perhaps, they might have given up praying after a while because God didn't seem to be answering their prayers. Were they expecting it? Well, in their own words, you'd have to be “out of your mind.” They were AMAZED to find answered prayer literally standing on their doorstep!

Like them, we often pray for people across town or across the planet, and we cannot always perceive the miraculous things God is doing for them, much less ourselves. This can cause us to feel less inclined to spend time in prayer or believe God will answer it. We need to understand that when we pray, God IS listening, and He is always acting for our eternal good. We need to believe that when we pray in accord with His will, He is answering our prayers. We should not be surprised, ignore the evidence, or disbelieve God's answer when He answers us!

It is also such a comfort to Believers to know they are being upheld in faithful prayer. I'm sure Peter was comforted many times after this miraculous answer to prayer when he considered people were praying for Him to God!

The Relationship of Prayer

By Nathan Warner

*“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to **PRAY** for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.”*
(Romans 8:26)

Proseuxōmetha - “I pray, pray for (Gr. properly, to exchange wishes; *pray* – literally, to *interact with* the Lord by switching human wishes (ideas) for *His wishes* as He imparts faith (‘divine *persuasion*’)).”
– Helps Word Studies

Like Hannah, have you been “*deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly*” (1 Samuel 1:10)? And like her, have you also “*prayed and said, ‘My heart exults in the Lord; my horn is exalted in the Lord. My*

mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in Your salvation” (1 Samuel 2:1)? In distress and tears, in exultation and rejoicing, Hannah prayed.

Throughout Scripture, men and women reached out to God in prayer to petition, thank, question, praise, demand, repent, complain, rejoice, despair, and revive. How can one word describe so many different things? What is this thing called prayer? Is it distressed requests, joyful rejoicing, thankfulness, or petitions? Well, yes and no. Yes, because prayer does often involve all these things, but no because this is not what prayer is in its essence—in its heart.

Prayer for the Believer is the act of “relating” in a deeply intimate relationship founded on love. The word “relate” comes from a Latin root meaning “brought back.” In our intimate human relationships, we need to be continually brought back to one another in love for the relationship to be anything but a



“For EVERYTHING created by God is GOOD, and nothing is to be REJECTED if it is received with THANKSGIVING, for it is made holy by the WORD of God and PRAYER.” (1 Timothy 4:4-5)

formality, convention, or farce. No one feels intimate with a person who isn't relating to them in love. Even though they go through the motions, we feel used, tolerated, or even abused, because we know it isn't initiated in love.

PRAYER – A SON IN FELLOWSHIP WITH HIS FATHER

If prayer is relating to someone in an intimate relationship created by love, who is this "someone"? Well, firstly, prayer in Scripture is often initiated as a child relating to a father—in the case of the Believer, God the Father is a Father to His Son Jesus and Jesus' "many brothers" (Romans 8:29b), who have received "adoption as sons" (Romans 8:15b) to become "children of God" (Romans 8:16b). Thus, when we pray, we should imitate our "older" brother Jesus when *"He fell on His face and prayed, saying, 'My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will'"* (Matthew 26:39). We see here the quintessential essence behind the meaning of the Greek word "prayer." Jesus, the Son of God, shared His desire with His Father, but instead of a petition, He shared it in exchange for His Father's desire, for He knew that regardless of the short-term difficulties resulting from not having His desire, the eventual outcome would be the best possible thing that could ever happen. How did He know? Jesus knew the will of the Father was only ever GOOD, because He KNEW His Father intimately. *"O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me"* (John 17:25).

It seems obvious that if you boiled your relationship with your earthly father down to petitions, for example, you wouldn't have much of a relationship, would you? It would be like the proverbial son who only ever calls up his dad on the phone to ask for more money or to get bailed out of jail. He never calls his dad for any other reason than to ask for what he thinks he wants and needs in his life. Upon reflection, most fathers would feel manipulated

or taken advantage of, and they might even be justified to wonder if their son really cares about them. It would be perfectly understandable for them to wonder if perhaps their son only sees them as an expedient means to get what he wants or to get out of some sort of trouble he's gotten himself into. We need to look no further than at how Jesus related to His Father to understand how we as adopted children need to relate in pray to our Heavenly Father. Consider that Jesus took great effort to make time every day to be alone with His Father in prayer, despite all the pressing needs and labor and work all around Him. He spent that time alone: *"And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, He departed and went out to a desolate place, and there He prayed"* (Mark 1:35).

The same spirit that communed between Jesus and His Father is in you—the Holy Spirit Himself, who dwells inside every Believer, is the Spirit of Christ: *"And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'"* (Galatians 4:6). This Spirit *"Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words"* (Romans 8:26b). What intimacy and what love!

PRAYER – A BRIDE IN FELLOWSHIP WITH HER HUSBAND

Secondly, prayer is also described as a bride relating in love to her betrothed. The Church is betrothed to the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who is our spiritual husband, as Paul described: *"For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ"* (2 Corinthians 11:2-3). What we pray, we pray to God, and Jesus also is God. Jesus tells His disciples, *"Whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son"* (John 14:13). Therefore, we also pray to Him: *"To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every*

place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours" (1 Corinthians 1:2). "For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance" (Philippians 1:19). "For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body. FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church" (Ephesians 5:29-32).

