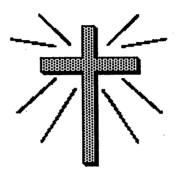


PRAISE and SHARE



CARE with PRAYER

By Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Losier.

Christian Literature and Bible center

Introduction

PRAYER LIFE IS THE CONSTANT HEART BEAT OF THE CHRISTIAN WHO DESIRES TO DO THE WILL OF GOD. Understanding the word of god depends upon our communication with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. This communication will 'enable' every Believer.

"But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin." 1 John 1:7

PRAYER IS A TREASURE IN ITSELF WITH GEAT POTENTIAL, BEYOND ALL IMAGINATION! AS BELIEVERS IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, OUR LIFE STYLE SHOULD BE CONSTANTLY IN READINESS TO TALK WITH GOD WITH PRAISE AND ADORATION, REGARDLESS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

REV. DR. ANDREW J. LOSIER

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit and watching there unto with all perseverance and supplication for all Saints" - EPHESIANS 6:18

PREFACE

Prayer is not just an attempt to relieve inner pressure or stress, but is to be a constant communication, in the spiritual realm with the Creator of heaven and earth. There are many principles involved in contacting the Divine through prayer, but do not consider it a light thing to talk with Almighty God. We will be dealing with many important issues, as we approach our Living God through prayer. The writing of this textbook on prayer is to help Believers to understand the importance of a prayer life, as well as the powerful access that is made available to us through prayer. We as Believers and members of the royal Family of God, have certain duties and established privileges that prepare us for our heavenly home. Through prayer, we are able to talk to God the Father, in the name of God the Son and by the guidance of God the Holy Spirit. These lines of communication must be kept open through a dedicated life, desiring to do the will of God.

The Lord Jesus Christ has made possible this great access into the very Holy of Holies by removing the barrier of sin. In the Old Testament times, the continual animal sacrifice was necessary for communion with God. These animal sacrifices did not remove the sin barrier, but merely covered the sin problem, until God Himself could make atonement for sin through His Eternal Son. "Behold the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world" Jn.1:29b. Since the sin question has been dealt with at Calvary, it is necessary that we take advantage of God's provision and allow God the Holy Spirit to give us the new birth. Once we have been born again, a family conversation becomes possible. We now are able to maintain relationship with our heavenly Father. There will be many aspects necessary to keep this relationship with the Father and we will be dealing with these in this textbook of prayer.

Prayer is essential to the Christian's life, for it provides us with stability in our daily walk with the Lord. "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth; But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from all sin." 1 Jn.1:6-7. Prayer is a marvelous provision which we have during this walk of faith in obedience to God. As we study prayer according to the Word of God, and talk to God the Father based upon the merit of God the Son, we can let our requests be made known to the glory and praise of God. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Phil.4:6-7.

May we always remember, that in order to have access to God the Father, there is but one name that can give us a through passage to heaven, and that is the Lord Jesus Christ. These governmental prayers by religious leaders who avoid the name of Jesus Christ, pray to no avail. That is why it is very important that we understand the principles of prayer to our living God.

FORWARD.

It has been a joy and privilege of my wife Dorothy and I to have had sweet Christian fellowship with many at Hill Street Baptist Church. That fellowship in Christ continues to grow as we see the hand of God reviving the souls of many Believers, as well as the salvation of precious souls. The Lord has blessed us with his servant Rev.Paul E.Garrison, whom he is using as our Pastor. It gave us much joy as we were recognized by him as "Our Missionaries". I have asked Pastor Paul to write the forward to this textbook on prayer.

It is indeed a glorious opportunity to write the forward for this textbook on "Prayer" for two reasons. The first reason is the very subject of the book..."Prayer". We have such a wonderful privilege, through the Lord Jesus Christ, to be able to talk to our Heavenly Father by prayer. One day when we get to heaven, I really believe that we will see all that was at our disposal by prayer and yet we never asked.

Learning to pray is a life long adventure. I am thankful that we have this textbook to help us along that fascinating adventure, as we understand the "why's" and "how's" of prayer.

A warning is probably in order here, because if you will study <u>Praise and Share, with Care through Prayer</u> and study the Scripture and apply, by the power of the Holy Spirit, what you learn, your prayer life will never be the same again. As you see the Biblical examples of prayer, you will be challenged to never go back to a half-hearted prayer life.

The second reason I treasure this opportunity is because of the man who has written this book. Dr. Rev. Andrew J. Losier and his dear wife Dorothy are people of prayer. I have been inspired by the wonderful prayer life of the Losiers. They not only know about prayer, but it is a vital part of their life ...in their total dependence upon God. This textbook has grown out of that daily spiritual exercise in their life. It is part of their love relationship with their Lord.

Sometime back I was preaching a series of sermons on "Prayer". I became so busy in my preparation that I realized I was not practicing what I preached. I thought I could justify my failure, but a loving Heavenly Father brought me quickly to be reminded of my absolute dependency upon Him.

Through his life of missionary service, Dr. Losier, has had experience after experience that has called for his absolute dependency upon the Lord. It was not many months ago that God may have put him through the most severe test. Cancer cells were discovered in his precious wife's body and surgery and other treatments were recommended. Through all of this I observed a man of God, yes having his faith severely tested but turning it over to the Lord in prayer. My faith was strengthened by sharing in that prayer of absolute dependency upon the Lord.

Not only does this book grow out of concern for Christians to pray, but also because Dr. Losier has been a careful student of of the Bible throughout his years in the ministry. He has truly lived out his life verse, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth". 2 Timothy 2:15.

I whole-heartily recommend this wonderful and needed textbook on prayer. My prayer is that through it's pages and through the life experience of it's author that your prayer life will be deepened. And that our precious Lord Jesus, who is worthy of all our praise, might be magnified and adored.

Pastor Rev. Paul E. Garrison.

DEDICATION.

As I grow older and realize that my high calling to gloryland is growing closer, I look back over the many years that the Lord has given me in good health and strength, and thank Almighty God for the grace of our loving Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord has given me a wonderful wife and family, to love, cherish and enjoy as I sought his will through the journey of life. We have gone through lean times and times of abundance. Sorrows and disappointments have come to each of us as well as times of great joy. The Lord has given and the Lord has taken two of our family, namely Catherine Ann and Carol Marie. They are safe in the arms of Jesus. I wish to dedicate this textbook to my Dear wife and precious family. Here is my precious promise to each of them. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" Prov.3:5-6.

Andrew J.Losier

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WITH

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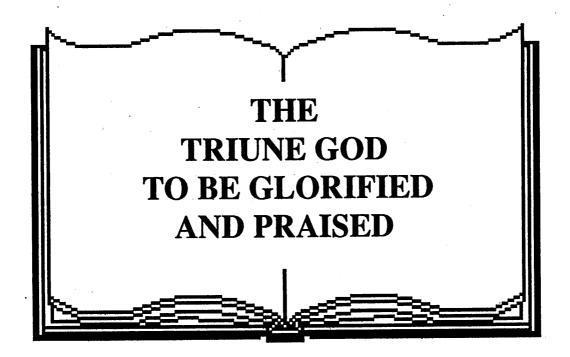
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CHAPTER 1



CHAPTER 1.

THE TRIUNE GOD TO BE GLORIFIED AND PRAISED.

As Believers of the royal family of God, we must remember that we do not approach our Heavenly Father as beggars or poor servants, but rather as members of God's family. Nor do we come to the Father with any self righteousness or special privileges, based upon personal merit. It is impossible to approach God through self attainment. Prayer brings us into the holy presence of God by the merit of his eternal Son. Moses was reminded of this fact as he approached the burning bush. "And the Angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. And Moses said, I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. And he said, Draw not near here: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground. Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God." Exod.3:2-6.

The Disciples, upon recognizing the Lord Jesus Christ as the eternal Son of God, said, "Lord teach us to pray" Lk.11:b. "And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive everyone that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil." Lk.11:2-4. This is a pattern of prayer for the disciples of Christ and contains the rudiments of our approach to God the Father. This prayer portrays the glory and honor and praise due to God the Father. Prayer is an essential element in our daily Christian living. We live and move and have our being in the Lord Jesus Christ, making possible a life of prayer. What makes this access into the very Holy of Holies possible? The Triune Godhead is involved in this privilege that Believers have. Please note that I said "Believers", and this refers to those who have accepted Christ as their personal Saviour, and have been born of God the Holy Spirit. Our prayer communication is directed to God the Father, in the name of God the Son, and the guidance of God the Holy Spirit. The Unbeliever can cry out to God, as the thief on the cross did, and was promised to be with the Lord in Paradise, but other petitions are of no avail until the right relationship with God is established. Note that the thief on the cross recognized that Jesus was to set up a kingdom on earth according to prophecy and he recognized Jesus as Lord.

There are a few things to consider as we talk with God, bringing glory honor and praise to his wonderful name. Let us deal with these, as recorded in the Word of God. I have placed them in three divisions, namely, (1) Guided by the Holy Spirit; (2) With thanksgiving; (3) In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- A. PRAYER BEING GUIDED BY GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT.
- B. PRAYER SHOULD ALWAYS BE MADE WITH THANKSGIVING TO GOD.
- C. PRAYER MADE POSSIBLE TO THE FATHER BY THE SON.

A. PRAYER BEING GUIDED BY GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT.

"But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also give life to your mortal bcdies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba Father. The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are children of God;" Rom.8:11,14-16.

Power in prayer by the Holy Spirit.

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Zech.4:6b. "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit." Rom.15:13. "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and

your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. and, also, upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my Spirit." Joel 2:28-29. "Turn you at my reproof; behold, I will pour out my Spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you." Prov.1:23. (Isa.32:15. Acts 2:15-18.)

