

Book of
PRAYERS



DEBO RICHARDS

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DEDICATION

This Book of Prayers is dedicated to God Almighty who gave the inspiration, to the Son of God our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, our intercessor before the throne of the Father, and to the Holy Ghost our comforter and messenger.

To the Trinity, be Glory, Honor, Adoration, and Praise forever and ever, Amen.

Mark 1:35 *“And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.”*

“For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him.” Colossians 1:16 (KJV).

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Ancient Words – Michael W. Smith

Holy words long preserved
For our walk in this world,
They resound with God's own heart
Oh, let the Ancient words impart.

Words of Life, words of Hope
Give us strength, help us cope
In this world, where e'er we roam
Ancient words will guide us Home.

Ancient words ever true
Changing me and changing you.
We have come with open hearts
Oh let the ancient words impart.

*“The road to success is strewed with thorns
and only the brave and courageous will sail
through.” Bishop Chris Kwakpovwe (ODM).*

Take a moment to observe your surroundings and reflect honestly-can you see how rapidly and profoundly the world around you has changed? These transformations are unfolding at a staggering pace, noticeable even to those without technological expertise or advanced education.

Nature itself bears witness to these shifts, as its rhythms and patterns are altered before our eyes.

From the elites in society to humble peasants working in the fields, everyone has their own stories and experiences that highlight the impact of these changes. Those who are spiritually attuned carry profound insights and messages for humanity, urging us to recognize and respond to the world's evolving landscape.

This is a call for awareness and action, take the time to listen, observe, and reflect.

You may have often heard the phrase, "*these are the signs of the times.*" But have you ever truly stopped to ponder, what time does this refer to? What are these signs we are witnessing? Are they signals of hope, promising renewal, or are they ominous warnings of despair? Reflecting on your own experiences and the narratives that surround us, one might argue that the past feels more reassuring compared to the uncertainty of the present. This, in turn, fuels an apprehension that the future may hold even more unsettling realities yet to unfold.

Will humanity face extinction if the anticipated events unfold? What steps can we take to avoid this seemingly inevitable fate? To what extent is humanity responsible for these looming calamities, and how much damage have we caused or contributed? Has humanity

heeded the warnings of the past, or have we turned a blind eye to the signs?

Reflect on the prophetic words of Nostradamus. Do you perceive any connections or fulfillments of his predictions in the context of the so-called new world order?

Writings on Nostradamus' prophecies on major global events include "cruel wars" in Europe, with the United Kingdom suffering greatly. He also foresaw a decline in Western dominance, paving the way for emerging powers to rise; a "deadly pestilence from the past" re-emerging, possibly indicating the resurgence of ancient diseases referred to as having COVID/ FLU symptoms. Some interpretations of his prophecies suggest he foresaw the exhaustion of armies, possibly hinting at the conclusion of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. His predictions are often vague and open to interpretation, but they continue to spark debate about their relevance to modern events.

There are facts and records to show that humans have been forewarned of all these things. The Spirit of Prophecy has foretold these events, but people were not taking heed. True prophets have been mocked, persecuted and killed globally as they warned humanity of these impending calamities. Evidently you can kill the flesh, but you cannot kill the Spirit and Truth. The flesh originated from dust (clay), but the Spirit is eternal, and

incomprehensible to any mortal. What was ordained from creation by the creator of the universe is unchangeable and irreversible. No matter what the evolutionists (mortals of course) may speculate, God the mover and primer of all things in the universe always and always will have the final say.

As the saying goes, "there is no smoke without fire," and likewise, "every action has a reaction." These principles, rooted in science, physics, or even nature itself, reflect fundamental truths that originated from Jehovah God, the ultimate Prime Mover. It leads us to question: what actions, or lack thereof, have humanity taken on this planet to warrant such alarming and unpleasant consequences?

Can we still seize the opportunity to change the course of events for the sake of humanity, or have we reached the point of "every man for himself"? Ultimately, the answer to this question lies in the hands of each individual reader to decide.

This book of prayers serves as a poignant reminder of the foresight of God Almighty, who, from the dawn of creation, foretold the behavior of His cherished creation—humans. When God chose to create the world, He envisioned a place where beings made in His image and that of His Son would dwell. Their purpose was to worship and commune with Him daily. In return for their obedience and

devotion, God promised humanity a life of unparalleled bliss—Paradise! A realm free from pain, suffering, labor (including the pains of childbirth), worry, stress, hatred, discrimination, social hierarchies, persecution, sickness, accidents, punishment, deceit, witchcraft, greed, and above all, death itself. Eternal life was the intended destiny for humankind, with every need met effortlessly. All that was required was worship and obedience to the Almighty.

However, the downfall of humanity, which set off a ripple effect of suffering through many generations, can be traced back to one root cause: disobedience to God. This disobedience is the source of every human problem across all aspects of life. Whether in families, societies, or nations, the breaking of established rules and principles inevitably leads to chaos and instability. In homes, the violation of rules meant to foster unity results in discord. In politics, when leaders disregard the foundational principles of their nations, discontent and turmoil follow, disproportionately affecting the vulnerable—the elderly, the sick, children, and youth, who represent the future of any society. When the future is jeopardized, society teeters on the brink of collapse unless swift and decisive action is taken.

History offers countless examples, including the United States of America. Once revered as "God's own country," a land of freedom, opportunity, and hope, it was a beacon for those seeking refuge from oppression. Yet,

corruption and disobedience to the principles of its founding fathers have tarnished its legacy. What was once a land of promises has become a source of disillusionment for both its citizens and those who once aspired to join its ranks. Unimaginable events now unfold, leaving citizens in shock and disbelief, as these occurrences have no precedent in their history. The above brings us back to the phrase, "it is the sign of the times." What are these signs? When was humanity first warned, and by whom? These are questions that compel us to reflect deeply on the state of our world and the choices we make.

It may come as a surprise to learn that the warning was initiated at the very time of the creation of the universe. This naturally leads to the question: if God and His Christ were aware of humanity's eventual fall, why did they proceed with creation? The answer lies in the depth of God's love and His eternal plan for redemption. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, stood by God's side throughout the creation of the universe, actively participating in the divine work. How?

Genesis 1:1 declares, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth," and verse 26 adds, "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth."

Similarly, the Book of John 1:1-5 affirms, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him, there was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.” John further explains in verses 8-14 that Jesus Christ was the true Light who entered the world to bring grace and truth, offering salvation to all who believed in Him.

Even the most ordinary mortal understands the importance of having plan B in case a plan goes awry. God, the immortal Creator and Author of all things, knew that humanity would stumble. His plan B was the Redemption of humanity, a testimony to His unwavering love and mercy. God holds a special place in His heart for humankind, having endowed them with free will. This unparalleled love stirred jealousy among His heavenly creations, led by Lucifer, the most beautiful angel. Driven by pride in his God-given beauty and power, Lucifer sought to challenge God, aspiring to ascend to His throne. This rebellion resulted in sinning against the Almighty.

Lucifer's challenge ultimately failed, leading to his banishment from heaven. Stripped of his heavenly powers, he was cast out of heaven along with the angels who joined his rebellion. These fallen angels, now dark spirits, carry

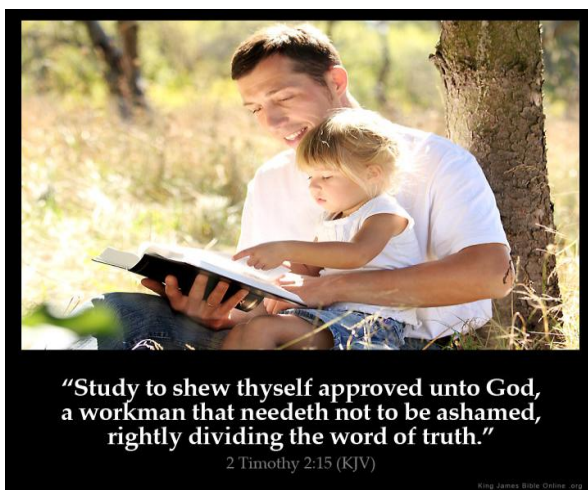
out their master's bidding on earth, sowing destruction and despair. While satan was deprived of his heavenly authority, his earthly powers remain intact, allowing him to wreak havoc among humans, God's beloved beings. Satan deceives humanity, distorting their view of God and attributing earthly suffering to Him. This cunning deceit aims to turn hearts away from serving the true God.

Satan also lures followers with promises of false power and wealth, entrenching them in lies that lead to ultimate despair. These "gifts" come at a steep price, often taking lives or destroying families. Tragically, victims frequently realize the true cost of their choices when it is too late—there is no turning back with satan. But with God, it is never too late if there is life. His boundless mercy remains available to those who duly repent and seek His forgiveness.

This is the essence of Christ's love and pardon. If you sincerely acknowledge your mistakes and accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you will receive forgiveness and redemption. No matter the depth of your sins, God's grace can restore you and shield you from an eternal fate with satan. Through repentance and faith, you are granted the gift of salvation—a chance to experience God's eternal promise instead of satan's eternal torment.

So how did God plan for man's redemption if humankind failed to stay obedient and serve God in truth

and spirit? The only sacrifice that qualifies to appease the wrath of God for the fall of humanity and redeem humans, was the shedding of untainted blood. The blood of lambs and other animals could not and still cannot atone for the sin of humans. From a historical perspective we see the evils humans did to one another and surprisingly continues today. What did this mean? Where on human earth can there be found untainted or unblemished blood when Adam and Eve the first humans whom God created already sinned against God? That blemish in their genetic makeup has been passed on to every human being born on earth.



The society in heaven including the angels were not willing to sacrifice themselves for humankind who were closer to the heart of God than even they were. What will happen to humans? In Genesis 19:1-5 we see the depravity in Sodom and Gomorrah when angels visited Lot.

The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground.

“My lords,” he said, “please turn aside to your servant’s house. You can wash your feet and spend the night and then go on your way early in the morning.” “No,” they answered, “we will spend the night in the square.”

But he insisted so strongly that they did go with him and entered his house. He prepared a meal for them, baking bread without yeast, and they ate.

Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom—both young and old—surrounded the house.

They called to Lot, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them.”

Homosexuality, moral laxity, murder, incest, wickedness, lack of human empathy, greed, lack of Godliness and many kinds of sin against God were prevalent in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. God looked on the earth and was angry at the behavior of His beloved humans and so He sent the angels on a mission as stated in verse 13

“we are going to destroy this place. The outcry to the LORD against its people is so great that He has sent us to destroy it.”

God was prepared to bring judgment upon Sodom and Gomorrah. Despite Lot’s earnest bargaining and pleas for mercy, hoping that even a handful of righteous individuals might be found so God would for their sake spare the cities, but none was found. In the end, only Lot

and his two daughters escaped to Zoar—without their spouses. Lot’s wife, who disobeyed the angels’ command, and longed for her former lifestyle and material possessions, glanced back and was instantly transformed into a pillar of salt. Then, in verse 23, the full force of God’s wrath was unleashed as “...*the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven.*”

The Holy Trinity

The glory of God is revealed in a divine unity: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Spirit. Before the creation of the universe, all three were in agreement on the plan of humanity’s redemption. When the Son stepped forward to take on the burden of salvation of mankind, He descended to earth, offering His blood as the ultimate sacrifice for humankind. So, when it is said that God came down to save mankind from eternal condemnation, it is the truth.

To be redeemed through Jesus Christ’s sacrifice on the cross, everyone must take personal responsibility—repenting of sin, turning away from unrighteousness, following God’s commandments, and believing in Jesus Christ the Son of God. He came to earth to rescue humankind; He was crucified as historical records affirm and laid down His life so that humanity may receive salvation. His death was not the end, but the gateway to

eternal life for those who accept His grace. He rose again on the third day to affirm His victory over sin and death. He eventually ascended into heaven as many watched him rise into the clouds. He promised to go prepare a place for those who believe in Him and God the Father and the Holy spirit, those who do the will of God and obey God's commandments. At the appointed time God, the Father will send him back to the earth to bring back with Him the true worshippers of God who have obeyed and kept His commandments.

Satan is fully aware of God's divine plan for redemption, and he works tirelessly to obstruct the salvation of human souls. Even Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was tested and persecuted by satan during His 40-day fasting in the wilderness. In a futile attempt, satan promised Jesus the riches and treasures of the world—an outrageous insult, considering that Jesus Christ partook in the creation of all things and was the source of every blessing in heaven and earth.

Satan knew exactly who Jesus was. Yet, he sought to exploit Jesus's human nature, hoping it would override His divinity and lead Him to fail in His mission. His goal was to thwart God's plan for humanity's salvation. It is crucial to remember that satan despises humankind precisely because they hold a special place in God's heart. Lucifer, once a magnificent angel, fell from grace, was

cursed, and banned from heaven. His rebellion stemmed from envy, and his hatred of humanity has driven him to wage war against God's beloved creation.

In testing Jesus, satan assumed that the weight of the sacrifice would be unbearable—that Jesus Christ, like Adam and Eve, would succumb to temptation. The very people whom Jesus Christ came to redeem were the ones who persecuted Him, attempting to kill Him on multiple occasions. Yet, their efforts failed because God had ordained the perfect timing for the fulfillment of the mission. This should serve as a powerful reminder: when God is with you, nothing can stand against you. How appalling what human beings can do to one another when they allow the spirit of satan to rule their hearts! That is why as a child of God you need to ask for the bidding of the Holy Spirit in your life. If any of you lack wisdom, let him sincerely ask of God. It is free of charge! Jesus Christ has already paid the price of redemption. With satan, nothing is free.

