

## IN YOUR CLOSET

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances,  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

I Thessalonians 5: 16-18, ESV

June, 2021

So, begins God's conversation with Adam and Eve after their fall. God has come seeking them, for they are in hiding. His call comes, I believe, not because He doesn't know where they are, but because He wants to begin a conversation. Almighty God, Creator of the Universe; He is the One who begins the

**"WHERE  
ARE  
YOU?"**

Genesis 3:9

conversation with the very first man and woman in the human race, even after they have disobeyed Him and have fallen from the exalted position of uninhibited freedom in His Presence He had intended. We can infer from His appearance in the Garden in the cool of the evening, that this is a continued conversation. It seems that this has been His pattern. He has chosen to speak with His man and His woman face-to-face. What a privilege.

Throughout the Bible it becomes obvious that this is in His nature. He speaks not only to Adam and Eve, but to Enoch, to Noah, to Abraham, to Moses, to Joshua, to the Judges, to the Kings, to Jesus, His Disciples and to us as His children.

He speaks to us because He desires for us to speak to Him. This is prayer. He does not give us a formula. He does not give to us a vocabulary. He does give to us an invitation.

God desires that you come to Him daily even as you are.

He will listen to you out of His great love for you. He will welcome your questions. He will consider your requests. He will answer you. He will abide with you. The best way to pray is naturally, expectantly, gratefully. You have a

Father in Heaven who will always be there for you.

The most exciting truth about spending time with our Heavenly Father in prayer is that He is anxious for us to do so. It's not like we have to get an appointment for Him to have time to sit down and meet with us. He's there always. Morning. Afternoon. Night. It doesn't matter to Him. And he understands our language. We don't have to perfect it for him. We need not adapt our language for His

benefit. Children typically speak to their father simply and honestly. This is what our Heavenly Father offers and expects from us. He is here for us. He is bending near, eager to hear what we have to say. In fact, His Holy Spirit enables our the

**"Come to me  
all who labor and are  
heavy laden, and I will  
give you rest."  
Matthew 11:28**

thoughts and feelings deep in our hearts which are difficult for us to even know how to speak.

Perhaps the key word is to relax and realize the reality and the majesty of God's Love for us so that we come to Him both gladly and expectantly, not reluctantly and grudgingly. We come to Him as beloved children and not as unwilling servants. He truly desires the truth that is in our hearts. His hope is for us to openly share our truest and deepest feeling with Him, along with our toughest questions. He is never offended by our questions. He will give us true and honest answers as He speaks into our lives loving direction and instruction and correction so that we might find His best for each of us. Just like the very best of our earthly fathers, our Heavenly Father welcomes those times when we are figuratively in His lap speaking to our Abba and being totally open and responsive to Him.

Actually it is our eager and open attitude rather than our proper sounding platitudes He

**"Come, let us  
reason  
together . . .  
Isaiah 1:18**

desires. When we come to Him we will find Him waiting, expecting, loving.

## PRAYER TIME RESOURCES

Here are some resources that can enrich your prayer life and facilitate you as you come before Your Heavenly Father. *Open Windows*, *Journey* (for women), *Stand Firm* (for men), *Home Life* (for families) and *Mature Living* (for senior adults) have rich devotional and prayer materials. These are available through our church in the entry way to the church office. (Just so you know, missionaries all over the world look with anticipation to their birthdays because they know that those who use the birthday calendars in such magazines, will be supporting them with their prayers. Many feel empowered to take bold new steps in

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

evangelistic outreach, realizing how strongly they are supported by such birthday prayers.)

For those with smart phones, there are prayer Apps to download. *Operation World* leads you day-by-day to pray for all the countries in the

world throughout the year, focusing on the lost in each nation. The IMB PRAYER APP makes available personal prayer requests regarding their work and families from our missionaries around the world each day.

An excellent book available on Amazon, *The Prayer Wheel*, based on early church traditions, provides rich, Scripture based patterns for prayer.

Of course, the best book on prayer is the Bible. The Bible is filled with prayers. As you read through the Bible, bookmark prayers that inspire and instruct you. Not only Psalms, but other Bible books as well, offer us models of inspiring and challenging prayers that can guide us as we continue to grow in our prayer lives.

Every believer is a unique child of God, and God has unique patterns for of prayer for every believer, just as any father has unique conversations with each of his children.

Here is a beautiful example shared with us by a beloved father in the faith:

## A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO INTERCESSION Vince Whittington

I have a daily journal in which I have a tab for each day of the week. It is just a guide that gives me a starting point.

**DAILY:** Praise and Worship; Confession and Cleansing; Petition for Personal Holiness and Ministry; Meditation on Scripture—Journal thoughts;

Intercession for Family Member’s Spiritual and Physical Needs

**SUNDAY:** My Church Leaders, Pastor, Key Leaders, etc.; My God-given Ministry, My Church

**MONDAY:** Those Who Do Not Know Christ and Backslidden Believers; Spiritual Needs for Workmates, Classmates, Those We See In Daily Life (Waiters, Doctors, Clerks, Neighbors, etc.)

**TUESDAY:** Revival and Growth in the Church; Spiritual Awakening in Your Community; Missionaries and PersecutedBelievers

**WEDNESDAY:** Key Denominational Leaders (Local, State, SBC, IMB, NAMB; Spiritual Leaders ofOther Churches (local Pastors, etc.)

**THURSDAY:** Those in Authority; National, State, Local (President, Governor, Mayors, Senators, Representatives, City Councils, etc.)

**FRIDAY:** Key Evangelism Initiatives (Local, State, National, Global); Key Mission Initiatives (Local, State, National, Global)

**SATURDAY:** Special Heart Burdens, Enemies and Persecutors

“ . . . but the Spirit himself intercedes for us as with groaning too deep for words.”  
Romans 8:26