Since worship is included in prayer, and God is Spirit and truth, it is essential that those who pray to God the Father must pray in spirit and truth. The Samaritan woman was reminded of this."Ye worship ve know not what. We know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." Jn.4:22-24. The place of worship is not of importance before God, but rather the person. As the Lord Jesus Christ was finishing his earthly ministry, he knew that God the Holy Spirit was necessary to give stability to each Believer. So the Lord said, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." Jn.14:16-17. "But the Comforter, who is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.". Jn.14:26. "Nevertheless, when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth; for he shall not speak of himself, but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me; for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine; therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you." Jn.16:13-15. This marvelous transaction took place at Pentecost, not only providing Believers with a new birth, but also making possible our true worship with God the Father as we are taught the truth of the Bible. God the Holy Spirit is very necessary in our approach to God the Father in prayer. God the Holy Spirit brings glory and honor to God the Son in and through our prayers and witness. (Acts 2:4.)

The far reaching effect of prayer, through the Holy Spirit.

Through prayer, we have a tremendous outreach and influence, deep into the spiritual realm of God, as we are led by the Holy Spirit. May the Word of God speak to us in regard to the dynamic power of prayer that is available to us as Christians. "For whatever things were written in earlier times were written for our learning, that we, through patience and comfort of the scriptures, might have hope." Rom.15:4. "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit." Rom.15:13. God the Holy Spirit causes us to pray as we ought to pray, when we allow him to lead us, since he dwells within us. "But it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit; for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." 1 Cor.2:9-10. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" 1 Cor.3:16. "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Cor.6:19-20. "What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also; I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with understanding also." 1 Cor.14:15. Perhaps our prayer life is uncertain and confusing because we do not wait upon God the Holy Spirit to speak through us in order to glorify God the Father.

Prayer should always be seasoned with praise to God.

Our prayer life should be such that we honor the Father, bringing praise and glory to his name." "Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament, not of the letter, but of the spirit; for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life. But if the ministration of death, written and engraved in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not steadfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance, which glory was to be done away, how shall not the ministration of the Spirit be more glorious? For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory. For even that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious. Seeing then, that we have such a hope, we use great plainness of speech." 2 Cor.3:6-12. When the Disciples wanted Christ to teach them to pray, you note those first words, "Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name". Holy and glorious is the Name of Almighty God! What a joy it is to be able to approach our heavenly Father freely through his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. As we glorify the Lord through God the Holy Spirit we are changed into the same image from glory to glory. "Now the Lord is that Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with

unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2 Cor.3:17-18. This is the privilege that the Lord gives to us as we pray in the Spirit, glorifying the Father. However, there are requirements to be met in such a prayer life. Here are a few important conditions necessary for access before the throne of grace.

- 1. Be born again by God the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor.12:13; Jn.3:3-7; Jn.14:13-17; Jn.16:17;)
- 2. Filled by God the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:2-4; Acts 4:8-31; Acts 9:17; Acts 13:9; Eph.3:19; Eph.5:18.)
- 3. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit. (Eph.4:13.)
- 4. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide and direct you. (Jn.16:13; Rom.8:14;)
- 5. Give the Holy Spirit control of your life. (Gal.5:18: 1 Cor.2:10-11.)
- 6. Obey the Word of God through the Holy Spirit. (1 Pet.1:22.)

As Believers, we have a marvelous access to God the Father through God the Holy Spirit. This new relationship has been made possible because the Son of God was willing to bear our sins in his own body on the cross, making peace available to all. "For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us, having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances, to make in himself of two one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby. And came and preached peace to you who were afar off, and to them that were near. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father." Eph.2:14-18. Our peace and access through prayer to God the Father comes through the provision which Christ has made and by the power of God the Holy Spirit. "And this is his commandment, that we should believe on the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And by this we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit whom he hath given us." 1 Jn.3:23-24.

When our life pattern is in control of God the Holy Spirit, we can come boldly before the throne of grace. "Seeing then, we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest who cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore, come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Heb.4:14-16. "Let your manner of life be without covetousness, and be content with such things as ye have; for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." Heb.13:5-6.

The indwelling of God the Holy Spirit is our comfort and help as we go through this present phase of our lives, as Christians. The battle against the evil forces will continue until the Lord calls us home to glory. Our spiritual armor has been provided as we fight the good fight of faith against the wicked principalities, and powers, the rulers of darkness and spiritual wickedness in high places. (Eph.6:12-18.) The world, the flesh, and the Devil are the enemies of God, and God the Holy Spirit is our constant protection. "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world; and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" 1 Jn.5:4-5. Are you sure of your position in Christ Jesus? "He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself; he that believeth not God hath made him a liar, because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." 1 Jn.5:10-12. Our confidence is in God, who has given us his Word, and guarantees this eternal life by God the Holy Spirit.

Prayer seasoned with thanksgiving.

Regardless of our circumstances or urgent requests to God the Father, a note of praise and thanksgiving is in order to Almighty God our Creator. All that we are or ever shall be comes from the Living God. Prayer is to talk with God who is the author and finisher of all things. God is self sufficient and depends upon nothing to add to or take away. "Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts; praise him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him with the sound of the trumpet; praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and dance; praise him with stringed instruments and flutes. Praise him upon the loud cymbals; praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord." Psalm 150. "I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from mine enemies" Ps.18:3. "For the Lord is great, and he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols; but the Lord made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary." Ps.96:4-6. "Praise ye the Lord: Praise ye the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights. Praise ye him, all his angels; praise ye him, all his hosts. Praise ye him, sun and moon; praise him, all ye stars of light. Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that are above the heavens. Let them praise the name of the Lord; for he commanded, and they were created. He hath also established them forever and ever; he hath made a decree which shall not pass." Ps.148:1-6.

We benefit in our prayer life by knowing God's master plan.

The Word of God is revealing and filled with the works, foretelling of things to come, as well as the promises of God. Who can compare to the mighty power of our Living God? "To whom, then, will ye liken God? Or what likeness will ye compare unto him?" Isa.40:18. Here is what our God can do! "Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and measured out heaven with a span, and measured the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance? Who hath directed the Spirit of the Lord, or being his counselor, hath taught him? With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed to him the way of understanding? Behold the nations are like a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance; behold he taketh up the coasts as a very little thing." Isa.40:12-15. The Word of God through Daniel helps remind us of the supreme character of God, which cannot be compared with the greatest that this world could offer. "Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God forever and ever; for wisdom and might are his. And he changeth the times and the seasons; he removeth kings, and setteth up kings; he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to those who know understanding. He revealeth the deep and secret things; he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him. I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee." Dan.2:19-23a.

The whole Old Testament is filled with praise and thanksgiving to God the Father for his mighty power that was constantly revealed. We as creatures before God, need to be constantly reminded of our helplessness apart from God's help, and cause us to rejoice with thanksgiving before our gracious God, for his grace, through our loving Lord Jesus Christ. We are utterly dependent upon God who has provided so great salvation. With all of the misery and suffering that Job experienced, yet he could say, "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon earth; And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God." Job.19:25-26. "Though he slay me, yet will I trust him;" Job.13:15a. As Believers we all have trials and tribulations to face in this present life, but we bring thanks to the Lord, who, causes us to live above our circumstances. If the Old Testament saints could live above their circumstances, certainly we who by far have the greatest of blessings, should do so. Let us see what the Word of God has for us.

God sends forth his Son in the fullness of time.

The announcement of the birth of Jesus, when the eternal Son of God presents himself as the "Incarnate One", sent from God the Father, gives us a thrilling beginning of the New Testament. "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, an angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were very much afraid. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye

shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among men of good will." Lk.2:8-14. It is also of great interest to read of the adoration and praise from two saints of God, Simeon and Anna. (Lk.2:25-38.) During Christ's earthly ministry, many were richly blessed by the Lord and gave praise to God the Father. At the close of Christ's earthly ministry, as he entered into Jerusalem there was great rejoicing and singing praise unto God. (Matt.21:1-9; Mk.11:1-10; Jn.12:12-19; Lk.19:28-40.) "And when he was come near, even at the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, Saying, Blessed be the King who cometh in the name of the Lord; peace in heaven, and glory in the highest." Lk.19:37-38. This marvelous event was also foretold by God in the Old Testament. "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem; behold, thy King cometh unto thee; he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt, the foal of an ass." Zech.9:9.

Christ's dedication with an eternal purpose.

The prayer of Jesus Christ to the Father is also filled with praise to God the Father in the hour of crucifixion. "These words spoke Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee.............. I have glorified thee on the earth; I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." Jn.17:1 & 4-5. Should there be any doubt in our minds as to the glorification and praise to be offered to God the Father?

Prayer reaches beyond circumstances.

Praising God, with thanksgiving should always be an essential in all of our prayer life, regardless of the circumstances. Let us examine some of the Scriptures dealing with praise and thanks to Almighty God. One of the outstanding references to this is Phil.4:6-7. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." When we are established and well on the road to maturity in Christ we can say. "Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding with thanksgiving". Col.2:7. "Continuing in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving" Col.4:2. It is a joy and privilege to be able to talk to God at all times, and we always have his answer through the precious promises from the Bible. "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Eph.5:19-20. "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." 1 Thess.5:18. When trials and tribulations come upon you, we give thanks to the Lord that he enables us to live above these circumstances.

A prayerful life brings a fruitful life.

The prayer life of Believers is an indication of a fruitful life for the Lord. We glorify and give thanks to God the Father as we maintain fellowship with God the Son, in whom the Father is well pleased. (Matt.3:17.) Fruit bearing is made possible by the right relationship with the Son of God. "I am the vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, no more can ye, except ye abide in me." Jn.15:1-4. We glorify the Son of God as we bear eternal fruit, and likewise praise God the Father. Salvation is not the issue in this passage, but rather, fruit bearing as we continually abide in the Lord. Yes, the Lord does remove Believers if they are no earthly good. This has happened down through the Christian era, and it is called, "The sin unto death". (1 Jn.5:16-17.) Our lives as Christians are meant to be fruitful trees, and not primarily shade trees. As Christ the Creator of heaven and earth fed the multitude, he would pause and give thanks to God the Father. (Jn.6:11 & 23.) If the Creator paused to return thanksgiving to God the Father, how much more do we need to express our thanks to our heavenly Father! God has given to us the privilege of witnessing to others that we might bear eternal fruit to the Lord, and at the same time, express our thanks to God for providing salvation, so rich and so free.