We should be prayerfully "looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds" (Titus 2:13-14), remembering that He promised us, "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also" (John 14:3). "When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory" (Colossians 3:4). May our prayer be John's prayer of desire and longing and hope, "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20b).

ALL PRAYER COMES BEFORE THE FATHER

Whether we pray to the Father or the Son, we are praying to God. Paul helped clear up any confusion by explaining that all our prayers (whether to Jesus, the Spirit, or the Father) are brought before the Father through Jesus by the Spirit, "for through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father" (Ephesians 2:18). "For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us" (Hebrews 9:24). For "Christ was faithful as a Son over His [God's] house—whose house we are" (Hebrews 3:6a). As "we have a great high priest

who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:14b-16).

CONCLUSION

So, what have we learned about prayer? Prayer is intimate fellowship (communion, intimate familiarity) with God, for "indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:3b). As such, prayer goes far beyond the tangible bureaucracies that require filling out forms correctly at the doctor's office or filing your taxes—both of which require checking the right boxes and filling in all necessary steps to get a desired response. Just like you cannot boil down the intimate fellowship of marriage to calculated exchanges of petitions, praises, thanks, and requests to one another, we cannot turn prayer into a means to an end. That would be manipulative.

A healthy relationship of love goes far beyond the tangible as it is a profound "mystery" (Ephesians 5:32) created by God that can cause two people to become one. Through Jesus, by the Spirit, we have been made one, for "he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him" (1 Corinthians 6:17). Even so, Amen.

Who Is This God We Pray To?

By Ginny Larsen

"And this is eternal life, that they know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." (John 17:3)

"Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me! You have said, 'Seek My face.' My heart says to You, 'Your face, LORD, do I seek.'"
(Psalm 27:7-8)

There is something inside every human being that draws us to God and makes us want to reach out to Him to know Him. The ultimate thing in life is to truly know God. God gave us the gift of prayer in order that we may inquire of Him and learn to know Him and to reach out and find Him.

Some, instead of reaching out to find Him, create their own religions or their own gods. That inward need for a god is there, for an object of worship, yet if they don't seek to find

and know the One true God, they will end up creating their own. This in itself is evidence of God. There is one prayer that the unbeliever can pray that will be heard of God, and that is the prayer to know Him, to be forgiven, and to become a child of God. All other prayer is the privilege of God's born-again children alone—those who have been washed in the blood of the Lamb.

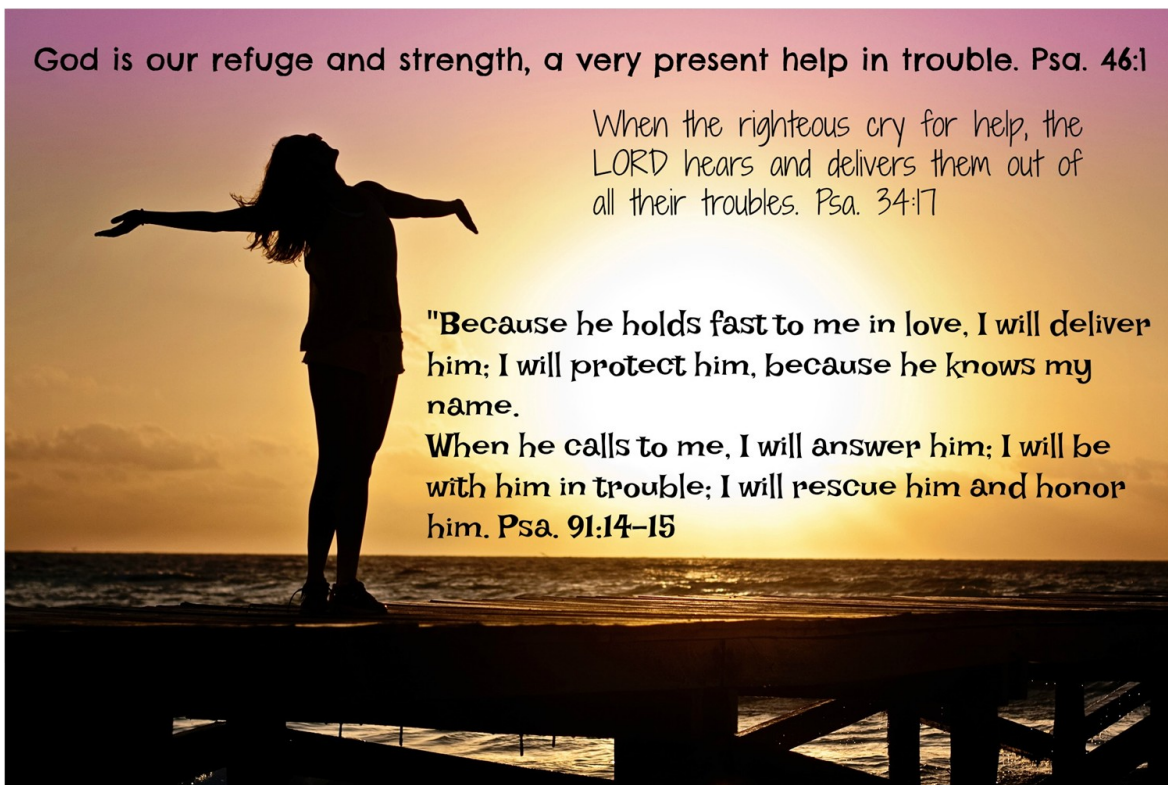
Prayer opens up our hearts to know God. Even as we come before Him with our needs, we must humble ourselves and acknowledge Who He is. Prayer opens the door of our hearts to Him. The ultimate purpose of our prayer is to know God, be united with Him, and to submit our hearts to Him, that He may be glorified. As His children, we have a privilege that no other has—to come before His throne of grace and mercy, boldly, through the blood of Jesus Christ and His merit alone. We have unbroken access to Him. What a great privilege! How little we make use of it! What promises He gives us if we just come to Him in prayer! He promises to hear. He promises to answer. He promises His presence.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. **Psa. 46:1**