Despite the prophecy of Isaiah foretelling the coming of the Messiah, many did not recognize Him. The Jews anticipated a political savior who would free them from Roman rule, but Jesus Christ was the Spiritual Messiah sent to deliver humanity from sin, death, and eternal condemnation. The blindness of humans kept them from understanding their own need for salvation, which

satan sought to exploit. Satan hoped that Jesus Christ would falter, just as he, satan, and his fallen angels did. Had Jesus Christ failed, satan would have rejoiced, mocking God and claiming that His judgment was unjust. He would have argued that if the Son of the Living God could fall, then God Himself could be defeated.

It is certain that satan is the father of all lies—the deceiver, tempter, persecutor, and destroyer of mankind. In Matthew 4:1-11, we witness the encounter between Christ and the devil following Jesus' 40-day fast. Despite satan's efforts, Jesus stood firm, demonstrating that no temptation, no false promise, and no force of darkness could ever break the divine purpose of redemption. Satan chose what he regarded as an appropriate time to tempt our Lord Jesus: after a 40 day fast! Knowing the mortal human would be weak, hungry, and tired, satan appeared at that moment, yet forgetting that Jesus still maintained His divine power. Jesus Christ's rebuke of the devil also established how to do the same with this evil tempter in our lives. Rebuke the devil through the name of Jesus and he will flee from you. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

After fasting for forty days and nights, Jesus grew hungry. At that moment, Satan approached Him, attempting to tempt Him. He said, "If you are truly the Son of God, command these stones to become bread." But Jesus

replied, "It is written Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Determined, the devil then took Jesus to the highest point of the temple in the holy city, saying, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written that God will send His angels to protect you, preventing even your foot from striking a stone." Jesus firmly responded, "It is also written: You shall not tempt the Lord your God."

Satan did not relent. He led Jesus to a high mountain, revealing all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. He offered, "All these things will be yours if you bow down and worship me." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written: You shall worship the Lord your God and serve only Him."

With that, Satan fled, and angels came to minister to Jesus, bringing Him strength and comfort. The devil can use anyone, friends and acquaintances, evil proposals, anything at all to tempt humans. Satan does not appear as a red-horned devil to entice people. He would use any good-looking thing to entice people- beautiful women, wealth, prosperity, and so on, but they are not from God. God does not forbid humans from attaining wealth; rather, what truly matters is the way it is acquired. Is it gained through deceit and corruption, aligning with darkness? Or is it earned righteously, through honesty, diligence, and the grace of God? Wealth itself is not inherently evil—it is the heart and

actions behind its pursuit that determine its virtue. There is always a price to pay for serving the devil. This is why it is important to read your Bible daily and know the word of God.

On many occasions satan plotted against Jesus Christ and His faith in God the Father just as he does with the minds of Christians today. Nothing good can be said of satan the devil. Satan's ways are wickedness, lies and deception. If the devil can persecute and try to punish the Son of God, what do you think he can do to mere mortals like you and me? The devil retains his God-given powers on earth because God is yet to take them away and in due time. When the devil sees the repentant human seeking to change his or her ways and do the will of God, he throws him into all kinds of worldly problems such as sufferings, stagnation, pain, sickness, financial failure, depression, disappointments, and so on and then he turns around to tempt and entice the human mind to his side, and sin against God and Jesus Christ.

Have you ever witnessed the trials and tribulations that follow when an individual surrenders their life to Jesus? The enemy wastes no time, seeking to shake their faith by bringing obstacles and hardships, aiming to sow doubt in their heart. In response, satan presents deceptive solutions, concealing the heavy cost that comes with them—sometimes at the peril of losing the grace needed to

enter heaven. Ultimately, the responsibility lies with everyone to resist the devil and his cunning schemes. God has blessed every person with the gift of free will—the ability to choose between righteousness, sin, and deception. Standing firm in faith ensures that no temptation can overpower the strength found in Jesus Christ. Jesus demonstrated the way to resist the devil, showing that true power comes only from God to those who trust and believe in Him.

Satan is called the "god of this world" because he holds influence over earthly matters, but his authority is temporary. When Jesus Christ returns, all satan's powers will be stripped away from him. Those who do not place their faith in God or follow His will remain spiritually blinded by satan's deceptions. At the end of time, God will reject those who have chosen to follow the devil, and even satan the devil himself will abandon them, saying, "You are on your own—every man for himself." Do not let yourself be caught in this final struggle. Hear the voice of prophecy! The time for repentance is now—return to Christ while the opportunity remains. Do not be deceived by satan's lies; seek the light of God and walk in His truth. Take note:

"The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." 2 Corinthians 4: 4

Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* vividly depicts satan's influence over the human heart, showing how people can lose all empathy as they partake in the suffering of others. Judas Iscariot's betrayal of Jesus for money, the brutal torture inflicted upon Jesus Christ for people's entertainment, and His unjust condemnation to crucifixion—a punishment reserved for the worst criminals—are powerful examples of how satan distorts human nature. Always ask God to allow the Holy Spirit to rule in your heart. Daily pray and welcome the Holy Spirit of God to guide and comfort you. It is the gift of God to humans. Jesus said that He would send the Holy Spirit to the world as our comforter. He did so as this was demonstrated on the day of Pentecost in Jerusalem, as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles 2: 1-4. Many eyes saw them, and many ears heard the wonders.

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”

So, whom do you want to believe? Jesus Christ or satan the deceiver?

Ironically, on the day of Jesus' crucifixion, the crowd chose to release Barnabas, a notorious murderer, instead of Jesus Christ, who willingly took the place of sinners and bore their punishment to fulfill God's plan of redemption. By laying down His life, Jesus secured freedom from condemnation for humankind. His resurrection on the third day, as foretold, sealed the redemption of mankind, ensuring eternal life with God for those who believe in Him. It is only by the grace of God that one can truly grasp the depth and necessity of such a sacrifice. Pray that God opens your heart and mind to comprehend the purity of this act. The human intellect alone cannot fathom why one would endure the cross—an instrument of immense humiliation and suffering- to save lost souls.

Faith in God ushers in a renewed life, offering a peace that surpasses all worldly understanding. Only those who walk in obedience and embrace His truth will experience the overwhelming goodness of God. Satan is rightly identified by Jesus as the chief and father of liars in John 8:44, where Christ sternly rebukes unbelievers, declaring:

"You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was

a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

In this passage, Jesus exposes Satan's nature—deceptive, destructive, and entirely opposed to truth. It serves as a reminder that deceit has long been a tool of darkness, used to mislead and distort the path of righteousness.

Persecutions

Job was a righteous servant of God, devoted to Him with all his heart. Yet, satan, determined to destroy what belongs to God, relentlessly persecuted Job, stripping him of his children, wealth, and friends. In Job chapter 2, satan falsely accused Job before God, fully aware of Job's unwavering faith. However, by his very nature, satan seeks to corrupt and ruin all that is good. This battle is not confined to Job's time, it continues today. The devil aims to weaken the faith of believers, casting accusations and attempting to lead them astray. To withstand his schemes, one must remain steadfast in faith and seek God's grace for strength. God, in His sovereignty, granted humanity free will, and though He allowed satan to test Job, He commanded that Job's life be spared. Satan's persecution can be relentless, but faith and trust in God are the ultimate

shield. Only through unwavering belief can one withstand the enemy's attacks.

Consider the times you have been falsely accused or misjudged, satan thrives on deception, but God remains the righteous defender of His people. I have personally endured false accusations and deceit, even regarding matters I know absolutely nothing about—tragically, from those closest to me. When satan recognizes that you serve God in truth, he will not hesitate to use even your loved ones as instruments of his schemes. Instead of seeking the truth, they may readily embrace lies, swayed by deception rather than investigation. Child of God do not be deceived—the heart of man can be deeply wicked, as even God Himself declared in Jeremiah 17:9 - *“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?”*

Therefore, stand firm in faith and pray without ceasing, lest you be overtaken by the cunning and relentless tactics of the enemy. In steadfast prayer and unwavering trust in God, you will find strength, discernment, and ultimate victory over darkness. May God grant you the spirit of discernment. Amen.

Job 2:2 says, “And the LORD said to satan, “Where have you come from?” Satan answered the LORD, “From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it.””

Job's wife and friends could not understand the depth of Job's faith in God. Similarly, your own family or friends may ridicule you for your unwavering belief, urging you to abandon your faith by pointing to you the worldly success of others. They might ask why you remain devoted to a God who, in their eyes, seems indifferent to your struggles. Beware! Recognize the deception—this is satan using those closest to you to weaken your faith and turn you away from God. The devil lures humans with enticing promises of instant prosperity, deceiving them into believing that success will come effortlessly if they follow the ways of the world. But what he cunningly conceals are the hidden costs—an irreversible price that robs them of the grace essential for salvation. The deceiver, satan, never reveals the fine print, the devastating consequences that unfold when one strays down an ungodly path. Behind every tempting shortcut lies a trap, one designed to distance the soul from God's eternal truth. Only through discernment, faith, and steadfast devotion can one resist the deception and walk the righteous path toward true fulfillment.

God's ways are beyond human understanding. He sees all, knows all, and desires that His children seek Him earnestly in all things. He is merciful and will never allow satan to tempt you beyond what you can withstand. Stand firm in faith in God through Jesus, knowing that whatever you ask in Jesus' name, God will grant you, so that His

glory may be revealed through the Son. As John 14:13 declares,

“And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”

Hold fast to your faith—God is faithful, and His promises never fail.

Countless atrocities are committed worldwide in the pursuit of wealth, with some even resorting to the horrific act of harvesting human organs for profit. Reflect on this: God created humanity in His own image. By taking the life of another and desecrating their body, you not only inflict unimaginable harm but also grieve the Holy Spirit and wound the heart of God. The breath you extinguish is the very breath God gave to bring life into mankind. Do you not realize that such an act is an unforgivable sin?

Innocent children are brutally murdered for their organs, and those who abduct and sell these victims to perpetrators are equally complicit in this heinous crime. These actions are a grave violation of God’s creation and a betrayal of the sanctity of life He has entrusted to humanity. Let this serve as a call to reflect deeply on the sanctity of life and the consequences of such evil deeds. God’s forgiveness is boundless for *those who genuinely repent*. However, the Bible mentions one sin that is considered

unforgivable: blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. In Matthew 12:31-32, Jesus says, *“Every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.”* This refers to a deliberate and persistent rejection of the Holy Spirit’s work and conviction, essentially hardening one’s heart against God’s grace. That said, God’s mercy is immense, and He desires for everyone to turn to Him in repentance. No matter how far someone feels they’ve strayed, His arms remain open to those who seek forgiveness with a sincere heart.

What is the essence of the Holy Spirit?

The essence of the Holy Spirit is divine presence, guidance, and transformation. The Holy Spirit, as part of the Trinity, embodies God’s active power, dwelling within believers to lead them in truth, convict hearts, and strengthen faith. Ultimately, the Holy Spirit is God’s presence actively working in the lives of those who believe—purifying, guiding, strengthening, and transforming them into the likeness of Christ.

Here are some insights about the Holy Spirit of God.

The Spirit as a Guide: The Holy Spirit illuminates the path of righteousness, providing wisdom and discernment to those who seek God’s will. He teaches, corrects, and leads believers closer to God.

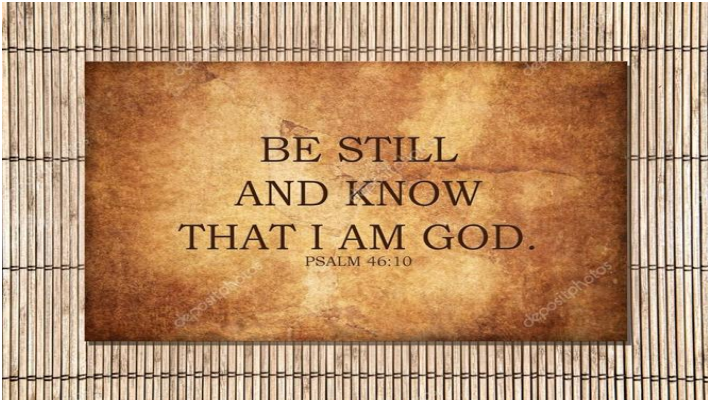
2. Source of Strength and Comfort: In moments of weakness or despair, the Holy Spirit serves as a comforter, offering peace beyond human understanding. He reassures, uplifts, and provides divine strength to endure trials.

3. The Spirit of Transformation: Through the Holy Spirit, lives are renewed. He convicts the heart, leading individuals toward repentance, shaping their character to reflect Christ's love and holiness.

4. The Presence of God Within: Unlike the physical presence of Jesus on earth, the Holy Spirit resides within believers, ensuring they are never alone. He empowers them to live a life pleasing to God, offering supernatural gifts for edification and service.

5. The Connection Between Heaven and Earth: The Holy Spirit intercedes, praying on behalf of believers with groanings too deep for words (Romans 8:26). He enables divine communication, ensuring that every cry, struggle, and praise reaches the heart of God.

Keith Getty and Stuart Townend composed the hymn *In Christ Alone*, conveying the profound hope that believers should place in Christ, our unwavering cornerstone.