A living sacrifice by prayer.

There are of course, many ways of expressing our thanksgiving to the Father, besides mere words. We put this expression of thanks into action by our giving of our very self to God. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Rom.12:1-2. This presentation of our bodies to the Lord is another important step to be made in expressing our thanks to God the Father. We are not our own but have been bought with a price. "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Cor.6:19-20.

What ever your calling may be, and whatever evangelistic organization you may be serving, you are first of all a servant of the most high God. "Let every man abide in the same calling in which he was called. Art thou called, being a servant? Care not for it; but if thou mayest be made free, use it rather. For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman; likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant. Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servant of men. Brethren, let every man, in whatsoever state he is called, there abide with God" 1 Cor.7:20-24. The work that God gives each of us to do should be done as unto the Lord with thanksgiving. Christ, the eternal Son of God, glorified the Father in a life of obedience, even to death upon the cross, so we should be willing to be obedient unto God, expressing our thanks to him as we travel through this present life. "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world." Jn.17:15-18. Your prayer life becomes meaningless if you are conformed to this world's system and way of life. The Lord has commissioned us to go into all of the world and preach the gospel. This can be made possible in various ways, such as going somewhere, praying and reaching everywhere, and giving to help here and there.

Sacrifice in giving, seasoned with prayer.

The early church faced many problems with much persecution and famine. They were ostracized, becoming as fugitives and in great need. It cost much to become a Christian in the early days. "And the multitude of those that believed were of one heart and of one soul; neither said any of them that any of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus; and great grace was upon them all. Neither was there any among them that lacked; for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, and laid them down at the apostles' feet; and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need." Acts 4:32-35. No one was forced to give up a portion or all that they had, but when ever there was a need, that need was met by the benevolent common fund. God loves a cheerful giver, and never forces anyone to give unwillingly. "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give, not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work." 2 Cor.9:7-8. This is a special service of worship which we all need to practice. The Old Testament Saints brought their tithes and offerings; shall we not do more for our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ? The Lord has promised to provide us with our every need. Paul the apostle, being led by the Holy Spirit wrote,"I can do all things through Christ, who strengtheneth me. Notwithstanding, ye have well done, that ye did share with my affliction. Now ye Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. Not because I desire a gift; but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. But I have all, and abound. I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odor of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well-pleasing to God. But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Now unto God and our Father be glory forever and ever. Amen." Phil.4:13-20. May each of us be reminded that we can never out give what God gives, past, present and into the future! God is never a debtor to any of his creation. However, when you give to the Lord, give with the right motive, and for the praise and glory of God.

Faithfully always giving thanks with prayer.

There is no iron clad method or system to determine our prayer life. Our whole life as Believers should be an attitude of prayer. Believers who have a large family to cope with, almost have to talk to God with a close schedule. Getting the family ready for school, tending to the little ones, plus the chores around the home, often disturbs one's set time for prayer. It is a glorious moment of the Believer's life, when we can hide away alone with God. It is another precious time, when the whole family is gathered around the table, and each one having a part in devotions and communion with God. Having a living family of seven children, it was a time of praise to God to read his Word and then hear each one talk to God from the youngest to the oldest. Our prayers were often global and sometimes very specific. A person who is very active in this life is usually very active in a prayer life. "We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you." Col.1:3. Paul explains this continual prayer. "Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have of all saints; For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which ye heard before in the word of truth of the gospel, which is come unto you, as is in all the world, and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it and knew the grace of God in truth;......For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, who hath made us fit to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son; In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins;" Col.4-14. What a prayerful proclamation that the Holy Spirit has preserved for us in this present age! It all reminds us of the tremendous scope of knowledge and communion we have through prayer. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another, in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." Col.3:16-17.

PRAYER TO THE FATHER MADE POSSIBLE BY THE SON.

<u>C.</u>

OLD TESTAMENT TIMES.

Enoch.

Beside Adam and Eve, Enoch was one of the most privileged human beings, in having the rare opportunity of walking and talking with God for perhaps most of his 365 years on earth. God gave him direct victory over death, by taking him directly into his presence. He was certainly a well learned one, and of the seventh generation from Adam. He is the father of one of the oldest of men that lived upon this earth. "And all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred sixty nine years and he died." Gen.5:27. Enoch must have been told of many things to come, as he walked with God. He knew that eventually the Lord Jesus Christ would come to this earth with tens of thousands of his saints, who would be born. He knew that the ungodly would continue to multiply and would have to be judged by the Lord. He also knew that there would be countless saints of God, who would rule and reign with Christ. He was used by God the Holy Spirit to put into writing this witness, with a few words recorded in Jude 14-15. There will be some living in this world who will never die, and have their bodies changed and glorified, when the rapture takes place. We cannot experience beholding God as Enoch did, but we can walk and talk with the Lord, by faith, glorifying the Lord and making our requests known unto him.

No unclean thing can come before God the Father, and certainly totally depraved man, would not be able to approach God the Father. There has to be some provision, other than ourselves to approach God the Father. The Old Testament Saints were protected through their sacrifices and the priestly provision. Adam and Eve walked and talked with God in their sinless stage, and when that was broken, the Lord himself had to make the first animal sacrifice to cover their sins, until that appointed time when God's own Son would be the propitiation for the sins of the whole world. Enoch walked and talked with God on the same basis of his sins being covered by the sacrifice made. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were able to talk to God, having their sins covered through the continual sacrifice of animals. You will also recall how Jacob actually met the angels of God."And Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him. And when Jacob saw them, he said, This is God's host: and he called the name of that place Mahanaim." Gen.32:1-2. Jacob was also left alone, as he was returning to his own land. He was in fear of his brother Esau and sent gifts ahead to appease Esau of his anger

toward him, in stealing his birthright. Suddenly he was face to face with the Incarnate one. "And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of day. And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. And he said, let me go; for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. And he said unto him, What is thy name? and he said, Jacob. And he said, Thy name shall be called no more, Jacob, but Israel; for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed. And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there. And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel; for I have seen God face to face, and my life preserved." Gen.32:24-30. Could this have been the Incarnate Lord Jesus Christ? We know that someday we shall see the Lord "face to face" and receive our glorified bodies. (1 Jn.3:1-3.) We also know that this body of Christ's was prepared before the foundation of the world. (Eph.1:4; Heb.1:9-10; Heb.4:3; 1 Pet.1:19-20.)

Moses talked with God.

Moses talked to God several times and in order for all the people to be convinced that this was so, we have a special revelation. "Then went Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel; And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in its clearness. And upon the nobles of the children of Israel he laid not his hand; also they saw God, and did eat and drink." Exod.24.9-11. This is a portion of God's Word which is very rarely spoken about, but very important to us in understanding the Bible. Could that have been the Lord Jesus Christ in all of his glory? What a privilege they had of eating and drinking in the presence of the Lord God. There was a separation that finally took place, separating Moses and his servant Joshua. "And the Lord said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there; and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written, that thou mayest teach them. And Moses rose up, and his servant, Joshua; and Moses went up into the mount of God.....And the glory of the Lord abode upon Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days; and the seventh day he called unto Moses out of the midst of the cloud. And the sight of the glory of the Lord was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel. And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and got up into the mount; And Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights." Exod.24:12-18. The creation of heaven and earth was an easy undertaking for God in comparison to dealing with the children of Israel, and providing salvation. Note the difference. "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth his handiwork." Ps.19:1. Then let us compare God's creation, which was but handiwork, compared to providing us with salvation, which caused God to lay bare his arm. "The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God." Isa.52:10. "Thou wentest forth for the salvation of thy people, even for salvation with thine anointed; thou woundedst the head out of the house of the wicked, by laying bare the foundation unto the neck." Hab.3:13. It cost God the Father, his very own son to provide salvation for whosoever will believe.

Moses attended God's Bible College.

Moses was in Bible training for those forty days and forty nights, under the guidance of Almighty God. The Tabernacle and the temple would be the means of prayerfully worshipping God until the day of Pentecost, when individual Believers became the temple of God. The mercy seat and the Holy of Holies made possible an approach to God. Moses is one of the outstanding characters in the Old Testament that found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Moses' experience of being in the presence of God was sufficient evidence of this outstanding relationship. However, Moses desired another direct confirmation. "And he said, I beseech thee, show me thy glory. And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee, and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. And he said, Thou canst not see my face; for there shall no man see me, and live. And the Lord said, Behold there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock; And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by; And I will take away my hand, and thou shalt see my back; but my face shall not be seen." Exod.33:18-23. God did this marvelous thing for Moses and preserved this for us as a testimony and witness. (compare Exod.3:6;)

Old Testament saints limited in their prayer life.

The Old Testament Saints were limited in their prayer life and depended upon their constant sacrifices and temple worship to keep in touch with God. God used his spokesmen to teach his people in the ways of the Lord. Joshua and Caleb earned their position before God, finding grace in the eyes of the Lord. God spoke to Israel through these men. Then we have the reign of the judges of Israel, some good and many bad. There was a great lack of prayer. "In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did that which was right in his own eyes." Josh.21:25. Through all of this, God always had a trusting and believing remnant from among his people. However, the people became restless, and wanted to be like other nations with a royal family, so the Lord provided a kingly lineage for them.