When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. **Psa. 34:17**

"Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name.

When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. Psa. 91:14-15



By Ginny Larsen

Prayer is not just asking, prayer is listening. Even as we sit at His feet through the reading of His Word, meditating on it, letting Him speak to us through it, we are in communion with Him and there is a fellowship. It's so important to have this part of prayer in our lives in order to come to Him with our supplications and intercessions and requests. When we lay our hearts before Him and let the Holy Spirit speak to us through His Word, we find our hearts brought nearer to His, our minds cleansed of our own or worldly thoughts and ways, and we are able to pray according to His will, and to understand His will and purpose more accurately. Many times when it seems our prayers are not answered it drives us to seek His understanding through His Word and in the process of prayer the answer comes by His changing our hearts.

"And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will he hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of Him" (1 John 5:14-15). *"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart"* (Hebrews 4:12).

Without prayer, we will not have the blessed fellowship with God that He desires for us. Without prayer, we cannot truly grow in our knowledge of Him the way He wants us to. Without prayer, we miss out on receiving all that He has for us as our gifts and privileges in Christ. Without prayer, He is not glorified in us the way He desires to be. Without prayer, we become self-focused instead of God-focused. Without prayer, we are only depending on ourselves, our own ability, wisdom, understanding, and strength, rather than leaning on Him. We are saying, in essence, we don't need God. A church without prayer will be a lifeless, ineffective church. How important then is it that we know the God we pray to, and what He is about? How can we pray effectively if we don't?

Who is this God we pray to? He is the One

true God. He is truly beyond our comprehension, but He has revealed certain things about Himself in His Word and through Jesus Himself coming to us. He wants us to know those things that He revealed about Himself, to seek Him and to find Him. He wants us to know Him rightly. Anytime we have a wrong concept of Him or of His salvation, it lessens our ability to be effective in prayer or in our walk with Him, or in our testimony to others. To learn of His attributes gives us more help in our prayer life and more faith and purpose as we pray.

We can only learn of His attributes through His Word and our giving ourselves over to it, to keep it, to meditate on it, and to obey it. It is only God Himself Who can reveal Himself to us. We cannot form our own concepts of God based on what kind of god we desire, as so many do today in the apostate church. They don't like the God of the Bible, so they form their own god, lessening His true attributes and bringing Him down to their own level, rather than letting Him bring them up to His. They have no idea what they miss! The god of their making is always more like them. God wants to raise us up to where He is and make us like Him. There is no higher glory! How awful it is then, when we have a lesser view of Him and do not seek to know Him rightly and give Him the true honor of Who He is as revealed to us in His Word. Our prayers to any lesser god can never bring God's blessing. We must know Him rightly and come to Him humbly.

Who is this God we pray to? Who He is not is a genie we can use to get all we want in this world and manipulate according to our own use. That, again, is to bring Him down to our level or even below that, where we become the god and He our servant that we think to command. If we are to know Him rightly, we must also give Him the right place in our hearts. I am always in awe when I hear God calling Himself "I Am." He is so beyond our comprehension that there is no other way to describe Him other than simply "I Am." He simply is, and always was, and always will be. He is the great I Am. He is Who He is, perfect in all His ways, with no need to ever change. That

leaves us with a sense of great awe. It is something we can't grasp fully, yet we know it is true. How can He explain Himself to us? Yet, He has expressed Himself to us through Jesus Christ Who was the exact representation of Himself in the flesh. God's attributes are simply what is true of Him, and He reveals that to us in His Word in many ways, even in the many names of God. Each name reveals to us a particular attribute of God. "Yahweh"—the self-existent One (the Lord), "Yahweh Shalom"—the Lord is peace, "Yahweh Sham-mah"—the Lord is there, "Yahweh Tsid-kenu"—the Lord our righteousness, "Yahweh Nissi"—the Lord my banner, and many more names of God are given to us in His Word, always revealing to us an attribute of God. This

is the God we pray to. This God has so much about Him that we can never completely know all there is to know about Him. Yet He reveals so much of Himself to us in His Word and in our relationship with Him through the Spirit when we become His child through being born again by faith in the finished work of Christ. What riches then to discover this awesome God!! He is a God of love, a God of wonder, a God of perfection in every way! How can we not be grateful for and want to pursue this God and pray to Him? He gives us the privilege, as His children to do so. Are we using this privilege? Do we really grasp what He has given to us?