In Christ Alone ©

In Christ alone, my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Til on that cross as Jesus died,

The wrath of God was satisfied
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the pow'r of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand
'Til He returns or calls me home
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

The true believer in God is promised eternal life with Christ who conquered death when he resurrected from the grave on the third day. Jesus Christ descended into Hades

on those days to battle with death, conquer death and the devil, and arose in victory on the third day like He said He would. The same way will the true worshippers of God be raised from the graves when Christ returns to take us home to the Father as He promised. Those believers still living on His return will be caught up in the skies to meet Him because Jesus Christ is coming back the same way the witnesses saw him ascend into heaven. God is not a liar. He is not man that He should lie. See Luke 24: 50-53

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God. Amen.”

Then in Acts Chapter 1:10-11 as the disciples watched the ascension of Jesus:

“They were looking intently up into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven.”

Jesus met with his disciples after the resurrection from the grave and until his ascension up to heaven, all witnessed by many people including the angels! The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave has continued to be a mystery to many people blinded by satan's deceit. These people have postulated several failed theories to dispute the truth in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The plan of redemption and the resurrection from the dead had existed from the time of creation. The holy prophets of God had prophesied the death and resurrection of the savior even before Christ was born into the world as a baby.

Jesus repeatedly foretold His suffering, death, and resurrection on the third day, yet His disciples struggled to grasp the significance of His words. Psalm 16:10 declares, *“For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.”* This prophetic verse affirms that although Christ willingly laid down His life, His body would not remain in the grave to decay—it would remain untouched by corruption. He descended into hell to defeat death in preparation for His return to take the true believers home to His heavenly kingdom where in due time there will be no death, no pain, and no suffering. In Matthew 12:40 Jesus said,

“For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so, shall the Son of man

be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

In his sermon *The Resurrection of Jesus Christ in Bible Prophecy*, Don Perkins emphasized that satan, recognizing the transformative power of the resurrection, seeks to undermine it through deception—stirring doubts among scholars and unbelievers alike. Similarly, Henry Morris, Ph.D., underscores the miraculous nature of Christ’s triumph over death, declaring:

“Death is our greatest enemy, and it has conquered all men but Christ. No man is wise enough to outwit death, wealthy enough to purchase freedom from it, or strong enough to vanquish it. The grave always claims victory, and every person eventually returns to the dust.”

Yet, Jesus Christ defied death itself—returning from Hades, resurrecting His own body in an immortal state, and emerging from the tomb, alive forevermore. Dr. Morris describes this as *“the greatest of all miracles since the creation itself, achievable only if Jesus truly is God, as He claimed to be.”* The resurrection stands as the ultimate testimony of Jesus Christ’s divine authority, ensuring that all who believe in Him can share in His eternal promise.

Jesus appeared to the disciples several times (12 times) in the flesh after His resurrection. In Mark 16:14

“Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.”

Jesus appeared before a multitude of 500 people so that the unbelievers would not claim that the disciples lied. 1 Corinthians 15: 5-6

“And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remains unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.”

When Thomas doubted Jesus’ resurrection, Jesus appeared to him and showed him the pierced hands in John 20: 27-28

“Then saith He to Thomas, reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, “My Lord and my God.”

Like Thomas, some people struggle to believe without tangible proof. They seek evidence before placing their trust in something unseen. However, we must be cautious when it comes to faith. As 2 Corinthians 5:7 reminds us, *“For we walk by faith, not by sight.”* True faith requires unwavering trust in God and His Word, even when visible confirmation is absent.

Doubt weakens our spiritual foundation, leaving room for the enemy to sow fear and discouragement. Jesus emphasized the power of faith in Matthew 17:20, saying,

“Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, if ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.”

Even the smallest amount of faith holds incredible power—capable of overcoming obstacles and transforming lives.

When we as Christians wholeheartedly trust God, we unlock the limitless possibilities that come with faith, resisting doubt and standing firm against the enemy’s schemes. Doubting makes our faith waver, and nothing can be accomplished. Having faith in God (Mark 11:22), leads to our salvation (Luke 7:50). We must surrender to God’s will. Dr. Erwin W. Lutzer of the Moody Church 2004

declared in “Come And See Jesus”, *“If we are open to the Spirit’s leading, we will be changed by the same power Jesus displayed in His ministry on our planet.”*

It is never too late to make a change and take a stand for Jesus Christ. As long as a person has breath and life, it is never too late. Jesus is always ready to receive and forgive the repentant heart. Earl Nightingale wrote,

“It’s never too late, for with a purpose, a worthy goal and a motivation to reach those upper layers on the pyramid, a person can travel further in a few years than he might otherwise travel in a lifetime”

The parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11–32 is a testament to the importance of repentance and forgiveness. The prodigal son returns home, repentant to his father. He is forgiven and given a warm welcome into his father’s house. This is the same passion, even greater, that God has for a lost soul who is willing to come back into the family of God. You may have spent 75% of your lifetime in sin and waywardness, God is ever ready to welcome you home if you sincerely repent from all your sins and seek His forgiveness. One of the condemned thieves on the cross with Jesus received salvation moments before he died, as Jesus promised him a place in the kingdom of heaven that same day. The thief made it at the last minute!

Surrender your will to God and allow Him to take charge of your life. When we were created by God, He gave every humankind freewill to make choices in life. This is the reason why some people assume that their choices are enough. When you recognize that you are spiritually weak and your choices in life do not cut it, then the wisest thing to do is to surrender to the giver of freewill which is God through Jesus Christ. Call upon Him and He will guide you and show you the way. He is ever present in your life, but you need to open the door of your heart and invite Him in. Then let God do the work of forgiveness and redemption without your doubts and interferences. Trust Him and follow His commands. Apostle Paul (Saul) is a good example of a “late comer” in the family of God, yet he was not late. Saul persecuted Christians and turned them to the Jewish authorities for imprisonment, torture and likely killed. In God’s kingdom, it is never too late except after the trumpet sounds at the end of time, or when you die without repentance from sin and surrendering your life to Jesus. Paul turned out to be the most passionate of all the Apostles for the salvation of the Gentiles. In 1 Corinthians 15:9-10 Paul writes,

“For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God, I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder

than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.”

Acts 2:1-13 powerfully demonstrates the faithfulness of God and Jesus Christ. Before returning to the Father, Jesus promised His disciples that He would send the Comforter—the Holy Spirit—to guide, strengthen, and reassure believers. Jesus understood the frailty of the human heart: when signs are absent, doubt often creeps in. That is why, even today, the Holy Spirit, sent by God through Jesus Christ, remains present on earth, offering protection, comfort, and divine guidance, especially in times of tribulation.

God’s love for His people is unwavering. He safeguards those who believe and trust Him while extending grace to sinners who have yet to repent, giving them the opportunity to return to Him. No sin is too great for His mercy—He is always ready to welcome a repentant heart into His fold. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost was a pivotal moment, marking the fulfillment of Christ’s promise. He ensured that unbelievers were present so they could witness this divine manifestation firsthand.

Satan, however, continuously works to sow doubt and distort the truth of God’s Word. Just as he sought to discredit Jesus Christ’s resurrection, he tirelessly twists

reality to mislead mankind. He dispatches his dark forces across the earth, masquerading as figures of influence—intellectuals, scholars, and experts—convincing vulnerable minds under the guise of knowledge. Science itself, though a tool for discovery, can be manipulated when truth is obscured by deception.

This leads to deeper questions: What truly defines science? Where does its foundation lie? How does satan exploit the unseen truths within nature for his own agenda? Witchcraft, sorcery, and other forms of spiritual deception operate through tactics of manipulation and deceit. As seen in Matthew 28:1-15, Satan strategically warps reality, turning hearts away from God's truth. It is crucial to seek wisdom and discernment in the Word of God, guarding against deception and standing firm in faith. Christianity is often presented in a straightforward manner, yet embracing faith calls for the heart of a child—simple, trusting, and open. Intellectuals may struggle to grasp this truth because they position themselves on a plane that complicates, rather than clarifies, the profound simplicity of the ultimate reality of the universe.

Some philosophical thoughts of child-like faith serve as a counterpoint to cynicism and disillusionment. It suggests that embracing simplicity and trust, rather than skepticism, can lead to a more fulfilling and meaningful engagement with existence. Child-like faith often

emphasizes trust, dependency, and relationality, which can extend to how individuals view their place in the world. It encourages an ethical stance of reliance on others, communal connection, and an existential view that embraces life with curiosity and awe. The idea of child-like faith may provoke a critique of over-intellectualism, where excessive analysis or skepticism can distance individuals from fundamental truths. This tension raises questions about the balance between intellectual pursuits and the need for a simple, trusting approach to life and the divine.

Come, see the place where the Lord lay...

On the morning after the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James visited Jesus' tomb. Suddenly, a great earthquake shook the ground as an angel descended from heaven, rolled away the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was dazzling, causing the guards to tremble in fear and collapse as if dead. The angel reassured the women, telling them that Jesus had risen as He had foretold. He instructed them to inform the disciples that Jesus had gone ahead to Galilee, where they would see Him. Filled with both awe and joy, the women hurried to deliver the message. On their way, Jesus Himself appeared to them, greeting them with love. They fell at His feet and worshipped Him. Jesus comforted them, telling them not to fear but to spread the news to His brethren.

Certain guards at the sepulchre recounted the extraordinary events they had witnessed to the chief priests. In response, the priests, along with the elders, schemed to conceal the truth. They bribed the soldiers, directing them to spread the false claim that Jesus' disciples had stolen His body during the night. This fabrication gained widespread traction and endured among the people. Even today, such deception persists—revealing the cunning and manipulative nature of the father of lies (satan).

The lies meant to distort the truth only serve to further affirm the authenticity of Jesus Christ's resurrection. Humanity often overestimates its ability to outsmart the Creator of the universe. Take the Coronavirus pandemic as an example, many failed to see its correlation to the end-time prophecies outlined in the Book of Revelation. It's devastating toll on human life, the unprecedented death rates, and the crumbling of global economies have fueled numerous conspiracy theories, including those involving 5G technology. While some of these theories may contain elements of truth, we must never forget satan's relentless presence. He works tirelessly to deceive, sow doubt, and undermine the supremacy of God and His Word. Satan may manipulate events to mimic prophecy, leading many astray and robbing them of salvation.

Brethren, this is spiritual warfare, and wisdom calls us to align ourselves with God. The end times are drawing near, and Jesus Christ's return is imminent. No matter the challenges brought forth by the enemy, strive to secure your eternity with Christ. A word to the wise: choose wisdom! During Pentecost in Jerusalem, it was narrated in the book of Acts of the Apostles how some unbelievers dismissed the miraculous events as mere drunkenness. Be vigilant, and do not harden your heart to the truth. Seek understanding through prayer, asking God—the source of all wisdom—for clarity and guidance. Though Satan is the ruler of this world, God has given you the power to overcome him through Jesus Christ. The truth of the Holy Bible endures forever; it is your unshakable foundation. On the day of Pentecost, people from many different nations heard their own languages being spoken by the people in Jerusalem. Robby Gallaty (2023 p.122) in showcasing the power of God, contrasted the event in Acts 2:1-11 with Genesis 11 at the tower of Babel. He noted that the sin of Babel was that God's people wanted their names to be known, a self-serving act. But at Pentecost, God's name was exalted. God's power in the Holy Spirit is not about confusion, but about clarity and unity.

Not all spiritual leaders speak the truth. Some pastors, bishops, and even churches are tools of Satan, spreading confusion and falsehoods. Search the scriptures for truth and pray for a spirit of discernment. Satan's

rebellion against God extends even into God's sanctuaries, where false prophets sow discord. The Bible contains multiple warnings about false prophets—those who claim to speak for God but lead people astray with deception and false teachings. Jesus warned people in Matthew 7:15-16

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits."

Jesus cautions believers to discern false prophets by their actions, not just their words. If their teachings contradict God's truth or bear bad fruit, they are not of God.
2 Peter 2:1

"But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies."

Peter warns that false teachers will introduce dangerous doctrines, often in subtle ways, leading many away from the faith.

1 John 4:1"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; for many false prophets have gone out into the world."

This verse emphasizes the importance of spiritual discernment. Not everyone who speaks of God is truly sent by Him, so believers must compare teachings with God's Word.

Jeremiah 23:16 "Thus says the Lord of hosts: Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord."

God condemns false prophets who deceive people with messages based on personal desires rather than divine truth.

Matthew 24:24 says,

"For false Christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect."

Jesus warns that in the last days, powerful false prophets will arise, even performing miracles, to deceive and mislead people—including those who are strong in faith.

- Stay rooted in scripture to compare teachings with God's Word.

- Pray for discernment, seeking guidance through the Holy Spirit.
- Look at the fruits of a person's ministry, is it leading people to righteousness or personal gain?
- Trust in God's wisdom rather than human persuasion.

False prophets can be persuasive, but God equips His people with the tools to recognize deception and stand firm in truth.

The devil uses distractions, even children, to disrupt church worship. Christians must teach their children to honor God's house and show reverence to God during church worship. Intercede for your children always and before attending church. Keep distractions like cell phones away, as even good things can be twisted and used for evil purposes.

Satan's rebellion is not new. In the 20th century, he used Hitler to bring suffering, destruction, and death to the Jewish people—God's chosen people. Hitler hated the black race as well, and the annihilation of the black race was among his agenda. Millions of Jews were detained, tortured, and killed, including in ghettos like Lodz in Poland. This was a direct attack on God's people, even though many Jews themselves had turned away from God,

as they did in the Old Testament books after being delivered from bondage in Egypt. Despite all, God remains faithful to His own. God promised to bless and multiply the Jewish people, and God fulfilled that promise. Their material success is evident worldwide, though their spiritual blessings await their return to Him. The same God still fulfills His promises to the Spiritual Israel today redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ on the cross at Calvary.