The era of kings over Israel was similar to the judges, with good as well as wicked kings, with some of the kings searching the Word of God and others ignoring it. King David was an outstanding ruler over Israel, desiring constant communion with God. The Lord also talked to the priests and the prophets. Sometimes as they prayed, God would send an angel to make known the mysteries which were to follow. "For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins; Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for he himself also is compassed with infirmity." Heb.5:1-2. "God, who at sundry times and in diverse manners spoke in times past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the ages. Who, being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high, being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they." Heb.1:1-4.

God always provided the Old Testament Saints with prophets and priests to remind them of both their short comings and sin, as well as what to do to return to the Lord, for his blessings. "If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." 2 Chron.7:14. This would happen to Israel at times, and God blessed, but they would soon turn back to their wicked life, until their final rejection of the Messiah. This resulted in the final scattering of Israel throughout the whole world. It also resulted in terrible persecution, until this very present time. God had promised to regather Israel from all parts of the world, and bring her back into her own land. It is true that Israel still rejects the Lord Jesus Christ and is going back to her own land in unbelief, and because of this, she will suffer 7 years of tribulation as recorded in Revelation chp 6-18. We are asked to pray for the peace of Israel, and may many Jews accept the Prince of peace while there is time.

The prophet Elijah challenged the heathen priests on Mount Carmel and it became a battle between the Lord and the idol Baal. This was a direct assault against Jezebel and her idols with 450 false priests against the God of Elijah. "And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word. Then said Elijah unto the people, even I only, remain a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. Let them, therefore, give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under it." 1 Ki.18:21-23. We know what the results were. The priests of Baal cried out from morning to noon. Elijah then taunted them and told them to cry aloud, which they did, cutting themselves until the time of the evening sacrifice. Elijah then called the people near to him and the sacrifice that he prepared. To make it even harder for God, they poured water over the sacrifice. three times. Then Elijah prayed. "Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces, and they said, The Lord, he is God; The Lord, he is God." 1 Ki.18:36-40. The false prophets were all killed, and Elijah looked to the Lord in prayer and God provided rain.

Elijah then had to flee for his life, BUT GOD protected and provided for Elijah. God had to encourage Elijah in his prophetic life, by showing him signs and wonders. God brought a great and strong wind that destroyed the mountains, an earthquake, then fire, but was not in them. Finally God spoke in a still small voice and communed with Elijah. Elijah, like many of us, was sure he was alone, but God had 7,000 in Israel which did not bow the knee to Baal. (1 Ki.19:8-18.) Search the Old Testament and behold the marvels of the living God during the days of the Old Testament Saints.

PRAYER MADE POSSIBLE TO THE FATHER BY THE SON.

NEW TESTAMENT TIMES.

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST'S OWN WORDS.

"Seeing, then, that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest who cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us, therefore, come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Heb.4:14-16. Whatever the purpose that one may have in approaching Almighty God, there is but one channel to do so, and that is through his eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ himself has said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Jn.14:6. "Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me; or else believe me for the very works' sake. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do, because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it." Jn.14:11-14.

These are strong statements, clearly spoken by the eternal Son of God. Religion offers us vain repetitions, great sacrifices, pilgrimages etc., but are unable to approach the living God apart from the Lord Jesus Christ. According to Christ's statement that we can ask anything in his name, and it shall be done, requires certain conditions. Christ has also said, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. In this is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you; continue in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love, even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love." Jn.15:7-10. Here are the conditions under which we can ask what we will.

- 1. Keeping in fellowship experimentally with Christ. (1 Jn.1:7-9.)
- 2. Do not ask for the wrong things. (Jas.4:3.)
- 3. Abiding in Christ means to be subjected to his will when we ask. (Jn.17:4; Lk.22:42.)
- 4. God the Father's will must be done and not your personal desires. (Matt.26:39.)
- 5. God the Father must be glorified through your requests. (Jn.15:8.)
- 6. Ask for that which is in keeping with Christ's commandments in Divine love. (Jn.15:9-10.)
- 7. Ask for those things which will bring joy to the Lord. (Jn.15:11.

Let us consider other statements which the Lord made, concerning prayer to the Father. "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you; For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." Matt.7:7. Sometimes that which we receive is not always what we ask for. You might recall what the mother of Zebedee's children asked. "And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these, my two sons, may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom. But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask." Matt.20:21-22a. When Christ says, "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Matt.21;22. This does not mean that we can by pass the will of God, but as we pray, may we be satisfied with what God gives. The eternal Son of God constantly prayed to the Father, but never interfered or rejected the Father's will. Concerning the raising of Lazarus, Martha said," But I know that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee." Jn.11:22. Christ's prayer life was constantly submitted to the Father. "And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always; but, because of the people who stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me. And when he had spoken, he cried with a loud voice. Lazarus, come forth." Jn.11:41b-43.

As we have been quoting what the Lord said, concerning prayer, the most authoritative statement that Christ has made is as follows. "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it." Jn.14:13-14. "And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name; ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." Jn.16:23-24. Here we have the changing of the priestly office from the uncertainty of the earthly priests, to the great high priest who is seated on the right hand of God the Father. When we approach the Holy of Holies and the throne of grace, we have access only because the Lord Jesus Christ became both the sacrifice and the sacrificer to give us a through line of communication with God the Father.

Since the Lord Jesus Christ has made possible the gift of eternal life to those who will accept him as their personal Saviour, he becomes the gateway into the very presence of God. Among the angelic hosts of heaven, none could be found with the ability to save mankind. "For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? And again when he bringeth in the first begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him. And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore, God, even thy God, hath anointed thee above thy fellows. And Thou, Lord, in the beginning has laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands. They shall perish, but thou remainest; and they all shall become old as doth a garment, and as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed; but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail. But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" Heb.1:4-14. It is the Lord Jesus Christ alone, who can give us a direct contact through to God the Father, and no one else.

Christianity supersedes all religions.

The man made religions around the world cannot compare to Christianity. As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ we have access into the very presence of God the Father in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Christianity is not a torturing and commanding religion, but rather a comforting relationship with the living God. "Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Rom.5:1-2. The Lord Jesus Christ is our peace, paying the debt of sin. "Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances, to make in himself of two one new man, so making peace." Eph.2:15. This concludes with a clear statement, "For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father" Eph.2:18. We can now come boldly unto God the Father with great confidence, knowing that Christ is acceptable and well pleasing to the Father. "According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus, our Lord, In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by faith of him." Eph.3:11-12. "Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

A prayer change.

A change in the prayer life of Believers takes place after Pentecost. Christ had God the Father send God the Holy Spirit to provide a spiritual birth, identifying them with himself. "For by one Spirit were we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Greeks, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many." 1 Cor.12:13-14. It is of the greatest importance that we understand the process which God the Holy Spirit used in reaching, "to the Jews first, and unto Samaria, and to the uttermost part of the earth". The day of Pentecost was in the fullness of time, as God the Holy Spirit came down to earth, bringing new birth to the believers and a restraining power against the evil forces. (Jn.3:3-7; Jn.16:7-11.)

In the fullness of time, God sent forth his Son, (Gal.4:4-5.) and so with every event according to God's master plan, will always be on time. So with Pentecost which was the fiftieth day, or seven weeks from the Paschal Feast, as we call "The Passover". It was the "Feast of Weeks" and all the Jews from many countries remained in Jerusalem for that particular feast. God used their timing, to transfer over to the new age of Grace. Christ promised to build his church and at this exact time of Pentecost it became a reality. We are all familiar with the recording of this event by the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:1-11; However, these were all Jews as far as we can

ascertain. Pentecost was a Jewish feast day and rightfully, they were the first Jews who became Christians. As God the Holy Spirit provided new birth for hundreds in Jerusalem, then the persecution began and the believers were scattered. Philip traveled to Samaria and many believed. Peter and John were sent from Jerusalem to Samaria. "Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit." Acts 8:17. "And an angel of the Lord spoke unto Philip, saving, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. And he arose and went; and behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure and had come to Jerusalem to worship, was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Isaiah, the prophet." Acts 8:26-28. We know what happened as Philip joined with him, and we read, "And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing". Acts. 8:39. Now we turn over to Acts chapter 10. and Peter was led to go into a Gentile home to reach Cornelius and his family and friends. Peter had witnesses with him and of course he was afraid to touch these people to whom he preached the Gospel.(Acts 10:1-43.) "While Peter yet spoke these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all them who heard the word. And they of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many came with Peter, because on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Spirit. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, who have received the Holy Spirit as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then asked they him to tarry certain days." Acts 10:44-48.

John the Baptist heralded the Messiah.

You may ask, "What about those Old Testament Saints who were baptized by John the Baptist"? That is an important question and we need to turn to the Word of God for our answer. "And it came to pass that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper borders came to Ephesus and, finding certain disciples. He said unto them, have ye received the Holy Spirit since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there is any Holy Spirit. And he said unto them, Unto what, then, were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people that they should believe on him who should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke with tongues, and prophesied. And all the men were about twelve." Acts 19:1-7. These various indications of the out pouring of God the Holy Spirit verify and establish the all inclusive baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The Old Testament priesthood does not apply to the Christians, as we come to God the Father in the priesthood of the Lord Jesus Christ. "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him, Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchizedek." Heb.5:8-10. Christ has become our access into the presence of God as both our high priest and King of Kings, after the order of Melchizedek.

The New Testament prayer.

Since the Lord Jesus Christ is now seated on the right hand of God the Father, he has become our Advocate and Mediator. (1 Jn.2:1; 1 Tim.2:5; Heb.8:6; Heb.9:15; Heb.12:24.) God the Holy Spirit dwells within us forever.(Jn.14:16-17.) In order for us to approach our heavenly Father, we must make full use of God's provision. God is not a God of confusion, and has established patterns which he follows. We have seen this systematic order in creation and we can expect it to be followed out in every phase of God's provision. The following procedure or method is very important to our prayer life.

The Word of God.

Led by God the Holy Spirit.