When we pray to God, many times we want God to be a certain way. But we must learn to



*"For through HIM we both have ACCESS
in one SPIRIT to the FATHER." (Ephesians 2:18)*

love not what we want God to be but what and Who He truly is. In learning His attributes, we learn to love Him more and wonder at His glory more and more and desire that glory. We learn to pray, as the song goes:

**Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.**

The more God is our true vision and the more clearly we see Him, the more effective our prayer life will be. And the more effective our prayer life is, the more clearly we will see Him, the more clearly we will know Him, and the more He will be glorified in our lives. Our motives for prayer will be less and less of what we want and more and more what He wants. Our Christian lives will become more fruitful. If we abide in Him, truly, we must abide in Who He really is, not what we want or imagine Him to be.

If God reveals His attributes to us in His Word, He wants us to discover them, and He wants us to respond to them. We must form our ideas of Him and our responses and our actions based on these true attributes of God. And as we choose to look to Him and walk with Him, we learn to “put on Christ” and

those characteristics of Christ will hopefully be seen more and more in our own walk and interaction with others as well, bringing forth fruit, so that others are drawn to seek Him.

Do we demonstrate to the world around us what God is like? Or are we praying to a god of our own making and showing the world a god of our own making as well? The right answer will affect not only our lives and walk with God but the lives and destiny of others around us that we touch as well.

The more we seek to know the One true God, the more love for Him we will have and that love will flow from us to others. What is the greatest attribute of God? God is love: *“Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us”* (1 John 4:8-12).

Our prayers then should flow from love to a God of love – God’s love for a lost and dying world, which He shed His precious blood for. What a wonderful God we have! What a blessing to know that He loves us and wants us to know Him and invites us to do so! May we pursue Him harder and pray more earnestly while He gives us breath!



Prayer Is Work

By Jane Titrud

It has always been God's desire for His people to be people of prayer. The psalmist David, a man after God's own heart, was a man of prayer, for he wrote: *"Give ear to my prayer, O God; And do not hide Thyself from my supplication"* (Psalm 55:1, NASB). Speaking through the prophet Isaiah, God also told the Jews that He intended His house to be a *"house of prayer for all the peoples"* (Isaiah 56:7). After the advent of the Messiah, those who desired to become disciples of Jesus were furthermore told to *"...love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven"* (Matthew 5:44-45a). As a man of prayer Himself, Jesus likewise instructed His disciples to *"Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is*

willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:41). Later, the Apostle Paul instructed the Colossian church to *"Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving"* (Colossians 4:2), and he told the Thessalonian church to *"pray without ceasing"* (1 Thessalonians 5:17). The will of God thus seems plain enough. He wants us to pray.

The trouble is that prayer is work. It takes time and effort just like any other job. However, there is a difference between the work of prayer and that which exists in the natural, physical realm. For one thing, immediate, tangible results are often lacking when it comes to prayer, for its ways are mysterious, being ultimately subject to the will of the Father. It can, therefore, be difficult at times to judge one's effectiveness. By contrast, "work" done in the physical realm lends itself better to a sense of human accomplishment. In this case, "work" has a scientific definition and yields results that can easily be measured. The



"Continue STEADFASTLY in PRAYER, being WATCHFUL in it with THANKSGIVING." (Colossians 4:2)

By Maria Madsen

amount of work done is merely equal to the force applied to an object multiplied by the distance the object is moved by that force. A farmer who is plowing a field, for instance, is doing work because he is dragging a plow through a field to break up the land. In other words, he is applying force through a distance. The distance traveled is merely the sum of all the lengths of the rows plowed. Applying the formula, one can thus come up with a number that accurately measures the amount of work accomplished by plowing. Of course, trying to use a tractor beyond its capabilities to move a massive, permanently placed object would simply be a waste of time. With no apparent movement of the object taking place, no work would be accomplished, and all the energy expended would be lost. And, sometimes, that is the way it seems with prayer as well.

Prayer operates in a realm that may or may not have consequences in the immediate here and now. And, since we do not have the means to measure what prayer is accomplishing in the spiritual realm, it may not always appear as if it is truly achieving anything. A

lack of obvious feedback and results may thus give one the impression that energy is being expended for nothing—like pushing against an immovable wall. People can thus become discouraged or even give up entirely.

Nevertheless, prayer is not just about trying to move the heavens in response to a need. So often, prayer does things in the heart and life of a believer that can only be discerned via the Spirit.

For instance, the Bible says to “*Enter His gates with thanksgiving, And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him; bless His name. For the LORD is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting, And His faithfulness to all generations*” (Psalm 100:4-5). If one follows these instructions, therefore, and enters into prayer properly, this encourages the exercise of faith. It does this by causing one to focus on Whom one is addressing instead of merely the problem or the request at hand. This type of praying, moreover, cultivates an attitude of thanksgiving and reverence, which also boosts confidence.