No one can thwart God's plan for His creation. He will curse those who harm His people, whether they are Jews by birth or Gentiles redeemed through the blood of Jesus Christ. Today, satan attempts to repeat history, spreading rebellion and distorting truth in plain sight. Look around and see the signs. Truth is being twisted, and many feel powerless. Watch and pray, for the time is near. Acts 4:1-11 is a reminder to believers in Jesus Christ to stand firm in faith and seek God's wisdom in all things. Verses 1-4 reads:

“The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the

next day. But many who heard the message believed; so, the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand”.

Then Peter, of one the Apostles stepped in to explain the meaning and source of the signs and occurrences to the multitude. Many souls were converted on that day and they became witnesses of the fulfilment of one of Jesus Christ’s promises to the apostles recorded in the book of Luke 24: 44-53

God has given us the grace, power and wisdom to overcome these experiences. Spend time to study your bible. You will find new knowledge every day. In Matthew 7: 7-8 it is written, (always remind satan with the phrase “it is written” when you confront him),

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

- Matthew 28:18-20 reveals that Jesus Christ holds the power to accomplish all things in heaven and on earth. He has conquered death, humanity’s greatest adversary, and possesses the power to transform lives. When He speaks, listen closely—He will never fail those who seek Him. Faithful and

unwavering, God has granted us access to His throne of grace through the name of Jesus Christ. Believe in His Word, for Jesus Himself is the living Word of God. God’s promises are eternal, and He will move “mountains” on your behalf.

- Avoid relying on earthly wisdom, which often interferes with God’s divine plans. Surrender fully to His guidance and follow His path. Learn to recognize God’s still small voice—a tone that is calm, silent, and peaceful. Practice attuning your ear to this voice, praying for His grace to help you discern it. Hold it in your heart and distinguish it from the noise of the world. Though satan may try to imitate, his voice cannot replicate the pure peace that comes from God.
- Always seek wisdom through prayer and establish a private place in your home to commune with God—a sanctuary free from distractions. Set aside your phone, as it is often used as a tool to divert your focus from God and the Holy Spirit.
- While technology can be a positive resource, remember that Satan can manipulate even good things to steer your attention away from time spent with God.

- Satan works through humanity to wage rebellion against God—that is his ultimate mission. Do not allow yourself to be used as a tool in his deceitful schemes. He is a manipulator, a deceiver, and a liar. His goal is to turn hearts away from the truth, but you must stand firm in your faith in God and reject satan’s falsehoods.

The words of the Psalmist in *Psalm 119:90-91* declare,

“Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures. Your laws endure to this day, for all things serve you.”

God's faithfulness endures throughout all time. Consider how long-ago God established the universe—His Word remains unchanged, and the earth continues to stand as a testament to His eternal authority. Worship the Creator of all things, for we are His servants, whether satan the devil accepts it or not.

As *Psalm 119:89* affirms, *“Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.”*

Jesus Christ confirmed this truth in *Matthew 28:18-20*:

“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be upon you as you reflect on these words. Amen.

The Secret Place

I come into your presence

At the secret place, O Lord Most High

With a contrite heart I kneel at your feet

At the secret place, O Lord I come.

Chorus: Come to my secret place, And commune with me

With sacrifice of praise, I know your faith is my faith.

I seek your face and pardon

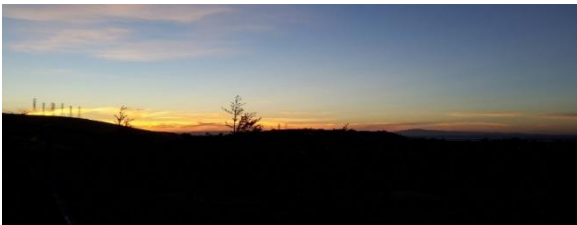
At the secret place, O Lord Most High

Unworthy, sinful, O cleanse me Father,

Let me rise from your feet justified.

Chorus: Come...

From: Songs_of_Redemption by Debo Richards.



CHAPTER 2

PRAYERS

Ecclesiastes 12:13 “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”

What is prayer?

James Montgomery stated that *“prayer is the soul’s sincere desire, uttered or unexpressed; the motion of a hidden fire that trembles in the breast.”*

A contemporary definition of prayer is, a deeply personal and spiritual practice that involves communicating with God. It's a way to express gratitude, seek guidance, confess sins, share concerns, or simply connect with the divine presence. Prayer for many is both an act of faith and a means of nurturing their relationship with God.

Prayer is not confined to any specific method; it can be spoken aloud, whispered, or even silent. It can be done individually in solitude or collectively with others. Regardless of the form, prayer often brings peace, strength, and clarity to those who engage in it sincerely. Prayer can take the form of worship and praise in reverence to God’s greatness. It can be in the form of thanksgiving, petition and intercession. Confession of sins and plea for forgiveness are forms of prayer.

What are the true desires of your heart and soul, and how do you pursue them? While careful planning, discipline, and hard work are undeniably important in striving for your aspirations, life often defies expectation. Even those who follow the "right" path may face unexpected hardships. Why does this happen?

Many fail to recognize the essential role of God's grace. The fallen angel Lucifer - cast out of heaven for his rebellion against God - continues his war against humanity. Though banished, his power endures, and he uses it to deceive, attack, and mislead God's creation. His aim is to turn souls away from God, enticing them to join his rebellion.

One of satan's strategies is to sow suffering, manifesting as pain, sickness, failure, stagnation, hatred, or even death, to instill doubt in God's ability to rescue and bless His children. When desires remain unfulfilled, doubt often creeps in, tempting people to seek worldly solutions from sources that come at great cost. Tragically, this leads some to question the freely offered grace of God, fully paid by the blood of Jesus Christ.

In many developing nations today, economic instability and the betrayal of leaders against their citizens have plunged countless people into abject poverty. The absence of basic life amenities has driven individuals to desperate measures, including involvement in demonism

and satanic practices. Acts of kidnapping, murder, and the harvesting of human organs for profit have become disturbingly prevalent. Wickedness and the erosion of human compassion have gripped the world, painting a stark and troubling picture of society's moral decline.

There is still hope for the lost souls of the earth. Jesus Christ is your only hope. To those who have been drawn into acts of darkness, whether through desperation, deception, or misguided ambition, know this: the path you are on leads only to destruction, both for yourself and for others. The acts of wickedness, such as kidnappings, murders, and the harvesting of human organs, are not only a betrayal of humanity but also a rejection of the love and grace of God. These actions may seem to offer temporary gain, but they come at the cost of your soul and eternal peace.

Understand that the suffering and poverty you face are not the work of God but the schemes of satan, who seeks to deceive and destroy. He thrives on chaos and uses it to turn people away from the truth. But understand that you are not beyond redemption. God's love is greater than any sin, and His grace is freely available to all who turn to Him with a repentant heart. Jesus Christ offers a way out—a path of hope, healing, and restoration. He conquered death and the forces of darkness so that you might have life and have it abundantly. No matter how far you have strayed away

from the love of God, His arms are open to receive you. Reject the lies of satan and embrace the truth of God's Word. Seek His forgiveness, and you will find it. Surrender your life to Him, and He will transform you into ways you cannot imagine.

You are not alone in this battle. God's love is a light that can pierce even the darkest of places. Turn away from the path of destruction and step into the light of His grace. Choose life, choose love, and choose the eternal peace that only God can provide. The time to change is now. Let His love guide you back to the truth. Jesus has already paid the ultimate price for your sins. You do not need to bargain or seek false promises elsewhere. Believe in Him, trust Him with your prayers, and surrender your needs to His wisdom. He alone knows what is truly good for you. Ask Him and you will receive. (Matthew 7: 7-8) Sever your relationship with satan now! Jesus is ready and willing to forgive you and restore you. Here are some prayers you can use and tailor them to your situation.

- ❖ **Prayer of Repentance and Surrender:** *Heavenly Father, I come before You with a heavy heart, acknowledging my sins and the ways I have strayed from Your path. I ask for Your forgiveness and mercy. Cleanse me and renew my spirit, Lord. I surrender my life to You—take control and guide me in Your truth. Teach me to walk in Your ways and*

lead me to Your everlasting peace. In Jesus' name, Amen. You must be sincere. God cannot be deceived!

❖ **Prayer for Strength to Resist Temptation:** *Father God, I ask for Your strength and protection. I am weak and often fall into the traps of sin and deception. Help me to resist the lies of the enemy and stay grounded in Your Word. Grant me wisdom to discern truth from deceit, and courage to stand firm in my faith. Thank You for being my refuge and strength, Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen. You must be ready to surrender to God's will. Fast and pray with all sincerity! God will not be deceived!*

❖ **Prayer for a Renewed Heart:** *Dear God, I am tired of carrying the burden of sin and emptiness. Renew my heart and fill me with Your peace. Transform my desires so that they align with Your will. Help me to live according to Your purpose and find joy in Your presence. Teach me to love You and walk faithfully with You every day. Amen. Seek out a bible teaching church, submit yourself to God and His service as you grow in the wisdom of God. Remember, it takes time. Trust God.*

God's heart is moved when you sing songs of praises and worship to Him. Here are some songs to start with. The following very popular Hymnal has been by various

writers. Read through the stanzas as a poem then sing the song if you know it. In the latter part of the poem, you will read a great testimony of a person delivered by God's grace from sin, infirmities, and death. The Grace of God will set you free if you believe and faithfully trust God. No matter how grievous your sins could be, God is ever ready to forgive you and welcome you. Satan will surely accuse you and remind you that you are a sinner and that God will never forgive you. He will quote Bible verses to deceive you and misrepresent the nature of God to you. Always remember that Satan is a liar. He does not care about you in any way. Trust God, taste God and see. Now read these lines below.

O For A Thousand Songs To Sing

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing
 My great Redeemer's praise,
 The glories of my God and King,
 The triumphs of His grace.
2. My gracious Master and my God,
 Assist me to proclaim,
 To spread through all the earth abroad,
 The honors of Thy name.
3. Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
 That bids our sorrows cease;

'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

4. His love my heart has captive made,
His captive would I be,
For He was bound, and scourged and died,
My captive soul to free.
5. He breaks the power of canceled sin,
He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood availed for me.
6. So now Thy blessed Name I love,
Thy will would e'er be mine.
Had I a thousand hearts to give,
My Lord, they all were Thine!

This song is a testimony given by a soul who found the love of God. He shared his experience through this song that you may know that God can do the same for you, even more, depending on your faith. God knows who you are. He wants you to come to Him with a faithful, repentant, and broken heart. Trust in Him and Believe in Him, for your faith can move mountains of problems.

Mark 11:23-24

“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.”

Luke 18:1

“And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;”

2 Timothy 1:7

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

Do you truly know who God is?

To cultivate a meaningful relationship with God, you must seek to understand His nature, His love, and His desires for His people. He is worthy of being loved and worshipped in spirit and in truth. Before we ever turned our hearts toward Him, He had already loved us, calling us into communion with Himself. Yet, sin blinded and deafened humans, preventing us from seeing and hearing God’s call for us unto Himself.

To walk in close relationship with God, we must recognize who He is, understand His ways, and embrace His divine will. Pour out your heart to God, the one true friend who will never betray you, no matter what.

What does God desire from this relationship?

How can we nurture and sustain the relationship?

Building a meaningful relationship with God is a deeply personal journey that involves faith, intentionality, and a desire to draw closer to Him. Consider the following among others:

Seek Him Through Prayer: Regular communication with God is essential. Speak to Him openly about your thoughts, desires, struggles, and gratitude. Prayer is your direct line to God, allowing you to build trust and intimacy.

Matthew 6:33 reads: *"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well"*.

Engage With Scripture: Read and meditate on the Bible, as it is God's Word and the foundation for

understanding His character, His promises, and His will for your life.

"If anyone lacks wisdom, let him ask of God"
- James 1:5.

This verse encourages believers to seek wisdom from God when they lack understanding or guidance. The verse emphasizes that God is generous and will give wisdom to those who ask without doubting. Reflect on its teachings and let them guide your daily actions. Listen for God's still small voice as you read His word, He will enlighten you.

Worship and Praise: Show gratitude and reverence for God by worshiping Him with your words, actions, and lifestyle. A heart of praise deepens your connection and reminds you of His greatness. Psalm 150 is a universal call to praise God.

"Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in His mighty heavens! Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His excellent greatness! Praise Him with trumpet sound; praise Him with flute and harp! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord."

Obedience to His Will: Building a relationship with God involves surrendering your life to His plans. Trust His guidance and follow His commandments, even when the path may seem challenging. Obedience to God's commands brings blessings and elevation.

Deuteronomy 28:1.

“And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth”.

Spend Quiet Time With God: Create moments of stillness and solitude to be in His presence. Listen to His "still small voice," and allow yourself to be attuned to His spirit. Read the Bible and learn about God.

Surround Yourself With True Believers: Fellowship with others who share your faith can encourage spiritual growth. Participating in a community of believers offers support, accountability, and collective worship.

Practice Faith in Daily Life: Let your actions reflect your relationship with God, help others, live with integrity, and show kindness and compassion. Demonstrate God's love through your life.