In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us turn to the Word of God for our instructions as to how to pray. The Lord gave the disciples principles of prayer as he dwelt with them for the three years. They had many examples from the Old Testament of priestly prayers to the Lord God, and now we want to examine the pattern prayers offered to God the Father

in the name of God the Son, being led by God the Holy Spirit. From the day of Pentecost onward, the body of Christ grew in great numbers and we have the first signs of this new fellowship. "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their food with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favor with all people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." Acts 2:46-47. This was a tremendous work of the Holy Spirit with thousands coming to the Lord Jesus Christ and a multitude of praise ascended up to God the Father in prayer. The old priestly order was being threatened, and persecution broke out. Stephen became the first martyr, with a wonderful revelation and prayer. (Acts.6:9-Acts 7:60.)

Cornelius was among the first Gentiles to come to the Lord and note was is said about him. "There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band. A devout man, and one that feared God with all of his house, who gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always." Acts 10:1-2. Prayer played a very important part in the lives of those who feared God. He got his answer directly from God. "He saw in a vision, evidently about the ninth hour of the day, (about 3 P.M.) an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius. And when he looked on him,he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God." Acts 10:3-4. God remembers when we pray and desire to talk to God the Father. Cornelius' prayer was the changing power in the life of his whole family.

Peter was thrown into prison for preaching the Gospel. "Peter, therefore, was kept in prison; but prayer was made without ceasing by the church unto God for him." Acts 12:5. Their prayers were answered quickly, but they could not believe it. (Acts 12:7-19.) How often God reminds us through his word,"O ye of little faith"! Sometimes we pray for certain things or certain people, never expecting to have our prayers answered. God has given us these many examples in the Word, to give us confidence and establish our faith in him.

The Macedonia prayer was outstanding and it involved the entrance of the Gospel into Europe. "And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: there stood a man of Macedonia, beseeching him, and saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us." Acts 16:9. This brought the Gospel, "To the Regions Beyond." "Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia, how that in great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality." 2 Cor.8:1-2 Paul eventually spent much of his life in prison, no doubt contrary to the prayers of many Christians, but God had a purpose in this, as the Epistles were being written and the church was being established. Let us examine the prayer life mentioned in the Epistles.

Being led by God the Holy Spirit in our Christian walk is of great importance. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For we have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God." Rom.8:14-16. Because of this, we can pray, "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name". Your knowledge of the Word of God may be limited and for that very reason we all need to pray constantly for wisdom from God as we are led by the Holy Spirit. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord." Jas.1:5-7. "Watch, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." 1 Cor.16:13. Our praise and glory should always be to God as we pray, recognizing that Christ must be our all in all. "But God forbid that I should glory, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." Gal.6:14.

Christians blessed in Christ Jesus.

Often, as we pray, we will repeat over and over again, "Bless me, bless it, bless them", but we should pray, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." Eph.1:3. Paul as the Holy Spirit led him in writing the Epistle to the Ephesians so prayed. "Wherefore, I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him, The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in that which is to come; and hath put

all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church. Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.: Eph.1:15-21. This is an outstanding and mighty prayer, with all glory and honor to the Lord Jesus Christ. Knowledge of the Word of God, also gives us freedom and understanding in our prayer to our Father God. God the Holy Spirit can only remind you of your past knowledge of the Word and your present study of the Word. "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." Eph.5:19-21.

Prayer need in our spiritual warfare.

We face a constant warfare with the evil forces and the Bible equips us with the necessary defense and attack. When God the Holy Spirit has control of our lives, the full armor of God is effective in our lives. (Eph.6:11-17.) "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." Eph.6:18. We are reminded, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds." 2 Cor.10:4. Our prayer life should be such that it includes the whole body of Christ. This unites us together in the Lord as we defend the faith and fight the good fight of faith. "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, Being confident of this very thing, that he who hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." Phil.1:3-6. Paul was an unselfish Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ, even being willing to be accursed if it would lead to his own people, Israel, coming to the Lord. "For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh." Rom.9:3. Then again we read of Paul's desire, "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his suffering, being made conformable unto his death, if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead." Phil.310-11. Paul was so desirous to serve the Lord in every way possible, until that resurrection day.

Our prayer life should be filled with praise and thanks to our heavenly Father. "We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints;" Col.1:3-4. Paul was never too busy with the cares and frustrations of his prison life, to be mindful of all the saints, Our whole life as Christians should be wholly devoted to God the Father. "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." Col.3:15. "I exhort, therefore, that first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men. For kings, and for all that are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." 1 Tim.2:1-2. "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh, and having an high priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering (for he is faithful that promised.)" Heb.10:19-23. "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.: Heb.13:20-21.

CONCLUSION.

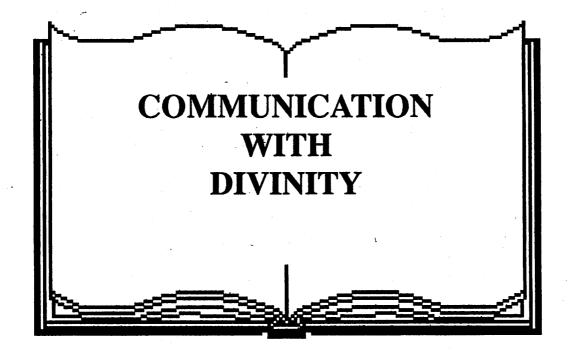
God has created both angels and mankind with volition, rather than being created with a mere instinct. We especially as human beings have been created in the image of God. The planet earth was separated from all of his celestial creation for a special Divine purpose. This is found in Daniel chapter nine and verse twenty four. "Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy". God has used the human race to do this very thing, through which he sent his eternal Son to accomplish this through a human body. Therefore, sin was dealt with at the cross in it's entirety. Because of the special love that the Triune God has for us who have believed, we have been already brought into the royal family of God as children of God. As members of the royal family of God, we have that special privilege of constant communion with God the Father in the name of God the Son, and being indwelt forever by God the Holy Spirit. That is why the Triune God should be glorified and praised through prayer. Let us make full use of this privilege of prayer, as God wants his children to talk to him in sweet communion. We have this wonderful privilege of being able of personally coming directly to God the Father with

praise and thanksgiving. "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after ye have suffered awhile, make you perfect, establish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." 1 Pet.5:10-11.

CHAPTER I. OUESTIONS.

- 1. Give three reasons for praying to God the Father. Cite Scripture.
- 2. What is the method by which we approach God the Father?
- 3. What are the requirements necessary for access into the presence of God the Father?
- 4. What is the meaning of "In all things give thanks"?
- 5. Write briefly on Luke 1:8-14; Matthew 21:1-9; and Zechariah 9:9.
- 6. Write briefly on John 15:1-8.
- 7. Write briefly on the following. Philippians 4:6-7; Colossians 2:7; Ephesians 5:19-20.
- 8. How do we accomplish a living sacrifice and prayer life?
- 9. In what ways can a Believer give to God's ministry?
- 10 Explain the difference between Old Testament prayer and New Testament prayer life.
- 11 What provision did God make for the Old Testament Saints to approach Him?
- 12 What part of Christian's prayer life does God the Holy Spirit maintain?
- 13 Name the seven conditions under which we may ask what we will. Give Scripture proof.
- 14 Name the verifications of what happened on the day of Pentecost to other groups beside the Jews. Cite Scripture. Why was this important?
- 15 What is the ministry of Christ in Heaven, for the Saints? Cite Scripture.
- 16 Explain the difference between John the Baptist's baptism and the Christian water baptism.
- 17 What provision has God the Father made for prayer?
- 18 Write briefly on the value of Ephesians 1:3-14.
- 19 What are the greatest dangers in our warfare as Christians?
- 20 After the study of this first chapter on prayer, how can you improve your prayer life?
- Write briefly on the difference of approach to God in prayer between the Old Testament saints and the New Testament saints.
- 22. What important factors are necessary in the content of our prayer as believers?

CHAPTER 2



CHAPTER 2.

COMMUNICATION WITH DIVINITY.

INTRODUCTION

Apart from the Lord Jesus Christ, it would be impossible for mankind to approach the Living God. We are reminded from the Word of God, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who hold the truth in unrighteousness, Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shown it unto them, For the invisible things of him from creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse; Because, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful, but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man, and birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things." Rom.1:18-23. Mankind apart from God is totally depraved and disobedient to the Holy God. The Creator could have utterly destroyed man, dismissing him and starting again. But God in his omniscience made no mistake, but rather, causes the wrath of man to bring glory to God. Regardless of how many new starts could have been made in creation, they all would have ended in the same manner. What we are about to study is absolutely unique and marvelous. Since God concluded, "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God." Rom.3:10-11, If God's creation of mankind is to be brought into the fellowship of Almighty God, it would have to be done by God himself.

Our study in this chapter will deal with God's provision, to make possible fellowship and communion with Divinity by human beings. It is very important that we understand how one can be brought into the very presence of God, satisfying the Divine requirements, and fulfilling God's immutable laws. God is perfectly satisfied with our new approach to himself, in spite of the fact, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God," Rom.3:23. We who have put our trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, "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; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness, that he might be just, and the justifier of him who believeth in Jesus." Rom.3:23-26.

As we study this approach in prayer, we will also realize that the Triune God has done much more than merely restore us and welcome us into his grace, but has brought us into the royal family, identifying us within his family by God the Holy Spirit. God has provided a "Hot Line" of communication which can be used at any time, bringing our joys and sorrows to him. God has certain requirements for his royal family and we need to obey our heavenly Father at all times. Every provision has been made for his children, through the Word of God, the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit, and Jesus Christ as our advocate at the right hand of God the Father. May we constantly walk in the Light of God's Word, listen to God the Holy Spirit, and thank the Lord Jesus Christ for giving us access before the throne of Grace. We serve a living Savior who loves us with an everlasting love. "I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth." Ps.34:1.

OUTLINE

THE MASTER PLAN OF GOD PROVIDED.

THE LOVE OF GOD REVEALED.