In addition, praying for others, especially



"Be constant in prayer."

(Romans 12:12b)

By Patty Buswell

those who are not exactly friendly towards us, can lead to spiritual growth by encouraging Christ-like love and minimizing the problem of self-centeredness at the same time. For it is quite difficult to be at odds with one for whom you are earnestly praying. You may even end up rejoicing in the wellbeing of an “enemy” if their life or walk with the Lord ends up improving, at least in part, because you prayed for them.

Another thing that an active prayer life can do is to encourage cleansing through regular confession of sin and walking in holiness. For the Bible says, *“If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear; But certainly God has heard; He has given heed to the voice of my prayer”* (Psalm 66:18-19). The idea that all our prayerful efforts could be in vain because of sin in our life can be quite effective in bringing about change. No one wants to put effort in something for nothing.

But what about the time element involved? Prayer is not only work, it takes time—sometimes a significant amount of time that one may feel one simply does not have. For this reason, some think prayer is fine for little old ladies in nursing homes or for the retired who do not “work” anymore, but not for them. Or, you may find yourself in the company of those who do not appreciate the fact that prayer is work and be

ridiculed for not “doing” anything. This has happened to me, and it can be very discouraging. It is not like you are going to advertise how much time you spend in prayer anyways, for the Bible discourages such things: *“Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven...But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will repay you”* (Matthew 6:1, 6).

All I can say when it comes to time is that I have seen the Lord make a way where there seems to be no way. I have personally been amazed at what the Lord can accomplish by



“If we ask ANYTHING according to HIS will HE HEARS us.” (1 John 5:14b)

By Nathan Warner

way of granting me stamina when I feel like I have nothing left to give. So, if you are determined in your heart to make it work, establish a pattern in the best time slot available and just start praying.

Finally, routine prayer can lead to a very sweet pattern of regular fellowship with the Lord. Those who have not discovered this yet are really missing out. I often think of the story of Mary and Martha in Luke 10:38–42 wherein Martha was so busy and concerned about the work of serving Jesus—whereas Mary was seated at the Lord’s feet listening to His word: *“But the Lord answered and said to her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only a few things are necessary, really only one, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her’”* (Luke 10:41-42). This may relate more to spending time with God in His Word, but there is something to say for just praising Him, loving Him, and asking for His help and guidance as well.

Christianity is not about religion or rules but rather relationship anyway. And one does not have to neglect prayer in favor of the Word. Regular prayer coupled with regular reading of His Word is perhaps the very best way to maintain the relationship that keeps Him your first love. So, let us not be like those of the church of Ephesus in Revelation who seemed very zealous with respect to working for the Lord but, at the same time, ended up leaving their first love: *“I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot endure evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false, and you have perseverance and have endured for My name’s sake, and have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have left your first love”* (Revelation 2:2–4). Let us rather value the work of prayer and not neglect this fellowship time with the Lord that keeps Him so close in heart.



*“WHATEVER you ask in My NAME,
this I WILL do.” (John 14:13a)*

A Scriptural Primer: PRAYER

What is PRAYER? Is it giving thanks to God before eating a meal? Is it petitioning Him for blessings, desires, or relief? Prayer is much more than all these things. Scripture teaches us that prayer is about each of our personal and intimate relationship to God.

WHO DO WE PRAY TO?

“For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many ‘gods’ and many ‘lords’— 6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, from Whom are all things and for Whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through Whom are all things and through Whom we exist” (1 Corinthians 8:5-6).

Whether we pray to the Father or the Son, we are praying to God. Jesus says, “I and the Father are one” (John 10:30).

Paul explained our prayers are destined to come before the Father through Jesus by the Spirit, “for through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father” (Ephesians 2:18).

“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 2:1).

“No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also” (1 John 2:23).

“The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand” (John 3:35).

ALL GOOD THINGS ARE FROM GOD
AND ALL THINGS WORK FOR GOOD IN
THE BELIEVER’S LIFE

Regardless of the difficulties, trials, and

traumas of life, we must never forget the foundational truth in prayer that God is good, and He gives only good things to us—also that everything happening to us is ultimately for our greatest good in all eternity. “Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. 18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures” (James 1:16-18).

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28).

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one Who died—more than that, Who was raised—Who is at the right hand of God, Who indeed is interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written, ‘For Your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.’ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:31-39).

PRAY ACCORDING TO GOD’S WILL,
AND IT WILL BE ANSWERED

The foundational principle of prayer is that it must be in the Father’s will for it to be answered. Remember, we are “called according

to His purpose” (Romans 8:28b). His will is our good, but it may not always be what we think is good for us. God’s will is found in His Word. Abiding in His Word is the best way to remain in a healthy relationship of prayer.

“And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that **if we ask anything according to His will He hears us.** 15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of Him” (1 John 5:14-15).

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples. 9 As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love” (John 15:7-10).

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. 13 **Whatever you ask in My name, this I will do,** that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it” (John 14:12-14).

“Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33 **But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,** and all these things will be added to you” (Matthew 6:31-33).

PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT

“Whoever keeps His commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us” (1 John 3:24). For our prayers to be in God’s will, we must abide in God’s

Word, the commandments of Christ. We also must abide in the Spirit that abides in us, praying in the Spirit: “It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life” (Jude 19-21).

OUR PRAYERS ARE NOT ALWAYS ANSWERED WHEN WE EXPECT OR AS WE EXPECT

Because we often pray for things that seem good to us, but are not actually good for us, our prayers are not always answered as we would like. “So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 9 But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

Job suffered greatly without any idea why it was happening, and his prayers for relief were not answered for a long time. His trial was for God’s glory and concerned great things unseen in Heaven. This should be a reminder to us that what we go through in life has profound importance in the Kingdom of God: “As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful” (James 5:10-11).

PRAYING AS A SON RELATING TO HIS FATHER

It is foundational to understanding prayer to first understand our nature as children, and that as children, you are to “be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord” (Col. 3:20). We also understand that just as our Heavenly Father has instructed fathers not to “exasperate [Gr. to stir to anger] your children, so that they will not lose heart” (Col. 3:21), we can be secure knowing that God will not exasperate us.

Like natural children, our understanding of the nature of reality is severely limited: “When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known” (1 Cor. 13:9-12). “Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is” (1 John 3:2).

Children tend to think that everything is about them (or should be), rather than the hundreds of people who are woven into their lives. Their worlds are fragile and easily disturbed, and they don’t always understand the consequences of their actions. Responsibility and discipline can seem like punishment and trials to them. Children often get angry with their parents when they are denied what they feel they need (or deserve) to make them feel special or happy. Parents often deny or ignore pleas and requests that will only serve to harm their children down the road—even though to the child it seems crucial to their happiness. And sometimes parents cause their children pain while fixing serious problems the children don’t even know they have. Just as natural children only know in part, we also know so little of what is going on.

We truly are “little children” (1 Jn. 4:4) being raised by our Father to live in a reality that

is currently too big for us to fully understand. Yet He has not left us without guidance: “God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’” (Gal. 4:6) Jesus is God’s “firstborn” (Rom. 8:29b)—you and I are among His “many brethren” (Rom. 8:29b). Jesus is our role-model for relating to the Father. “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God” (Eph. 5:1-2a). We must emulate Jesus’ dependence, obedience, and sacrifice, saying with Him, “I can do nothing on My own” (John 5:30a). He “emptied Himself” (Phil. 2:7a) and “humbled Himself” (Phil. 2:8b) to obey His Father’s will though it led to a cross, saying, “I seek not My own will but the will of Him who sent Me” (John. 5:30b). May we so walk. Even so, Amen.

Prayer is often described as a child relating to a father, as in the case of our Heavenly Father, just as when Jesus “fell on His face and prayed, saying, ‘My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will’” (Matthew 26:39).

“In the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to Him who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence. 8 Although He was a son, He learned obedience through what He suffered. 9 And being made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him” (Hebrews 5:7-9).

“So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, ‘Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. 42 I knew that You always hear Me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that You sent Me’” (John 11:41-42).

“‘Now is My soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. 28 Father, glorify Your name.’ Then a voice

came from heaven: 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again'" (John 12:27-28).

"O righteous Father, even though the world does not know You, I know You, and these know that You have sent Me. 26 I made known to them Your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which You have loved Me may be in them, and I in them" (John 17:25-26).

"For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'" (Romans 8:15)

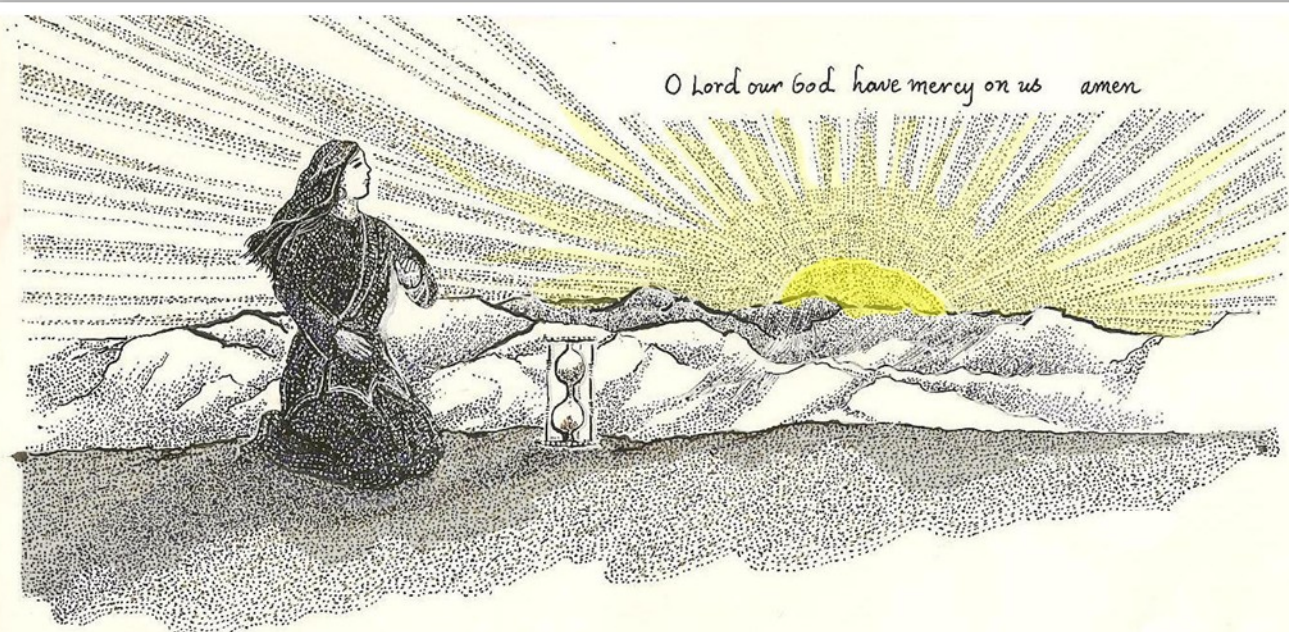
"So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory. For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from Whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of His glory He may grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:13-19).