Trust His Grace: No relationship with God is perfect because human beings are imperfect. Trust in His grace and forgiveness as you navigate your faith journey.

Psalm 103, a psalm of David, offers a profound glimpse into God's nature and His compassionate care for humanity. God's love is unfailing, His mercy unending, and His desire is for all to draw near Him with faith and obedience. Psalm 103 beautifully illustrates God's boundless mercy, emphasizing His willingness to forgive sins and bring healing to His people. In today's world, suffering and disease remain prevalent, with many illnesses, such as cancer, still lacking a cure despite relentless research efforts. These hardships often lead to questions about why such suffering exists.

According to biblical teachings, satan seeks to inflict pain and suffering upon humanity while shifting blame onto God for the limitations of human knowledge. Yet, scripture reassures believers that God has the power to redeem and protect those who place their trust in Him. While trials may come, faith in God offers security from ultimate destruction.

2 Chronicles 7:14 serves as a profound reminder of the vital roles humility, prayer, and repentance play in the lives of God's people. This verse calls believers to turn away from wickedness, seek God's presence, and humble

themselves before Him. True humility means acknowledging one's faults and setting aside pride and to sincerely ask for God's forgiveness. Those who wholeheartedly seek God and embrace repentance open the door to restoration, healing, and the outpouring of God's divine grace.

In his meditation on Psalm 105 titled *Hope: What Does It Mean to Seek the Lord?* (August 19, 2009), John Piper explored the essence of seeking God. He highlights that seeking the Lord fundamentally means seeking His presence. The Hebrew word often translated as "presence" literally means "face," symbolizing direct and intimate access to God. To seek His face is to pursue communion with Him, drawing near, experiencing His closeness, and being transformed by His presence. This Hebraic understanding underscores that seeking God is not merely an intellectual exercise but a deep, relational, and heartfelt journey.

Seeking the Lord can profoundly shape daily life by fostering a sense of peace, guidance, and purpose. When individuals actively seek God's presence, they become more attuned to His wisdom, allowing faith to influence their thoughts, decisions, and actions. Here are some ways this practice can impact on daily life:

- Life is full of challenges, but seeking the Lord through prayers provides comfort and resilience in moments of struggle. His presence reminds believers that they are not alone. God gives us strength in difficult times. Through prayer and reflection, those who seek God can gain clarity and discernment, making choices rooted in faith rather than fear or uncertainty. Recognizing God's presence leads to a more thankful outlook, shifting focus away from negativity and fostering appreciation for blessings both big and small.
- A consistent pursuit of God's presence encourages humility, kindness, patience, and self-control, influencing how one interacts with others, and helps to transform our character.
- Seeking the Lord strengthens the understanding that life has deeper meaning beyond material success, guiding individuals toward spiritual fulfillment. By intentionally drawing near to God, believers experience His love, peace, and direction in ways that shape their daily thoughts and interactions
- God's face- the brightness of his personal character, is hidden behind the curtain of our carnal desires. This condition is always ready to overtake us. That is why we are told to "seek his presence continually." God calls us to enjoy continual consciousness of his supreme greatness and beauty and worth.

This happens through “seeking.” Continual seeking.

But what does that mean practically? Both the Old and New Testaments say it is a “setting of the mind and heart” on God. It is the conscious fixing or focusing of our mind’s attention and our heart’s affection on God.

God’s presence is both constant and something believers must actively seek. In one sense, His omnipresence ensures that He is always near sustaining and governing all creation. Additionally, through His covenant, He remains ever faithful to His children, working all things for their good, as affirmed in Matthew 28:20:

“Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

However, the Bible also emphasizes the need to *seek the Lord continually*, acknowledging that there are moments when His presence feels distant due to human neglect, distraction, or a lack of trust. Spiritual awareness requires intentional effort, turning hearts and minds toward Him in worship, prayer, and repentance.

Throughout history, adversity has led people to seek God in a profound way. The COVID-19 pandemic, for instance, prompted many to cry out for mercy and healing, reminding humanity of its dependence on divine grace. Worship and praise can arise naturally from the depths of

the human heart, as all people have an innate ability to honor God. Yet, pride and arrogance often prevent individuals from embracing this call - the exact spirit that cost Lucifer the devil the joy of the kingdom of heaven.

In many parts of the world, greed and corruption have deeply affected societies. Even in times of crisis, such as the pandemic, some leaders prioritized personal gain over the welfare of their people, they were hoarding resources meant for the vulnerable. This behavior reflects a broader issue where governance is seen as an opportunity for power rather than service. Many African and developing nations struggle with such challenges, as promises made to the people often go unfulfilled. Ultimately, the contrast between seeking God and following selfish ambitions underscores a fundamental choice: embracing divine truth or succumbing to worldly corruption. Seeking His presence not only transforms individual lives but can also inspire societies to act with justice, compassion, and integrity.

When we direct our hearts toward God, we begin to reflect His divine nature. Compassion fills our lives, drawing us closer to our fellow human beings. Greed and selfishness are cast aside as we live under His mercy and guidance. We are moved to care for the poor, the needy, the children, the elderly, and the widows and orphans, those who are especially vulnerable in times of crisis. Let us

remember that the omniscient God sees all. When we oppress others, He watches. When we cheat or embezzle resources meant for the welfare of citizens, He watches. God's justice is unwavering, and His reward for the wicked will come in His perfect timing. If you find yourself guilty of these actions, take this opportunity to repent before God's wrath visits you. The Creator's heart grieves for the oppression of His children, especially the weak and vulnerable ones.

John Piper goes on to teach that "This setting of the mind is the opposite of mental coasting. It is a conscious choice to direct the heart toward God." Piper noted that Paul prayed for the church in 2 Thessalonians 3:5 "*May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.*" He stated that it is a conscious effort on our part, but that effort to seek God is a gift from God. We seek God in our prayers and meditations. We must set a quiet time away from all distractions to be in harmony with God. God speaks to us in quietness rather than in chaos or chaotic situations. You cannot hear His still small voice in chaotic environments. God is not lost when we seek Him, John Piper argues. God is always there because He is omnipotent and omniscient. "We do not make this mental and emotional effort to seek God because he is lost. That's why we would seek a coin or a sheep. But God is not lost. Nevertheless, there is always something through which or around which we must go to meet Him consciously. This

going through or around is what seeking is. He is often hidden. Veiled. We must go through mediators and around obstacles.”

Jesus Christ is our mediator. The sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary opened the way for humanity to reach God through His sinless Son, Jesus. When the veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom, it symbolized this profound truth: access to God was now made possible through Jesus Christ. This act carries immense significance. In the natural world, a veil or covering would typically tear from the bottom up, but this veil, the one that shielded the Holy of Holies, where the Ark of the Covenant was kept, was torn from top to bottom. This sacred space was once accessible only to the high priest, but at the event of Jesus’ crucifixion, God’s own hand tore the veil.

This divine act marked the completion of Jesus Christ’s mission for the salvation and redemption of mankind. By tearing the veil, God revealed that Jesus, the Lamb of God, had opened the way to His presence through His ultimate sacrifice. No longer must we rely on mortal intermediaries to approach God; through Jesus Christ, our mediator, the immortal one, we now have direct access to the throne of grace. His sacrifice was the utmost act of love, given to all mankind.

In John 14:6-7 Jesus Christ revealed this truth in His own words,

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

God’s children no longer require earthly priests or rituals to access Him. Through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross, the price for redemption was fully paid. The shedding of His blood became the ultimate offering, granting direct access to God for all who believe.

Salvation is not earned by human effort but received through faith in God the Father, who sent His Son into the world. Jesus bore the weight of sin, suffering death on the cross. Yet, because He is God, sinless and victorious, He triumphed over death and satan. As He foretold, He rose on the third day, proving His divine power.

Many witnessed His resurrection and ascension into Heaven, where He now reigns at the right hand of God, continually interceding for those who trust in Him. His resurrection not only sealed the victory over sin but reaffirmed the hope of eternal life for believers

In Hebrews 10:19-22 Apostle Paul concludes:

“Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.”

In verse 28 Paul noted that there will be no more sacrifice for redemption of humankind until Jesus Christ returns as He promised. He is coming back as a warrior with the angelic army, no more like a baby in a manger with all humility. He is coming as the King and ruler of the new kingdom of heaven.

John Piper writes:

“The heavens are telling the glory of God. So, we can seek him through that. God reveals Himself in his Word. So, we can seek him through that. He shows Himself to us in the evidence of grace in other people. So, we can seek him through that. The seeking is the conscious effort to get through the natural

means to God Himself, to constantly set our minds toward God in all our experiences, to direct our minds and hearts toward him through the means of His revelation. This is what seeking God means.”

There are countless obstacles that may hinder us from clearly seeing God and basking in the light of His presence. Yet it is our responsibility to take intentional steps to overcome these barriers and draw closer to Him. Discipline is key, we must actively flee from spiritually dulling activities and sins, which often act as distractions or stumbling blocks. At times, these obstacles may come from our loved ones or friends. Will you set aside these hindrances and seek God’s face above all else?

Always remember, satan wields the power to use the people and circumstances in our lives to create barriers that prevent us from serving and worshipping God. Do not allow yourself to become a tool in the devil’s rebellion against the Creator. The judgment of satan is sealed and settled in heaven. Why align with him when God’s grace offers you redemption and the chance to serve Him and follow His will through Jesus Christ? Lucifer, satan, played no role in your creation or in giving you life. Instead, he rebelled and envied you for being the apple of God’s eye, chosen to be created in God’s likeness and image. Embrace this divine privilege and turn away from the paths of

darkness, so you may walk in the fullness of God's light and purpose.

What does it mean to be created in the likeness of God?

While humanity is made in the likeness of God, it's important to remember that this likeness does not mean equality with God. Humans share in His attributes in a limited sense, but God's holiness, omnipotence, and omniscience are beyond human reach. Instead, being in His likeness is a reminder of humanity's purpose- to live in relationship with Him and reflect His glory in the world. Being created in the likeness of God signifies the unique relationship between God and humans and highlights the special role that people hold in creation.

Humans possess a spiritual dimension, allowing them to connect with God, seek Him, and worship Him. This is a fundamental part of what sets humanity apart from the rest of creation. The ability to distinguish between right and wrong, as well as a sense of justice, compassion, and love. Humans are called to emulate God's goodness and live according to His righteous standards. The likeness of God is also seen in the intellect and creativity of humankind, the capacity for reasoning, problem-solving, creating, and imagining mirrors God's role as the Creator. Humans are

designed for relationships as well, with God and with one another. This reflects God's triune nature and His love.

Being in God's likeness involves being entrusted with responsibility over the earth. In Genesis, God grants humans stewardship over His creation, calling them to care for and nurture the world. Every human life is sacred and valuable because it bears the imprint of God's image. This underlines the dignity and equality of all people.

Turn away from every spiritually dulling activity, as they are tools satan uses to obstruct your path to God's presence in your life. Instead, seek the Lord through prayer, and confidently bring before Him your concerns, fears, and requests. Praise Him and worship Him, reflecting on His majesty and the abundant grace He has poured into your life. Remember, the veil has been torn, granting you direct access to God through Jesus Christ, our immortal intercessor. He continually pleads on our behalf before God, seated at the right hand of the Father. And the Father, in His infinite love, listens to Him and hears Him.

Isaiah 55:6 says, "*Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near.*" This tells you that the time is limited. The end of time is near as you can see in the global events encountered daily. Jesus Christ is coming back as a warrior to destroy the wicked and those who refuse to worship God through Him. He has been

bestowed the power by the Father. He will come back in all His glory the same way He was taken to into heaven and will be seen by all. His kingdom is ready for the saints who serve God in truth and in spirit.



Acts 1:9-11 *“And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, “Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”* He will return soon. Be prepared to receive Him and be caught up with Him but you must first believe.

Job 8:5 *“Seek God and plead with the Almighty for mercy...”* You need God’s grace to overcome the wiles of the devil. For the devil is more powerful than you and I. John Piper stated that *“Seeking involves calling and pleading. O Lord, open my eyes. O Lord pull back the curtain of my own blindness. Lord, have mercy and reveal yourself. I long to see your face. The great obstacle to seeking the Lord is pride. In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him (Psalm 10:4). Therefore, humility is essential to seeking the Lord.”*

Satan tries to lure you into committing the same sin that threw him out of heaven, the sin of pride, self-service, and ambition. He became consumed with his own beauty, wisdom, and power, and sought to rival God's authority and glory. This act of rebellion is often described as a deliberate rejection of God's supremacy and an attempt to usurp God’s throne. This is how he gets you to rebel against God. He compared himself to God. Ron Rhodes explains in his writings that the sin of Lucifer (the devil or satan) originated from a self - generated pride *“Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor.”* Ezekiel 28:17”. *“Lucifer apparently became so impressed with his own beauty, intelligence, power, and position that he began to desire for himself the honor and glory that belonged to God alone. The sin that corrupted Lucifer was self-generated pride.”*

We see these satanic characteristics and pride in our rulers, kings, and presidents in the modern world. God is watching them and, in His time, when the time is ripe by His will, He surely will judge these evil rulers. He is the same God of yesterday, today, and forever. The scriptures reveal to us what God did to oppressive regimes. Jeremiah 30:16 it is written, *“Therefore all they that devour thee shall be devoured; and all thine adversaries, every one of them, shall go into captivity; and they that spoil thee shall be a spoil, and all that prey upon thee will I give for a prey.”*

God is just and merciful, overflowing with love. He is not the dictator that satan falsely portrays Him to be in the hearts of unbelievers. Satan, the father of lies, has misled humanity time and time again. God, in His wisdom, granted all humankind, including Lucifer, the freedom of will to choose between serving God or serving self. Anything outside the will of God is sin, plain and simple. Disobedience is living contrary to God’s will.