B. THE SON OF GOD WAS WILLING TO DIE ON THE CROSS. TO MANIFEST THE LOVE OF GOD FOR MANKIND.

<u>A.</u>

<u>C.</u>

<u>A.</u>

EMMANUEL GOD WITH US.

THE MASTER PLAN OF GOD PROVIDED

The love of God revealed.

It is obvious that God desires to share his creation with his creatures in every way possible. The interdependence within creation expresses God's desire to have related fellowship with mankind which was made in the likeness of God and breathed upon to become a living immortal. "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. So God created man in his own 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 fill 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." Gen.1:26-28. This was only said to created man, distinguishing him from all other creation. The Lord even prepared the garden of Eden for man to live in and enjoy the fruit of God's creation. All God wanted was one tree for himself. (Gen.2:15-17.) God also gave first man tremendous intelligence, enabling him to give names to all of the creatures. (Gen.2:19-20.)

The love of God in fellowship.

God periodically would visit Adam and Eve in the cool of the evening and walk and talk with them. Adam and Eve were privileged to be able to commune with God face to face, until disobedience separated them from God. (Gen.3:1-8.) They knew that they had sinned and feared to be in the presence of God. But God sought them out and made the first sacrifice for their sins and also clothed them. (Gen.3:9-13; Gen.3:21.) Since Satan was behind the scenes in all of this, the Master Plan of God begins to unfold. "And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life. And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; he shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Gen.3:14-15. The first phase of God's provision for the redemption of fallen man has been declared. The process of judging sin once and forever has been activated by God himself. The "seed of the woman" by passes the normal birth and declares the virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Isa.7:14. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with justice and with righteousness, from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform it." Isa.9:6-7. God's eternal Master plan was set in eternity past to deal with all sin, and we are reminded,"The Lord of hosts will perform it"!

The Love of God expressed.

We cannot fathom the depth of God's love toward man, allowing his own created beings to execute judgement upon his own eternal son. "Oh the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? Or who hath been his counselor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things to whom be glory forever. Amen." Rom.11:33-36. God's love for human beings is beyond all imagination! God the Father is calling out from every tongue and nation a community of saints to live with him forever in perfect righteousness. "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth are named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend, with all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now unto him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we can ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." Eph.3:14-21.

The whole creation with God's tremendous provision for mankind should be sufficient evidence to mankind of the Divine Love of God. There was no reason whatsoever that God should tolerate rebellious man, but he did, and we have access to the greatest love, that ever exists. God hates sin, but loves the sinner who was overpowered by the wicked one. It takes the complete cooperation of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit to bring total victory to God. May we now see what the Bible has to say about this great manifestation of Divine love upon this creature upon whom God breathed and became a living soul and spirit. "Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and everyone that loveth is born of God and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." 1 Jn.4:7-10.

B. THE SON OF GOD WAS WILLING TO DIE ON THE CROSS, TO MANIFEST THE LOVE OF GOD FOR MANKIND,

The requirements for the Redeemer.

With our mortal capacity in thinking, we cannot fathom the depth of the love of the Triune God toward us. It remains a mystery and an amazement that God would be willing to subject himself to his own creation. We are aware that in order for a just redemption to be made available for man, it would have to be one who had all the attributes of the Godhead. The Redeemer had to be an everlasting high priest as well as the Sovereign king to negotiate the deliverance from the penalty of sin. God's law says, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die". (Ezek.18:20.) "I will also praise thee with the psaltry, even thy truth, O my God; unto thee will I sing with the harp, O thou Holy One of Israel. My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing unto thee; and my soul, which thou hast redeemed." Ps.71:22-23.

The amazing thing is, "And you hath he made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins; In which in times past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the sons of disobedience; Among whom also we all had our manner of life in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath made us alive together with Christ (by grace ye are saved). And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus; That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." Eph.2:1-7. God having provided all of this for us, certainly wants us to spend time talking to him and living a life of prayer.

It is not a small thing that God the Father would be willing to send his only begotten Son to take upon himself the penalty of our sin. All of our sins were removed forever, past, present and future. "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;" Col.2:14. The requirements of God are based upon his perfect character, and we are constrained to lift up our hears in prayer with praise and adoration for God's provision. "For the love of Christ constraineth us, because we thus judge that, if one died for all, then were all dead; And that he died for all, that they who live

should not hence-forth live unto themselves, but unto him who died for them, and rose again." 2 Cor.5:14-15. Since God provided so great salvation for us, we certainly should spend sometime in prayer, thanking and praising Almighty God for making us alive.

God's great value upon our souls.

The Triune God put a great value upon the soul of man, so much value that nothing could take its place. Christ gathered his disciples together and gave a special message to them. "And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever would save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's. the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Mk.8:34-37. The Son of God was willing to leave his home in glory, and come down to this sin cursed earth and purchase with his own blood all who would flee to him for refuge. "Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed by an oath, That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us, which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil, Where the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest forever after the order of Melchizadek." Heb.6:17-20.

God has put a great value upon the human soul, for we are different from all other life upon this earth. Yes, our bodies are made from earthly elements, but the difference is that God breathed upon that human body which he molded from clay, and thus a spirit and soul were added. "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. So God created man in his own 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 fill 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 which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for food: and it was so. And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And evening and the morning were the sixth day." Gen.1:26-31. This shows the great care that God had for man, providing him with more than the necessities of life and declaring him as superior to all.

Satan's deception brought ruination.

Christ's sacrifice brought regeneration.

Satan's great desire was to have dominion over all, designing to be like the most high God. (Isa.14:14.) This caused all nature to be cursed, along with man, as he yielded to the deception of Satan. God in his omniscience, knew that this would take place and before the foundation of the world, a body was prepared for the eternal Son of God to become the Redeemer. "For as much as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver and gold, from your vain manner of life received by tradition from your fathers, But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot, Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifested in these last times for you, who by him do believe in God, who raised him up from the dead and gave him glory, that your faith and hope might be in God." 1 Pet.18-21. God has broken the spell that Satan had over this world, and judged him at the cross. The Son of God was willing to die on the cross to defeat the power of Satan over mankind and his creation. God the Father is well pleased with what his eternal Son was willing to do, as he dealt with sin once and forever. The Triune God has used humanity to deal with all sin, both in heaven and on earth, glorifying the Son of God, and providing God the Holy Spirit to bring newness of life. "But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore, God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the work of thy hands." Heb.1:8-10. According to God's eternal plan, he is allowing iniquity to run its full course, as it has already been judged at the cross, and sin will be no more. Dan.9:24. God could have dealt with the sin problem apart from mankind, but he desired to shower his love upon "Whosoever will" accept his Son as their redeemer.

So great salvation according to God's plan.

All that the Incarnate Son of God suffered was according to plan and for making possible God's expression of Divine love to be poured out upon mortal man, and providing immortality to many. "For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Cor.15:53-57. Christ reminded us in the Scripture that this was his purpose in coming into the world, taking upon himself a form of man, apart from the sin nature. "As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, that are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father." Jn.10:15-18. "According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus, our Lord." Eph.3:11. God's Divine love became available to all who were willing to accept God's pardon for sin, based upon the provision and merit of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us recall what the Lord said to Pilate when he tried to release him. "Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? Knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above; therefore, he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin." Jn.19:10-11. However, Christ's mission was being fulfilled as he gave himself an offering for our sins. Since the Jews rejected their Messiah who came to suffer and die, so also was the kingdom postponed, and all according to God's plan. "Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now is my kingdom not from here. Pilate, therefore, said unto him, Art thou a king, then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Everyone that is of the truth heareth my voice." Jn.18:36-37. What great love has been offered to all who believe that Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.

The sin barrier removed by Christ.

The sacrificial death of the Incarnate Christ has opened the door to heaven for many! As Satan indwelt the most beautiful animal in the garden of Eden to deceive man, so Christ has come taking upon himself a form of man so that he could remove the sin barrier, and make possible the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit. This not only made possible the marvelous communication with Divinity, but gives a new birth through the Holy Spirit. We now can communicate with God the Father as members of the royal family, and the future bride of Christ. Christ gave his body for those who become Christians that these believers may become the body of Christ. Oh, the love that drew salvation's plan, Oh the grace that brought it down to man!

C. EMMANUEL GOD WITH US.

God's desire is to dwell among men of his new creation.

God's perfect character demands perfection and the ultimate removal of all possibilities of sin. God the Father cannot look upon sin and that is why, when Christ was hanging on the cross, the Father forsook the Son. The Lord Jesus Christ has identified himself with mankind by indwelling his own created body so that he could establish an unique relationship with man, created in his own image. God has made great preparations for this alliance. We are reminded to walk in the pure light of God. "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth; But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from all sin." 1 Jn.1:6-7. May we also remind you that if we have unconfessed sin in our life we will have difficulty getting through to God the Father with our prayer requests.

In the Old Testament times, God reminded these saints of his presence. It must have been a wonderful experience of Adam and Eve, walking with God in the cool of the evening. Enoch also walked and talked with God for many, many years, and eventually, God took him home to glory. This is certainly a perfect example of God wanting to fellowship with mankind. Read through the Old Testament and glean from it's pages the various times that God spoke with these saints.

In the New Testament, we have the very Son of God living upon this earth for 33 years, subject to his creation. The disciples had 3 years of daily walking and talking with the Lord. They heard him pray, they saw him weep, and they beheld the mighty miracles that he performed in helping and healing. The Lord had great compassion upon those in need. He knew what was in man, and could recognize those who were seeking after God. That same omniscience prevails in our lives, and the Lord knows the difference between a form of religion and the desire to worship God in spirit and truth. We need to guard against praying to God in mere words, remembering to pray in the spirit, according to the word of truth.

The great "Air Lift" by the Lord Himself.