"And if you call on Him as Father Who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, 18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot" (1 Peter 1:17-19).

PRAYING AS A BRIDE RELATING TO HER HUSBAND

Prayer is also relating in love to our betrothed, the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who is our spiritual husband, as Paul described: "For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ" (2 Corinthians 11:2-3).



By Lynn Warner

We know we pray to God, and Jesus also is God. Jesus tells all His disciples, “Whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son” (John 14:13).

Therefore, we also pray to Him: “To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours” (1 Corinthians 1:2).

“For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance” (Philippians 1:19).

The Holy Spirit Himself, who dwells inside every Believer, is the Spirit of Christ: “And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’” (Galatians 4:6)

The Spirit “Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words” (Romans 8:26b).

So, whether we pray to the Father or the Son, we are praying to God, “for through Him [Jesus] we both have access in one Spirit to the Father” (Ephesians 2:18).

“That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ” (1 John 1:3).

Just as you cannot boil down the intimate fellowship of marriage to calculated exchanges of petitions, praises, thanks, and requests to one another, a healthy relationship of love goes far beyond the tangible as it is a profound “mystery” (Ephesians 5:32) created by God that can cause two people to become one. Through Jesus, by the Spirit, we have been made one, for “he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him” (1 Corinthians 6:17).

PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER

“And He told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. 2 He said, ‘In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. 3 And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, “Give me justice against my adversary.” 4 For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, “Though I neither fear God nor respect man, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.”’ 6 And the Lord said, ‘Hear what the unrighteous judge says. 7 And will not God give justice to His elect, who cry to Him day and night? Will He delay long over them?’” (Luke 18:1-7)

“Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when He finished, one of His disciples said to Him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.’ 2 And He said to them, ‘When you pray, say:

“Father, hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come.

3 Give us each day our daily bread,

4 and forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And lead us not into temptation.”

5 And He said to them, ‘Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, “Friend, lend me three loaves, 6 for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him”; 7 and he will answer from within, “Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything”? 8 I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. 9 And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and the

one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. 11 What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; 12 or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” (Luke 11:1-13)

BE STEADFAST AND THANKFUL IN PRAYER

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer” (Romans 12:12).

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with

thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God” (Philippians 4:6).

“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving” (Colossians 4:2).