God created a perfect world for His creatures. A world without pain, suffering, illness, or death. These blessings were contingent on humanity’s obedience to His divine plan. However, when one listens to and acts according to satan’s will, they commit the sin of disobedience, and the consequence is death. How then could this make God a dictator? He has given free will; humanity's refusal to abide by life’s rules rests on them.

Even natural laws demonstrate this principle. For example, to avoid infection, one must practice cleanliness. If someone neglects basic hygiene and lives a filthy lifestyle, they inevitably become vulnerable to microorganisms in their environment. In the same way, obeying God's laws preserves spiritual health and life.

Pride is the sin that caused Lucifer to fall, and it manifests in humanity when individuals believe their own wisdom and knowledge are sufficient to navigate life without God. This arrogance reveals itself in a heart removed from God's plan. When reading scripture in your quest to know God, humble yourself before Him and ask for wisdom and understanding. Likewise, as you plan your day or pursue a project, seek the Lord's guidance and help through prayer. It pleases God when His children seek Him for direction, trusting in His faithfulness.

When writing this *Book of Prayers*, I sought the Lord for inspiration and guidance, asking Him to use my hands to deliver His message to His people. What He accomplished through me is beyond imagination and something only I can testify to. Truly, the Lord is good and faithful to those who trust Him. Take the same step of faith in your own life.

Matthew 7:7-11 states,

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!”

Pastor John Piper concludes with these words, *“The great promise to those who seek the Lord is that he will be found. “If you seek him, he will be found by you” (1 Chronicles 28:9). And when he is found, there is a great reward. “Whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him” (Hebrews 11:6). God himself is our greatest reward. And when we have him, we have everything. Therefore, “Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!”*”

Pastor John Piper revealed from the scriptures, seven benefits you can get from serving God and seeking His face.

- ❖ We'll fully understand justice Proverbs 28:5 *“Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the LORD understand it fully.”*
- ❖ We don't need to worry about everything everyone worries about. Matthew 6:31-33 *“So, do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”*
- ❖ God's ears will be attentive to our prayers 1 Peter 3:12 *“For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”*
- ❖ We'll be delivered from our fears. Psalm 34:4 *“I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.”*
- ❖ We'll Live! Amos 5:4 *“This is what the LORD says to the house of Israel: Seek me and live.”*
- ❖ We will be strengthened. 2 Chronicles 16:9 *“For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him”.*

- ❖ God will be found. 1 Chronicles 28:9 *“And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever.”*

Jeremiah 29:13 *“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”*

Seek the Lord in prayers and believe that you will receive.
Do not be a doubting Thomas.

Mark 11:24 *“Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”*



CHAPTER 3

HOW TO PRAY

When we pray, we must first acknowledge that we are sinners and humbly come to the presence of God. Romans 3:23-25 states, *“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;”*

First acknowledge and confess your sins before God. Ask for His forgiveness through Jesus Christ our intercessor. Thank God for His mercies and protection over your life, and the Grace of the gift of life. The dead have no chance to worship God, because it is over with them in this life. That is why you must receive God into your life now before it is too late. Reflect on these lyrics:

How deep the Father’s love for us

1. How deep the Father’s love for us,
How vast beyond all measures
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.

How great the pain of searing loss;
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

2. Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life;
I know that it is finished.

3. I will not boast in anything;
No gifts, no power, no wisdom,
But I will boast in Jesus Christ;
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer,
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.

Stuart Townend © 1995 Kingsway's Thankyou
Music/MCPS

We have the assurance of God's words in Isaiah
40:31

“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

Isaiah 41:10

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand”

These are not empty words like words of men. God is not a liar. He does not lie because He is not a man. The book of Numbers 23:19 declares this, *“God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill”*

God loves you, and He is always ready, day or night with open arms to receive you. He never sleeps, His ears are open to hear your requests and concerns. He knows your pains and concerns, but you must submit to Him and ask. Don't forget Matthew 7:7-8. *“Ask and it shall be given to you...”*

Dear Lord God, Almighty, I humbly approach Your throne of mercy today, seeking Your face and asking for Your forgiveness for all my sins, both known and

unknown to me. I am unworthy to stand before You because of my sins, but I trust in the cleansing power of the blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ, shed on the cross at Calvary. I believe that Jesus Christ was made flesh and came into this world for my sake. He was crucified, died on the cross, and bore all my sins for my redemption. On the third day, as He promised, He rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. Now, He sits at Your right hand, pleading and interceding on my behalf whenever I call on Your name through Him.

Dear Almighty God, I pour out my heart before You and confess my sins. I ask for Your mercy and forgiveness. (At this point, speak to God from your heart and confess your sins honestly and sincerely.)

Gracious Father, grant me the strength and grace to overcome these sins and never return to them again. I surrender my life entirely to You and ask for Your mercy, in Jesus' name.

I worship and thank You, Lord, for Your unwavering protection over my life, even while I was a sinner. Today, I receive You as my Lord and personal Savior for the rest of my life. Send Your Holy Spirit to dwell in me and guide me along the path I should follow. I need You, Lord, because without You, I am lost in this world.

Heavenly Father, I know that satan is furious now that I have given my life to You, but I trust in Your power to overcome him and his agents. I ask for Your constant protection over me every moment of my life. I place my life and plans in Your hands and humbly ask for Your help, Lord God, in Jesus' name. I stand on Your promise in Isaiah 41:10: *“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”*

Lord, I decree that I will daily receive Your help. Through Your strength, I will overcome discouragement, depression, and fear, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord Almighty, I receive Your grace and power to move forward in all my plans through prayer, as I faithfully listen to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, in Jesus' mighty name, Amen.

Your Word declares in 1 Peter 5:8-9: *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”* In the name of Jesus Christ, I stand on this truth and overcome every enemy roaring and working against me and my plans.

Speak to God sincerely and from your heart. Share your desires, your worries, and your hopes with Him as you would with a trusted friend. God is your friend, and He cares for you more deeply than you can even care for yourself. He understands your struggles and will grant you time to grow in faith and build a closer relationship with Him. Take the first step today and embrace His grace. Study the Bible daily to know Him better. Do not procrastinate! Jesus is coming soon, and no one knows the day or hour, not even Jesus Himself. As Matthew 24:36 says, *“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”* Only God the Father knows. Do not be deceived by those who claim to know the time. Instead, seek the truth yourself by reading and meditating on God’s Word.

Conclude your prayer with songs of worship and praise. Music can elevate your spirit and deepen your connection with God. You can find inspiring Christian worship songs for free on platforms like YouTube or purchase hymnals from Christian bookstores. May God grant you the grace to truly know Him as He is. Amen. Always remember, no man has the power to change your destiny. Only God holds that authority. Trust in Him faithfully and ask Him to align your life with His perfect plan. Reflect on these passages to strengthen your faith: Ephesians 2:4-10, 2 Thessalonians 3:3-6, and James 4:8 and 10. If you don’t own a Bible, consider using free online

resources, such as the King James Version, New International Version (NIV), or visit a Christian bookstore to purchase one. Open your heart to His Word and let its truth transform your life.

Day by day by Karolina W. Sandell - Berg 1865.

*Day by day, and with each passing moment,
Strength, I find, to meet my trials here.
Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment,
I've no cause for worry or for fear.
He Whose heart is kind beyond all measure
Gives unto each day what He deems best—
Lovingly, its part of pain and pleasure,
Mingling toil with peace and rest.*

*Every day, the Lord Himself is near me
With a special mercy for each hour;
All my cares He fain would bear, and cheer
me,
He Whose Name is Counselor and Pow'r.
The protection of His child and treasure
Is a charge that on Himself He laid;
"As thy days, thy strength shall be in
measure,"
This the pledge to me He made.*

*Help me then in every tribulation
So to trust Thy promises, O Lord,
That I lose not faith's sweet consolation
Offered me within Thy holy Word.
Help me, Lord, when toil and trouble meeting,
E'er to take, as from a father's hand,
One by one, the days, the moments fleeting,
Till I reach the promised land.*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8w3w1-_dyq8

GOD'S UNFAILING PROMISES

Each day, the news confronts us with accounts of pain, suffering, murders, and unusual events happening more frequently than ever before. Questions inevitably arise among family, friends, and the wider community: “*Where is God in all of this?*” For some, these tragedies lead to doubts about God’s existence altogether. Atheists find fertile ground to strengthen their arguments and propose alternative theories about God and religion. Convincing the younger generation or those who have strayed from faith of the truth and grace of God becomes increasingly challenging. But we are assured that with God, all things are possible.

These doubts and fears are the schemes of satan, who works to mislead humanity and turn their hearts away from worshipping God Almighty. This is why steadfastness in the Word of God is so vital. By knowing God and His promises, you gain insight into His plans for you. The Bible warns us of the devil's tactics, preparing us to stand firm and resist his deception. In times of trouble, and indeed at all times, you must know whom to turn to for refuge and strength.

When you give your life to God through Jesus Christ, satan will inevitably seek to deceive you into thinking you've made the wrong choice. He whispers lies, questioning your faith and mocking your decision. He may point to others, like "Joe," who seem to live carefree lives filled with wealth, success, and worldly pleasures. Satan will try to convince you that the life of a Christian is burdensome and far less rewarding. But what truly defines a "good life"? Is it fleeting material gains, or is it eternal peace, fulfillment, and communion with God? Take a moment to reflect on this.

Stay strong and anchored in your faith, resisting the devil's deceitful narratives. The grace and promises of God far outweigh the transient allure of worldly pleasures.

Many Christians have been misled in these ways because they yielded to the pressures of the devil who used

friends or family members to do the convincing and misleading. When friend and family forsake you because of your faith in God, it is the devil at work. No human being can love or care more for you than God Almighty who is your creator and sustainer. The devil even attempted to tempt the Son of God, believing that Jesus, having taken on human form, would be unable to resist temptation. In doing so, satan sought to discredit both God and Jesus Christ, aiming to prove that humanity, in its moments of greatest vulnerability and trial, could not withstand his temptations. By this, the devil intended to undermine the possibility of redemption for humankind. But praise God, Jesus overcame the temptation and resisted the devil by standing firm on the Scriptures and trusting in God's promises to humankind.

The devil tries your faith in God by causing pain and suffering in the life of the Christian.

Jim Rohn, an entrepreneur, author, and motivational speaker notes, "If you really want to do something, you will find a way. If you don't, you'll find an excuse." Many people offer various excuses for not pursuing a relationship with God or engaging in the things of God. However, having a genuine relationship with God is not simply about attending church. Church attendance does not automatically equate to being a Christian, as there are millions of individuals who attend church but fail to truly

embody Christ in their lives. The purpose of going to church is to fellowship with other believers and worship God, a fundamental reason for our creation.

Christianity, at its core, is about your personal relationship with God from the depths of your heart. How do you reflect Christ within you? How do you engage with God? Meditate on these questions.

What does God require from us? He commands us to love Him with all our hearts, trust Him, serve Him with truth and spirit, pursue holiness, obey His will, and honor Him. It's important to reflect on where we may fall short in these areas.

Consider the biblical examples of those who failed to honor God. Today, we live in a world where materialism has corrupted the hearts of many. People commit evil deeds for the sake of money, choosing to trust their own efforts and reject dependence on God. Yet, God has promised to supply all our needs. He can do so because, as Psalm 24 declares, *“The earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof.”*

Let us examine ourselves and turn away from the temptations of this world, placing our faith in God, who is faithful to meet our every need.

Many people struggle to understand how to cultivate a relationship with God. Instead, they rely on their fragile,

unreliable abilities. When their efforts fail to meet their needs, they often turn to evil, following the schemes of their master, satan, the deceiver and liar.

The Holy Spirit inspires me to reflect on betrayal. At some point, we have all been betrayed by someone we trusted, someone we may have loved. With trust and love come expectations, an implicit belief that those we care for will honor that relationship. Similarly, when God created humankind in love, He had expectations for His creation: to love Him, serve Him, and honor Him. God generously gave humankind everything they could ever desire on this earth. Whatever you can think of, He provided it. In return, all He asked for was obedience and worship. That's it!

Many times, people complain about God, and what God has not done for them. People often turn to faith in moments of need, hoping for divine intervention or blessings, and when those expectations aren't met, frustration or doubt can set in. It's a very human reaction—when life doesn't go the way we want, we look for answers, and sometimes that means questioning God.

But if we shift our perspective, there's another side to the conversation. Instead of focusing on what hasn't been given, what about recognizing what has? The air we breathe, the moments of joy we experience, the people we love, are gifts often overlooked in the shadow of unfulfilled desires. There's also the idea that challenges and hardships

serve a purpose, shaping resilience, wisdom, and even strengthening faith.

This thought invites a deeper discussion: Is faith about expecting God to fulfill our wants, or is it about learning to trust the journey, even when it doesn't make sense in the moment? Maybe faith isn't about control, but about surrender, not in weakness, but in acceptance of a greater purpose beyond immediate understanding. We must learn to count our blessings every day! Counting blessings is a powerful mindset shift, one that invites gratitude even in the midst of life's challenges. Too often, people focus on what's missing, what's difficult, or what they wish would change, but stepping back and recognizing what they already have can be transformative.