The Lord Jesus Christ, before his ascension, dwelt with his disciples for 40 days, teaching them of the things to come. He even prepared food for those who went out fishing and caught nothing. (Jn.21:12-14.) Knowing the thoughts of Peter, having denied his Lord, Jesus gave him special attention by showing his love toward him. (Jn.21:15-17.) The Lord also knew the terrible death that Peter would have as his witness. (Jn.21:18-19.)

It was given to the apostle John to write some very important truths concerning both the giving of the Holy Spirit and the return of the Lord for his own. The Son of God could send his angels to bring his bride home to the heavenly mansions of the Father, but he himself will come and bring his glorified bride into the presence of the Father. For some 2000 years Christ has been preparing a place for his bride, to behold the glories of God in our heavenly home. (Jn.14:1-6.) That is why our whole life should be in a constant attitude of prayer, looking forward to beholding the bridegroom, face to face. To show his great love for his future bride he has also said this. "But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." Matt.26:29. What great love the Son of God has for his bride to be! We will be seated around that heavenly table and behold the bridegroom take the cup and drink the fruit of the vine with us, after waiting for some 2,000 years.

That great "Air Lift" can happen anytime, and will be the next great event to occur, taking us out from the wrath to come. (1 Thess.1:10.) "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first; Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord." 1 Thess.4:16-17. We will experience "Emmanuel", God with us forever and ever. The Lord has promised that he will never leave us nor forsake us. (Heb.13:5.) The saints of all ages will be in the very presence of God in their glorified bodies, and we all will enjoy 7 years of splendor in heaven, before we leave with the Lord as he sets up his thousand year kingdom upon the earth. In anticipation of this great "Air Lift", we need to live a prayer life unto the Lord, bearing fruit unto his name. Our utmost thought and prayer should be as with the apostle John. "He who testifieth these things saith, Surely, I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen." Rev.22:20-21.

The kingdom of righteousness with the Lord.

As I think upon that coming kingdom of righteousness, I am reminded of that great chorus of voices that will be heard in heaven during our 7 year stay before the return to earth takes place. "And they sang a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the scroll, and open its seals; for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God a kingdom of priests, and we shall reign on the earth." Rev.5:9-10. This will be a glorious time with the Lord as we serve him and keep in touch with him by some sort of communication. This is but another phase of our prayer life with the Lord.

During these thousand years upon earth under a perfect form of government the lessons that we learn now will be of great importance as we will witness to these earthly people, under the most favorable circumstances. Language will not be a problem as we will be able to converse with all people as the heavenly angels are able to speak to those to whom they are sent. May I remind you that we are left in this life to build

our character well pleasing to the Lord, and we cannot avoid a constant prayer life in communication with God. The kingdom age will be another phase of "Emmanuel" God with us.

Paradise in the presence of God.

What the new heavens and the new earth will be like, is God's secret, but we know it will be greatly superior to this present heaven and earth. Even the kingdom age will be inferior to what God will create when sin is forever separated from his domain. The Lord has given us a little information on the paradise to come. John had a preview of this wonder of wonders. "And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bore twelve kinds of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and his servants shall serve him; And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no lamp, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light, and they shall reign forever and ever." Rev.22:1-5. Here we have the culmination of God being with us. What a day of rejoicing that will be when we shall rule and reign with the Lord forever and ever. This is no wishful thinking, but a real promise from God's Word.

When we pray and understand the great future that we will have with the Lord, may we be mindful to serve the Lord whole heartedly. That is why it is necessary for us to spend much time in the word of God, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, with a prayerful attitude. The more we know about the contents of the Bible, the more thrilling it will be to talk to the One who has great things in store for those who believe.

Enjoying the presence of God through prayer.

"For now we see in a mirror, darkly; but then, face to face; now I know in part, but then shall I know even as also I am known." 1 Cor.13:12; It is true that it is hard to imagine what differences confront us in the future, since we have never been there before. However, let's take God at his Word and plan now for the glories to come. Live now with great expectations for the future, when God will directly be dwelling among men. God has provided us with the Holy Spirit, who constantly bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. (Rom.8:16.) "By this know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit."1 Jn.4:13. This gives us great confidence in our prayer life, knowing that God the Holy Spirit is indwelling us and teaching us the right way of communicating with God. As we grow in the knowledge of God's Word, so we understand the future promises of God. Our prayer life is an inspiration and anticipation of God actually dwelling with men.

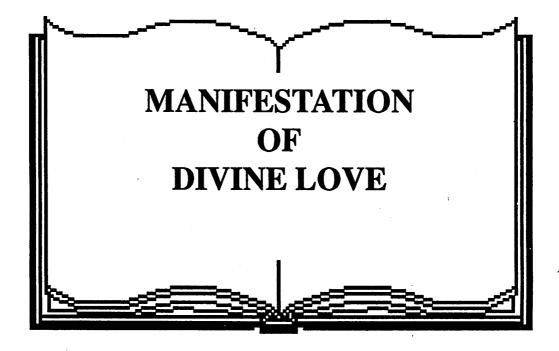
CONCLUSION.

In our prayer life, we cannot always realize the power of God behind it, nor do we always realize the love of God revealed through this great access into the very presence of God. God keeps in store for that one who lives a prayer life, his peace that passes all understanding. We develop boldness to come to the Holy of Holies with our petitions, with confidence that God is listening and helping, according to his will. The Lord Jesus Christ has made it possible to come before the throne of Grace and receive this special attention from God the Father. Christ makes possible this access into the heaven of heavens. Our acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as our saviour was on a faith basis, confessing that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love, and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world." 1 Jn.4:15-17. We could not ask for clearer statements from God than these, which links us together as the body of Christ through God the Holy Spirit. Whatever each day brings forth, we can face the stress and strain, rejoicing in the Lord, as we keep in constant communication with God through prayer. Our prayers reach far beyond anything that we could imagine, however we pray in faith believing. The Lord has provided a tremendous outreach for us, through his word, the intercessory work of the Lord at his right hand, and the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

CHAPTER 2. OUESTIONS.

- 1. How is our approach through prayer made possible? Give evidence from the Bible.
- 2. What importance do you give to prayer in our daily walk of faith?
- 3. What requirements are necessary for access to God the Father through our prayers?
- 4. Give Scriptural evidence that God wants to share his glory with his creatures in whom he has made in his own image.
- 5. Name some visitations that God made with various human beings, as recorded in the Bible.
- 6. Give Scriptural evidence of God's love toward mankind.
- 7. Write briefly on the Son of God being willing to die on the cross, to manifest the love of the Triune God for mankind.
- 8. Give evidence from the Scripture that God put great value upon the souls of mankind.
- 9. To whom is the Gospel of Christ hidden? Give Scripture.
- 10. What prayer will God hear from an unsaved sinner? Explain.
- 11. What is the cure for Satan's deception that brought ruination to mankind?
- 12. Could the suffering of Christ have been avoided? Explain.
- 13. How does Christ's death and resurrection make possible our prayer requests before God the Father?
- 14. Give some examples of God dwelling with mankind in the Old Testament.
- 15. What guarantee do we have of God dwelling with mankind? Give Scripture.
- 16. Explain 1 John 1:6-7.
- 17. Give at least two New Testament examples of God dwelling among mankind.
- 18. Explain Matt.26:29.
- 19. Since there will be a great "Air Lift", which could occur at any time, what influence should this have on our prayer life?
- 20. What can we learn about the Kingdom of righteousness as we study the Scripture and devote time to praying?
- 21. Explain Revelation 22:1-5. Write briefly.
- 22. What lesson on prayer can we learn about God dwelling among men?
- 23. Explain 1 John 4:15-17.

CHAPTER 3



CHAPTER 3.

MANIFESTATION OF DIVINE LOVE.

INTRODUCTION

Divine love is an attribute that the natural man knows nothing about. Natural love usually is expressed toward the lovable. The Old Testament gives us many illustrations of God's love being poured out upon the children of Israel. The nation Israel spent much of her time in captivity and in punishment, as God attempted to cause her to return to him. The prophets, kings, and priests would beg their people to return to the Lord, but with very little results. Idol worship of all sorts dominated their way of life in disobedience to God. The Lord severely chastened his people because he loved them and wanted to be their God. A continual battle was on, as Satan blinded their minds, lest they should believe the Gospel of the Word of God.

The New Testament, with the marvelous provisions that God has made, was no better. With all that God has provided under so great salvation, yet he is rejected and hated. "But if our Gospel be hidden it is hidden to them that are lost, In whom the god of this age hath blinded the minds of them who believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." 2 Cor.4:3-4. The evil forces are more than we can cope with alone, and we need the Divine power provided for us through God the Son, God the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the children of God; therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not." 1 Jn.3:1.

Our natural love is very limited, selfish, and prejudice. God loved us with an everlasting love, and while we were yet sinners, dead in trespasses and sins, Christ died for us. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Jn.15:13. "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the children of God; therefore, the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the children of God, and it doth not appear what we shall be, but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." 1 Jn.3:1-2. Because of this great love and the barrier of sin being re-moved by the eternal Son of God, we have free access through prayer to let our requests be made known to our heavenly Father,

OUTLINE.

- A. GOD THE FATHER WILLING TO SEND HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON.
- B. GOD THE SON WILLING TO BECOME THE REDEEMER OF THE WORLD.
- C. GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT WILLING TO INDWELL THOSE WHO BELIEVE.

A. GOD THE FATHER WILLING TO SEND HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON.

If you will notice the prayers of the Lord Jesus Christ before he went to the cross, were always submissive to the Heavenly Father. The raising of Lazarus from the dead was preceded by the Lord talking to the Father. Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always; but, because of the people who stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me." Jn.11:41-42. This is perfect obedience to the Father, being the eternal Son of God. The Son of God was sent into this world by God the Father, commissioned to be the Lamb of God, and pay the penalty of the sin of the whole world. The Lord Jesus Christ knew exactly what he faced with that terrible crucifixion. "And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glor- ified. Verily, verily, I say unto, Except a grain of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it, and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and

where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honor. Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father save me from this hour. But for this cause came I unto this hour. Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again." Jn.12:23-28. The Son of God was constantly in touch with God the Father, but we only have record through the Word of a few times that his prayers were made public. In all that the Son of God endured, was declared by the Father, so that His Son would eventually be glorified in the highest forever and ever. Christ's life style upon earth was a life of prayer. May we follow the teachings of the Lord and serve him during our whole Christian life. The Lord said, "If any man serve me, him will my Father honor." Jn.12:26b. It therefore, is very important that as Christians, we acknowledge Christ in thought, word and deed, with a life of prayer.