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

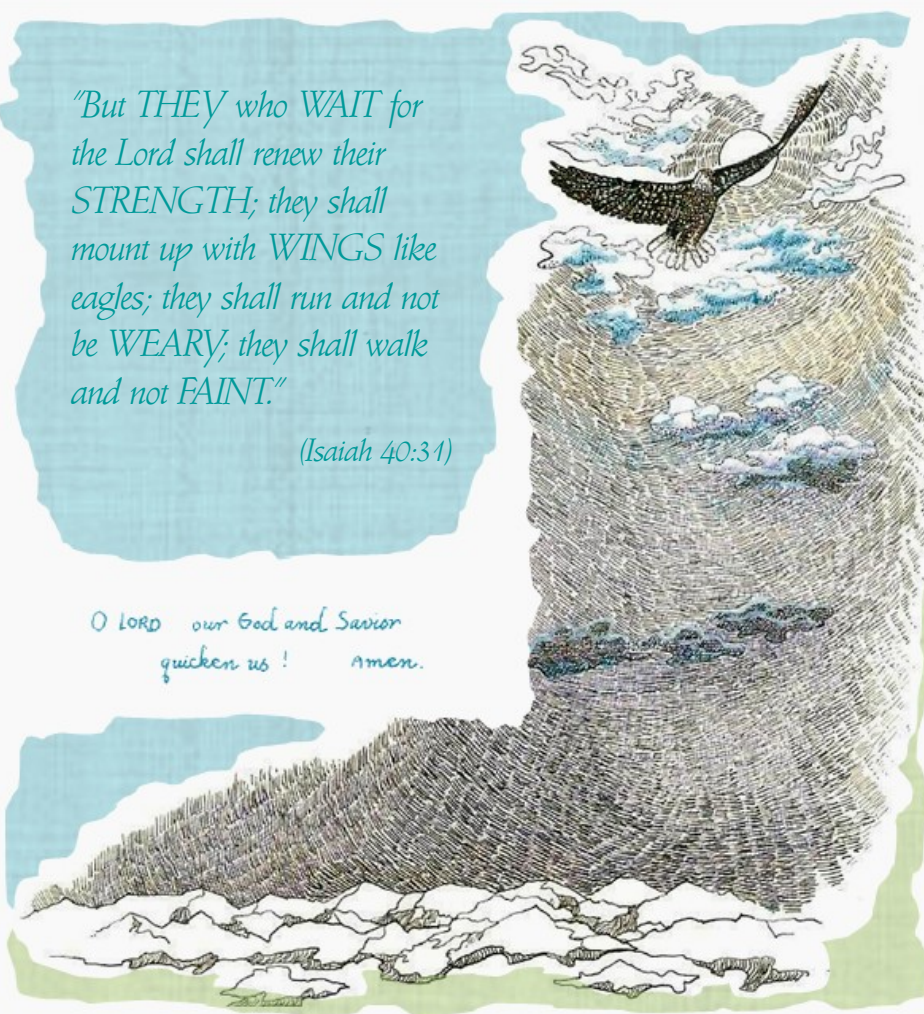
SANCTIFYING WITH PRAYER

“For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer” (1 Timothy 4:4-5).

*“But THEY who WAIT for
the Lord shall renew their
STRENGTH; they shall
mount up with WINGS like
eagles; they shall run and not
be WEARY; they shall walk
and not FAINT.”*

(Isaiah 40:31)

*O LORD our God and Savior
quicken us! Amen.*



By Lynn Warner



PRAY FOR THE SAINTS

“You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many” (2 Corinthians 1:11).

“Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints” (Ephesians 6:18).

“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven” (James 5:13-15).

PRAY FOR ALL PEOPLE

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father Who is in heaven. For He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust” (Matthew 5:43-45).

“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior” (1 Timothy 2:1-3).

“I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling” (1 Timothy 2:8).

REPENT OF SIN FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR PRAYERS

“He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: 10 ‘Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: “God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.” 13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted” (Luke 18:9-14).

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. 18 Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit” (James 5:16-18).

“Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered” (1 Peter 3:7).

“For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil” (1 Peter 3:12).

“The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins” (1 Peter 4:7-8).

Coming back to God often in prayer helps with temptation: "Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:41).

THE HOLY SPIRIT INTERCEDES FOR US ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF GOD

"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And He who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints **according to the will of God**. 28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom He predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified" (Romans 8:26-30).

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you" (John 14:26).

PRAYER IS PERSONAL AND PRIVATE

Jesus spent a great deal of time in prayer alone: "And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, He departed and went out to a desolate place, and there He prayed" (Mark 1:35).

The very nature of intimate relationships intrinsically means it is not for show. "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father Who is in secret. And

your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 7 And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. 9 Pray then like this:

‘Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be Your name.
10 Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
11 Give us this day our daily bread
12 and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
13 And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil!’” (Matthew 6:5-13).

PRAYER AS SEEN IN HEAVEN

Scripture provides us with a few glimpses of how our prayers are received in Heaven: "And when He [Jesus] had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints" (Revelation 5:8).

"Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. 3 And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, 4 and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel. 5 Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake" (Revelation 8:2-5). When God answers prayer, the spiritual reality is intense!

"The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come.' And let the one who hears say, 'Come'...He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:17a, 20)

From Everlasting to Everlasting (A Prayer of Moses, the Man of God)

Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God.

You return man to dust and say, 'Return, O children of man!' For a thousand years in Your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.

You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

For we are brought to an end by Your anger; by Your wrath we are dismayed. You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your presence.

For all our days pass away under Your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. Who considers the power of Your anger, and Your wrath according to the fear of You?

So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. Return, O Lord! How long? Have pity on your servants!

Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad for as many days as You have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. Let Your work be shown to Your servants, and Your glorious power to their children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands! (Psalm 90)

And this I pray,
that your love may abound
yet more and more in knowledge,
and in all judgment; that ye may
approve things that are excellent;
that ye may be sincere
and without offense till the
Day of Christ,
Being filled with the fruits
of righteousness which are by
Jesus Christ unto the
glory and praise of God.

Phil. 1:9-11

By Lynn Warner

September/October Newsletter Theme— **PROPHECY**

Submission Deadline: September 24

Publish Date: October 3

Prophecy...

- What is prophecy?
- How do Believers prophesy?
- How do we tell the difference between true and false prophecy?

Verses on PROPHECY

Proverbs 29:18 — *“Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law.”*

2 Peter 1:20-21 (ESV) — *“Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”*

Romans 12:6 — *“Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith.”*

1 Corinthians 14:6 — *“Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching?”*

1 Corinthians 14:22 — *“Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers.”*

1 Timothy 4:14 — *“Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you.”*

Revelation 1:3 — *“Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.”*