Think about the simple, everyday moments that might go unnoticed: the warmth of the sun, the laughter of a loved one, the kindness of a stranger, the ability to learn and grow, the grace to wake up in the morning from sleep. Many went to bed but never woke up on this earth. Even struggles can hold hidden blessings, lessons learned, inner strength developed, perspectives widened. There's something profound about realizing that life itself, with all its ups and downs, is a gift.

When betrayal strikes, it's easy to dwell on the hurt, the injustice, the disappointment. But beneath the sting, there may be a hidden blessing, one that only time and faith

will reveal. What if that broken connection was God's way of protecting you from future pain, a path you weren't meant to walk? God, in His infinite wisdom, sees beyond the present moment. He knows what lies ahead, and He clears the way, even when we don't understand.

Instead of mourning what was lost, consider what was gained. Perhaps the betrayal removed someone who was never meant to journey with you further. Maybe it freed you from a relationship that would have brought harm, stagnation, or heartache. And perhaps, in this refining process, God is leading you to something greater, stronger relationships, deeper wisdom, and an unshakable trust in Him. This explains why we must seek God's counsel before taking any step or make decisions in life.

So, in all things, give thanks. Even in moments of heartbreak, God is working. Even when the road feels uncertain, He sees what you cannot see. Faith is trusting that, one day, you'll look back and realize that what felt like an ending was actually a beginning.

Gratitude isn't about denying hardships; rather, it's about choosing to focus on the goodness that exists alongside them. It cultivates resilience, contentment, and even joy. When we shift from "I don't have enough" to "I already have so much," something inside us changes. We become more present, more appreciative, and more aware of the richness of life.

Now, let's unpack obedience. What does it truly mean, and what does it require? Obedience involves:

- **Submission to God's Will:** Aligning your actions, thoughts, and choices with His divine plan rather than your own desires.
- **Trust in His Guidance:** Relying on His wisdom and knowing that His way is always best.
- **Respect for His Commandments:** Living according to His Word and demonstrating faithfulness to His teachings.
- **Faithful Action:** Expressing obedience not just in words but through the actions of your daily life.

True obedience is a reflection of love and reverence for God, a commitment to walk in His ways no matter the challenges or distractions.

In Exodus 20:1-6 God our creator declared His laws and expectations from humans. He jealously loves humans.

What does God mean by "other gods"? How do we unintentionally deify material things? Consider this: addiction to cell phones, constant texting, tweeting, and overindulgence in social media. These obsessions have caused immense harm, lives lost to texting while driving, and tragedies like abductions and murders linked to online interactions. What about corporate greed and conspiracies,

drug trafficking, adultery, and the prevalence of sexual immorality, permissiveness, and promiscuity? Bowing to vanity, worldly possessions, greed, gluttony, and discontentment, these are the very things God warns us about.

In verse 5, we see a reminder of God's stance toward disobedience. He is a jealous God, not out of malice, but because His love for us is profound and unyielding. Only someone deeply in love experiences jealousy for the object of their affection. God, in His infinite love, created us for a relationship with Him. He desires our devotion, our obedience, and our willingness to do His will. Let us reflect on how we prioritize our lives. Are we placing worldly desires above our love for God? He loves us unconditionally and calls us to return that love through worship and obedience.

One striking example of betrayal against God is found in Eli's story in 1 Samuel 2:26-36. Despite his position as high priest, Eli honored his sons, Hophni and Phinehas, above God, tolerating the grievous atrocities they committed in the land. This serves as a solemn warning to us all: be mindful of how we raise our children. Ensuring they grow up with reverence for God and accountability is a responsibility we cannot afford to neglect.

Another example was Gehazi, Elisha's servant who was addicted to greed and discontentment in 2 Kings 5:26-

36. For his greed, Elisha cursed Gehazi and transferred the plague of Naaman to him and his descendants forever. *“Is it a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and olive yards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants? The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed forever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.”*

This reflection on Gehazi’s story is a powerful reminder of the consequences of greed and the importance of integrity in leadership and service. His fate serves as a cautionary tale for those who exploit their positions of power at the expense of others. The idea that nothing lasts forever, especially unchecked corruption and selfishness, is deeply resonant. The theme of accountability runs throughout many teachings, urging people to act with fairness and compassion. Whether in biblical times or today, those who abuse their influence eventually face consequences, whether directly or through shifts in society that expose wrongdoing.

King Belshazzar in Daniel 5: 1-31 dishonored God by using sacred temple vessels for a drunken feast. The mysterious writing on the wall foretold his downfall, and the prophecy was fulfilled that very night. His story serves as a stark reminder that arrogance and irreverence in leadership have consequences. Leadership carries great

responsibility and failing to act justly can lead to serious repercussions.

Fear God, obey Him, and worship Him in truth and spirit. Reflect on the consequences of breaking God's first commandment, as demonstrated in these examples above. Greed and deceit clouded the judgment of Gehazi, Elisha's servant, leading him to sin. His actions resulted in a generational curse upon himself and his descendants forever.

God has repeatedly warned humanity about the dire consequences of disobedience and betrayal of the Most High. Let us consider another example. Jesus trusted Judas Iscariot, choosing him as a close companion and friend. Judas shared intimate moments with Jesus, even sitting next to Him at the table. Yet, Judas' betrayal had long been prophesied in Psalm 69:22-28, foretelling the fate of those like him.

*“Let their table become a snare before them:
and that which should have been
for their welfare, let it become a trap.*

*Let their eyes be darkened, that they see not;
and make their loins continually to shake.*

*Pour out thine indignation upon them, and let
thy wrathful anger take hold of them.*

Let their habitation be desolate; and let no one dwell in their tents.

Acts 1: 20, "For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishopric let another take."

This is a powerful reflection on divine justice and God's sovereignty over betrayal. The theme runs deep throughout scripture, and whenever someone turns away from God's commands, He ensures that His purpose continues, often by raising up another who is faithful.

Judas's betrayal of Jesus led to his own downfall, but Jesus' mission remained unchanged, and Matthias was appointed to continue the work. Eli's negligence in honoring God led to the loss of his lineage's priesthood, but Samuel rose as a devoted servant, guiding Israel with wisdom. This is a reminder that betrayal, whether by others or even our own missteps, cannot obstruct God's plan. His will prevails, and He always positions the right people to carry out His purpose. God's purpose is unwavering, and His plans cannot be thwarted by human betrayal. Trust in His sovereignty and remain steadfast in your faith, knowing that He will always fulfill His promises.

In Matthew 28, the soldiers were bribed by the elders to give a false account of what happened to Jesus' body.

These lies, claiming that His body was stolen by His disciples, persist among some groups even to this day. However, God's sovereign hand ensured that these falsehoods did not hinder the spread of the gospel of Jesus' resurrection to all nations, as He had planned. No human scheme can thwart God's purposes, in heaven, on earth, or in your life. For as Scripture declares, *"If God be for us, who can be against us?"* No one.

Even among His disciples, doubt arose regarding the resurrection, as noted in Matthew 28:16-20. Yet, Jesus revealed Himself to them, reassured their faith, and commissioned them to carry the gospel to all nations, demonstrating His unwavering authority and the unstoppable nature of God's plan.

And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying,

"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

Betrayal can be painful, but scripture reminds us that vengeance belongs to the Lord. Rather than carrying the

burden of resentment, we are called to forgive and allow God to handle matters in His perfect way. Judas chose his path and suffered the consequences, just as others who act unjustly will face their own reckoning. Psalms 69 echoes this sentiment, God sees and defends His people. Your role is to remain steadfast, trust in His plan, and release the weight of betrayal through forgiveness - A powerful message of faith and trust in God's justice.

After Judas “who by transgression fell” needed to be replaced, two individuals were chosen Joseph Barsabbas Barsabbas and Matthias Justus. The disciples prayed to “the one who knows the hearts of men” (Acts 1:24), asking for His guidance in choosing the right person. The scriptures were fulfilled, and Matthias was chosen. May this truth resonate in your life as well. God alone knows the hearts of humankind. While outward appearances and human reasoning may be unreliable, His wisdom is flawless. That is why every plan, desire, and decision should be placed before Him in prayer. Trust that when you ask for wisdom, God will answer you and guide your steps toward the right path. Hold fast to faith, knowing that God's direction is sure and His purpose for your life will be fulfilled!

God is forever by your side if you allow Him to be. He will not force His presence on you, as He has given you free will allowing you to choose your path. However, free will comes with responsibility, and every decision you

make carries consequences that shape your journey in life. Have you been betrayed by someone? Have you been abandoned or let down? Stop dwelling on their betrayal or departure. God remains with you no matter your circumstances or challenges. Lift your eyes to the one who can do all things.

No betrayal can stop God's plan for your life. Those who betray you cannot prevent you from reaching your destiny. Look forward to a better tomorrow and surrender your situation to God in prayer. Ask God to send you your own "*Matthias*," the person chosen by Him to stand in place of those who have betrayed you. Matthias was chosen through prayer to the one who knows the hearts of men. Let go of depression and self-doubt. You are not a loser because of betrayal. Your betrayers are the true losers. Remember Judas Iscariot; his actions did not hinder the spread of the gospel to all nations as ordained by God. Similarly, the soldiers' bribes did not stop the message of the resurrection from spreading across the earth.

God will replace everyone who has betrayed you when you cry to Him. O, what a friend we have in Jesus! Sing this song as a declaration of faith and hope. Take everything to the Lord in prayer. Forgive those who have wronged you, just as Christ forgave those who betrayed Him on the cross. The consequences of their actions are for them to bear, as foretold in the scriptures. Those who allow

satan to mislead them will reap the fruits of their deeds. Let God handle the situation; it is not yours to resolve.

Say these prayers and trust Him. May His peace and guidance be with you always.

1. Lord, I humbly ask You to replace every Judas who has departed from my life and ministry.
2. Heavenly Father, please send me my Matthias, a helper far greater than those who left me.
3. Lord, heal me emotionally from the pain caused by those whose departure has hurt me deeply.
4. Holy Spirit, remove every wrong person from my life, family, and ministry this year. Shake them away in Jesus' name. Amen.
5. I declare that I shall not weep, I shall not die, and I shall lack no good thing.
6. Thank You, Lord, for sending my Matthias, a divine replacement for every Judas. I praise You for Your faithfulness.

Philippians 3:13-16 reminds us: "*Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*" May this scripture guide and strengthen your heart. Amen.

A Call to the Corrupt Leaders of the world.

You have stood before the Almighty, guilty of great injustice. Your greed, corruption, and exploitation have inflicted suffering upon the very people you were entrusted to serve. The cries of the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed have reached the ears of the Lord, and their anguish stands as testimony against you. God, the Righteous Judge, will not ignore their suffering, and He will bring justice in His perfect time.

Nigeria! Nigeria! During the COVID-19 pandemic, you turned a global crisis into a means for personal gain, hoarding resources meant for the vulnerable. You betrayed trust, ignoring the desperate pleas of those in need. Do not be deceived, God sees every act of wickedness, every scheme, and every betrayal. If you dismiss this message, you invite His judgment upon yourself. No one can escape the justice of the Almighty.

Yet, even now, there is an opportunity to change. Repent while mercy is still within reach. Turn from your wicked ways and make amends for the harm you have caused. Seek forgiveness from God and those you have wronged. The Lord is abundant in grace, but His patience is not infinite. Do not let your pride lead to your destruction.

The time for reckoning is near. Humble yourselves before God, for He is a consuming fire to the wicked but a

refuge to the repentant. Let this be your warning, your call to transformation. The choice is yours, turn to righteousness before it is too late.

A Warning to the Powers That Exploit Africa

The cries of the oppressed have reached the heavens. The suffering of nations weighed down by greed, manipulation, and exploitation has not gone unnoticed. The world powers that fuel conflict, plunder resources, and influence leaders for their own gain are standing on borrowed time. You have sown injustice, and the harvest will come.

For centuries, Africa has been subjected to external control, its wealth taken, its people silenced, its lands ravaged. You have orchestrated wars to destabilize nations, creating division for your own profit. You have corrupted African leaders, turning them into mere pawns in your global schemes, and African leaders, you have betrayed your citizens, your own souls. But justice is not asleep. The voices of the oppressed will rise, and no power can silence them forever.

Know this: every empire built on oppression eventually crumbles. No force can withstand the reckoning of truth. The strength of Africa is greater than you imagine, it is resilient, resourceful, and rich in spirit. Your deception

may thrive for a season, but no corruption lasts forever. History has shown that every oppressor meets his downfall.

You have a choice, to cease your exploitation and stand for justice, or to face the consequences of your actions. COVID-19, global warming, unprecedented earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, are just the beginnings of pestilences unseen. Repent while there is still time. True strength does not come from dominance, but from righteousness. Africa's people will not remain voiceless, and the reckoning will be swift and unrelenting.

The world watches. The oppressed will rise. The truth will prevail.

The eye of God is watching You.

Forever By My Side

Why should I sit and moan
When I have Jesus on my side
I have nothing to fear
When I can call upon his name
Any day, anytime, He
never sleeps
He has promised to keep
watch
Watch over me night and
day!



Why should I sit and
groan
When I have Jesus on my
side
I have no business with sickness or pain
When I can call upon the greater doctor
Who stays on call night and day
He never complains, never retires
My great architect will never leave me cold

Ever present to walk with me
He has my hand in His great hand
Thro' the trials and tribulations
He walks with me
He has the keys to my peace
And the code to my joy
So I can come thro' unscathed

Let the universe rage
With wars and pestilence
And mountains be swallowed up
As long as he holds the key
To my joy, peace, and life
I shall never be moved
I am safe in his hands
-Debo Richards

1. What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!

Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!

2. 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.

3. Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.

4. Blessed Savior, 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.

In the previous segment, we discussed the consequences of disobedience, oppression of the weak, and serving other gods, as revealed in the Holy Bible. God, who is love, loves us deeply and passionately. Because of this great love, He is jealous when we turn away from Him to serve other gods. Humanity was created for the purpose of serving and glorifying Him. When we stray from His path, it grieves Him.

Yet, God's mercy is infinite, and He is always willing to forgive those who return to Him with a contrite and sincere heart. He values genuine repentance and freely extends His grace to believers who are prepared to align their lives with His will. This grace is transformative, it pardons and cleanses us from all sin, for His grace is greater than our sins.

Romans 5:17-21 beautifully illustrates the power of God's grace through Jesus Christ. It reminds us that, through the sacrifice of His Son, we have access to the abundance of grace, redemption, and eternal life. Let this profound truth encourage us to seek Him with humility and faith.

“For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.

Therefore, as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.”

Adam's disobedience placed humanity in danger of eternal condemnation, altering the course of human history and disrupting God's original plan for His beloved creation. The sin of Adam and Eve brought separation between God and humankind, yet God's infinite mercy offered a path to restoration through His grace. By the gift of Jesus Christ, anyone who believes in Him is given a second chance at eternal life, one rooted in obedience to God's commandments and a commitment to serve and worship Him in spirit and truth, as was originally intended.

Jesus is the one true friend we have, and His perfection makes Him unparalleled. He never fails, for He is sinless and steadfast. As our mediator before God the Father, Jesus willingly sacrificed Himself for the

redemption of humankind. Only a perfect friend could endure such suffering and offer such love. This is why we must not place our ultimate trust in human beings, for humans are flawed and may lack self-control. They can be influenced by satan, who seeks to deceive and harm.

Consider the story of William Tyndale, a man devoted to God who undertook the monumental task of translating the Bible from Greek into English. Betrayed by a pretentious friend, he was handed over to authorities intent on silencing him for his beliefs in the forgiveness of sins and for spreading God's Word to the masses. Convicted of heresy, he was imprisoned and publicly executed, burned alive at the stake on October 6, 1536. Yet, his death was not in vain. Today, because of Tyndale's work, we can read the English Bible freely, no longer solely dependent on Bishops who may misinterpret God's Word. Tyndale's legacy endures, while the names of those who betrayed and persecuted him fade into obscurity. There is no doubt that Tyndale's unwavering faith and sacrifice will be rewarded, as Christ welcomes him into His Kingdom with a crown of life.

Seek God's face in all your endeavors. Approach Him with sincerity, seeking Him in spirit and truth, not with a half-hearted commitment, as many Christians are prone to do in modern times. Too often, those who profess Christianity embrace worldly and vain lifestyles, practicing

a form of “convenience Christianity.” When faced with trials, they compromise, yielding to the world’s demands to preserve their comfort. Their focus shifts to miracles and material wealth, rather than seeking the salvation of their souls. Such individuals lack both knowledge of God and a genuine relationship with Him.

True Christianity demands unwavering devotion. God’s instructions to His followers in Jeremiah 6:16 remain timeless: *“Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.”* May we reflect on this call to walk faithfully with God, staying steadfast in our pursuit of His presence and His will.

“The old path” refers to the way of the cross; a path grounded in Christ’s truth. It is the good way, as ordained by God, where true rest for the soul can be found. Only Jehovah God can calm a troubled soul, just as Jesus stilled the raging storm in Mark 4:35-39, bringing perfect peace. In times of trouble, God sees us. When we call upon His name through Jesus Christ, He hears us and grants us peace. He is the ultimate source of peace and the very breath we need to live. When we cry out to Him with sincerity, He extinguishes the destructive flames of the devil in our lives.

The devil continually seeks to destroy the servants of the living God. Therefore, remain vigilant and prayerful. Live a life that is Christ-approved, for your own good. The

COVID-19 pandemic served as a wake-up call for many lukewarm Christians, prompting them to seek God's mercy and draw closer to Him. But let me ask you: do you seek God only in times of trouble? Have you realized that God also desires your praises and worship during good times? Call upon Him always and give thanks for the gift of life and for all the blessings He bestows upon you and all yours.

Reflect on this: when you are asleep, completely unaware and unconscious, anything could happen. Who watches over you in those moments? Is it your alarm clock? Certainly not. It is God who keeps you safe while you rest. Take time to ponder this and always appreciate the Lord, for it is He who faithfully watches over you, day and night.

In Ephesians 6:10-18, Paul urges Christians to put on the full armor of God, equipping themselves for the spiritual battles of life. Let this passage inspire you to stand firm in faith, relying on God's strength and protection as you walk the old path.

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against

the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness... And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”

The spiritual warfare waged by the devil and his cohorts serves as a reminder for Christians to always remain watchful. These battles highlight the importance of being grounded in the Word of God and holding firm to an unshakable faith. It is through God’s grace that victory is assured. When you trust God and His promises, you gain the strength to resist sin, a primary tool the devil uses to attack humanity. This is exactly what he did to Adam and Eve, leading them to disobey God in the garden of peace that defined their lives. The moment sin enters then peace departs, even to this day.

To stand firm against the devil’s schemes, take up the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, the sword of the

Spirit, and pray continually for deliverance. The Christian must always be vigilant and prepared, for the devil's temptations can come at any time and to anyone, including pastors and spiritual leaders. Even Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, was tempted by the devil, but Jesus prevailed and never yielded to the devil's temptations. You can do the same in your life. This is why studying the Bible and committing to memory the verses that equip you for spiritual warfare are so vital. The Word of God is a powerful weapon against the enemy.

Forgiveness is also key in maintaining spiritual health. Forgive those who betray you, keeping your heart free from bitterness and open to divine visitation. Do not seek revenge, leave that to God. Let those who plot evil dig their own grave; do not join them in destroying yourself through vengeance. Remember, harboring bitterness defiles the temple of God, which is your mind and body. God will not dwell in an unclean temple. Refuse to become your own enemy.

As humans, we will always face adversaries directed by the devil to bring pain and chaos into our lives. This is how the devil taunts God, by bringing suffering to His special creation, humans, and attempting to separate them from God the Father. The devil knows how deeply God abhors sin, so commit yourself to prayerfully resist temptation. Fight against bitterness, be forgiving, and free

your heart of anger. Seek God continuously, allowing Him to visit His temple within you every day.

If you have been praying for a long time and feel as though there is no sign of progress, be assured that God hears your prayers. He is in control of time and sees what you cannot. God, in His omniscience, chooses the perfect time for events to unfold. He never forsakes those who genuinely trust Him.

Look to the story of Joseph in Genesis 41 as a testament to God's faithfulness. Betrayed by his own brothers out of jealousy, Joseph endured years of suffering in a foreign land. Yet, God was with him throughout. At the age of 31, Joseph found favor in Pharaoh's eyes and was appointed second in command over all of Egypt. This was the hand of God at work, as Joseph trusted and worshiped Him with his whole heart. When famine struck Israel, Joseph's brothers unknowingly came to Egypt, bowed before him, and begged for food. God's timing fulfilled the prophecy of Joseph's dream. Such miracles and blessings happen in people's lives till this day.

Joseph's story reminds us to trust and wait on God's plan, resisting the urge to run ahead of Him. The devil seeks to convince you that God is too slow, that your prayers will go unanswered, and even to burden you with guilt for past sins, just as he tried with Job. The devil distorts the image of God as a hard-hearted dictator, but this is a lie. Our God

is merciful, kind, forgiving, and patient. He answers prayers at the right time according to His perfect will. God is not limited by time, only humans think that way. God is in absolute control of time and seasons.

Isaiah 29:19-21 states,

“Once more the humble will rejoice in the LORD; the needy will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel. The ruthless will vanish, the mockers will disappear, and all who have an eye for evil will be cut down, those who with a word make someone out to be guilty, who ensnare the defender in court and with false testimony deprive the innocent of justice.

Yes, the terrible one, the devil, and his cohorts, the wicked, shall be brought to shame for your sake. Amen. God will show up for you amidst your troubles. The same God who transformed Joseph’s fortunes suddenly, and the same God who delivered Egypt from a grievous famine through Joseph’s counsel, will turn your life around as well, if you believe in Him and trust Him. He will deliver you from the snares of the fowler (your enemies), as written in Psalm 91:1-6:

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the

Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress...."

God's perfect timing is shown in Matthew 8:24-26, when Jesus calmed the storm at just the right moment. Time and tides are in His hands. Serve Him with your whole heart, trust in Him, and He will never forsake you. To forsake God is to invite hopelessness and become vulnerable to the endless taunting of Satan. However, God is merciful and always ready to forgive the truly repentant sinner. He eagerly offers a second chance to those who seek Him.

Do you love God as He loves you? Do you have faith in His power? Are you committed to resisting secret sins and serving Him in truth and spirit, consistently? Do you faithfully return your tithes to Him with gratitude for His goodness and mercy? If so, prepare for His divine visitation, for He rewards those who honor Him wholeheartedly. He will shield you from the snares of your enemies.

Let's consider your marriage. Marriage is an institution sanctified by God, one that Satan abhors. He tries every trick to destabilize this sacred bond, knowing it reflects God's design for human happiness and continuity. In Exodus 20:14,17, God decreed commandments to sustain marriage, and in Genesis 1:27-29, He established the institution by creating humans in His image and

granting them power and dominion over all creatures on earth. This act of love and trust offended Lucifer, whose pride could not bear to see humanity elevated to such a position. Bent on destroying God's special creation, Satan views marriage as a threat because it leads to procreation and the multiplication of God's beloved children.

Satan introduces discord and unhappiness into marriages, exploiting couples who allow him in. But you can resist his schemes, save your marriage by praying together, seeking God's guidance, and maintaining open communication with one another. Together, you can sustain the happiness God intended marriage to bring, even amidst challenges. May God continue to bless, guide, and protect your life, your family, and your marriage.

“So, God created man in His image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit

of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.”


God commanded man to be fruitful, male and female, and replenish the earth. How can satan sit around and watch humans replenish the earth and then serve and worship God in return. Satan had in his plan to stop this. He had his plan to separate humans from God. He has to deceive and lie to them. He must create chaos into the source where multiplication begins. In the Home. In marriage!

Look out for *Volume 2* of **Book of Prayers for The Institution of Marriage.**

Coming Soon.



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Reference notes

Nostradamus: A French Physician born 1503 and died 1566. Intelligent, born of Jewish descent, studied Medicine and astrology. Later years moved toward occultic meditations and visions which were believed to be the basis of his predictions for the future. His 1555 publication *Les Propheties* contained predictions for the next 2,000 years using quatrains style, and other languages and dialects to obscure their meanings. Quatrains are four-line verses that often contain cryptic and symbolic language. His quatrains were composed in a mix of French, Latin, Provençal, and even invented words, making them difficult to interpret. Most of his predictions were believed by his fans and enthusiasts to have pointed towards wars, doom, plagues, earthquakes, rise of dictators like Hitler, floods, the 21st century bombing of the World Trade Center in New York USA on September 11,2001, and end of the world.

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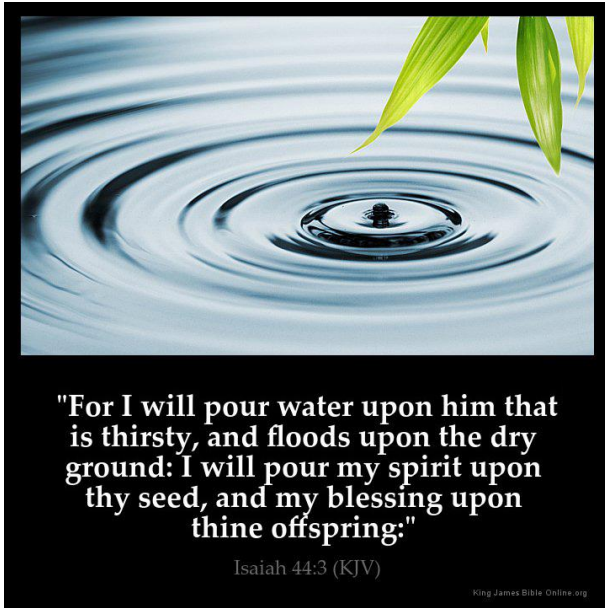
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BOOK OF PRAYERS

DEBO RICHARDS



“And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Acts 2:21 (KJV)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Debo Richards resides with her family in Texas, USA. Inspired to write the Book of Prayers during a grueling illness, Debo, also the author of Songs of Redemption, shares the power of prayer and faith in God. Holding unto the seams of His garment, Jesus Christ did great wonders of healing in her life. The first volume calls to all to trust in God who can do all things.

ABOUT THE BOOK

A book for the family tells about the efficacy of prayer. It also gives assurances of God's faithfulness unto those that love Him. Bible excerpts and verses instills hope to the reader. With God everything is possible. Test Him and see for yourself. May God enlighten you as you read. Debo.