The importance of the last passover.

God always has a time element as he deals with those in the element of time. The passover, ordinance from Egypt was but a shadow of what God intended to do through his Son. As Israel left Egypt purged from her sins, escaping the death angel, so the Lamb, of the final passover, provided not only the purging of our sins, but also the removing of the final penalty, and eventually the very presence of sin. "For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. Moreover, he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of ministry. And almost all things are by the law purged with blood, and without shedding of blood is no remission." Heb.9:19-22. Christ became the Lamb of the final passover for the sins of the whole world. This took the Divine love of the Father to be willing to allow His Only Begotten Son to endure such punishment. Christ himself was willing to endure the cross and suffer the shame to show his supreme love for mankind. "Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end." Jn.13:1. God the Father had turned this whole matter over to the Son for execution of his plan for salvation. "Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;" Jn.13:3. This should certainly give us an incentive to pray to our heavenly Father who cares.

Christians are the Lord's representatives.

As believers in the Lord, we have been sent forth to represent Christ and witness to the saving grace of our loving Lord. The early disciples who were with the Lord were commissioned to bring the message to others, so that all might become one fold, to the glory of God. For almost 2,000 years the message has been relayed from one generation to the other. In that marvelous prayer of the Son to the Father, Christ has said, "I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil." Jn.17:14-15. The Lord went on with his prayer to the Father by saying, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also who shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one, as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them, and that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me; for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world." Jn.17:20-24. As we represent the Lord in this world, we declare to the world that our citizenship is in heaven, where the Lord dwells with the Father. "For our citizenship is in heaven, from where also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who shall change our lowly body, that it may be fashioned like his glorious body, according to the working by which he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." Phil.3:20-21. Our faithfulness to the Lord brings great joy to our souls, knowing that one day we shall be united to the Lord of glory, and fashioned in his likeness. If we had no other reason to pray to our heavenly Father, this should be sufficient reason for us to pray with praise, day and night through this life!

B. GOD THE SON WILLING TO BECOME THE REDEEMER OF THE WORLD.

The plan of salvation was provided by God the Father, but God the Son provided the requirements to make this possible. The Lord Jesus Christ was willing to give his all that we might be made partakers in his

eternal all. Paul the apostle reminded us that as we defend the Gospel in every aspect, we become partakers of the grace of God given through him. "Being confident of this very thing, that he who hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ; Even as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, ye are partakers of my grace." Phil.1:6-7.

We as Believers become partakers in Christ's suffering.

As Christ has admonished us to follow him, we know that we cannot pay the price of our sins, but we should be willing to be partakers of his suffering, taking up our cross and following him. Paul desired to fellowship in the suffering of Christ, at least in part. Paul declared some of this suffering for the cause of Christ as we have recorded in 2 Corinthians 11:16-33. None of us desire to suffer in any way, and we never have gone through what Job suffered as a test of his loyalty to God. Many believers around the world are under terrible pressure from unregenerate officials. Governments which uphold certain religions, make it difficult for Christianity to penetrate their religious practices. May we constantly be reminded that we will be confronted by the unregenerate, while preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, "Grace be to you, and peace, from God, our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of comfort, who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them who are in any trouble, by the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted of God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ. And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer; or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation. And our hope of you is steadfast, knowing that, as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye also of the consolation." 2 Cor.1:2-7. For a great door, and effectual, is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries." 1 Cor.16:9. The Holy Spirit also spoke through the Apostle Peter on this matter. "Forasmuch, then, as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind; for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men but to the will of God.......If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of ability which God giveth, that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to test you, as though some strange thing happened unto you, but rejoice inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings, that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." 1 Pet.4:1-13. The Holy Spirit then reminds us, "I have, therefore, that of which I may glory through Jesus Christ in those things which pertain to God." Rom.15:17. "The elders who are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight of it, not by constraint but willingly; not for filthy lucre but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away." 1 Pet.5:1-4. If afflictions come your way for the cause of Christ, by prayer and communion with God, you will be able to be sustained. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou, therefore, ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner; but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God, who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, but is now made manifest by the appearing of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel," 2 Tim.1:7-10.

We as believers are partakers of hope.

This hope that we cherish is based upon God's immutable promises. This certainly should encourage us, by faith, to give of our best to the Master and keep in communication with the giver of all good and perfect gifts. "Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord." Ps.31:24. As we pray to our heavenly Father we can say, "For in thee, O Lord, do I hope; thou wilt hear, O Lord, my God." Ps.38:15. "For thou art my hope, O Lord God; thou art my trust from my youth." Ps.71:5. May we always be reminded that our hope is not wistful thinking, but rather based upon God's word. "Let my heart be sound in thy statutes, that I be not ashamed. My soul fainteth for thy salvation, but I hope in thy word." Ps.119:80-81. This all has been made possible because the Lord Jesus Christ was willing to become our redeemer. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom also we have access by faith into this

grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Rom.5:1-2. Each time that we turn to the Lord God Almighty in prayer we are using the grace line, made possible by the Lord Jesus Christ. God's love through Christ is shed abroad in our hearts and confirmed by the Holy Spirit who indwells us forever. "And hope maketh not ashamed, because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who is given to us." Rom.5:5.

When Christ was willing to be our redeemer, he established a hope of glory, far beyond merely redeeming our souls. The fullness of this hope can only be known as we study the Bible and become mature Christians. "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory;" Col.1:27. This that God has promised to us through his word is preserved for us in the heavenlies. "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a people of his own, zealous of good works." Tit.2:13-14. Since we are already within the royal family of God and have a sure hope, our pattern of prayer and life style should be accordingly. "And every man that has this hope in him purifieth himself even as he is pure." 1 Jn.3:3. Through the study of the Bible with a prayerful life, we gain confidence in the promises of God which become the anchor of our soul. "Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us, which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil, where the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek." Heb.6:17-20.

We as believers are partakers of heavenly benefits.

We can ask ourselves, "What benefits do we get from a life of prayer"? That is a worthy question, regardless of the circumstances and promises. As we face the various issues of life, we are constantly facing advantages and disadvantages and it becomes a pattern of life, seeking the best deal for our efforts. During Biblical times there were many servants, acquired through battles. Some of these servants as well as their masters became believers, so what does the Bible teach concerning this? "Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of honor, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed. And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them because they are brethren but, rather, do them service because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort." 1 Tim.6:1-2. Paul had personal experience with a servant called Ones'imus, who belonged to his friend Philimon. Ones'imus became a christian as a run away slave, through the ministry of Paul. He was sent back to his master Philemon, still as a servant, but also a fellow believer and received special benefits from his master. (The Epistle of Philemon)

You will notice the many times that the various Epistles begin with words to this effect, "A servant of the Lord Jesus Christ". The Lord Jesus Christ came into this world to be servant to all. We have mentioned several times, concerning the humility of Christ in his earthly ministry. Perhaps one of the most humiliating circumstances occurred when Christ washed the disciples filthy feet. (Jn.13:4-16.) Here again we have reason to thank our heavenly Father for sending his Son, making us fit vessels for the master's use. "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering, with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, who hath made us fit to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son; In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins; Who is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation; Col.1:10-15. Through Christ's redeeming power, making us new creatures, we become joint heirs with Christ and partakers of his holiness. Sometimes God's chastening is necessary along the way, to keep us as we walk through this life, but we are reminded that, "whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth" (Heb.12:6. This chastisement is for our profit, though we would rather not experience it. "For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure, but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness." Heb.12:10. Therefore we must consider the chastening of the Lord as indications of his love for us. Sometimes this chastening is necessary to bring us back into his fellowship. It should remind us to keep short accounts with God, confessing our sins. (1 Jn.1:9.)

CONCLUSION.

The Son of God has become the redeemer of the world, and provided continual access for us before the throne of God. Let us make full use of this privilege of talking with, "The King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen." 1 Tim.1:17. Some day we shall see the Lord Jesus Christ, face to face and receive our glorified bodies, like unto his. He alone has made it possible, through his willingness to die on the cross, so that we not only would have eternal life with him, but that we can freely talk with the heavenly Father, patiently waiting for the appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ in the clouds. May we daily lift up our hearts in praise and thanksgiving to our living God. The Lord Jesus Christ made every provision for us to have access to God the Father, not based upon our worthiness, but rather based upon his perfect righteousness and he being acceptable and well pleasing before the Father. The Lord is our high priest forever, making possible a continual access into the holy of holies. Let us freely use this great opportunity of talking with our heavenly Father and continually maintaining a prayer life.

C. GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT WILLING TO INDWELL THOSE WHO BELIEVE,

INTRODUCTION.

The Lord Jesus Christ was the comfort and protection of his disciples and followers during his earthly ministry. This was essential and necessary to keep them from the evil one. The turning point in the master plan of God took place on the day of Pentecost, when the body of Christ was born by God the Holy Spirit. With the resurrection of Christ, the followers had special protection until the ascension of the Lord. There were 10 days until Pentecost and that would be another time, when the evil forces could play havoc with the followers, but the Lord made provision even for this short time. "Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. And when he had so said, he showed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you; as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Spirit;" Jn.20:19-22. May I remind you that this reception of the Holy Spirit was temporary until the out pouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. It would have been marvelous to have God the Holy Spirit our ever present help by just being near to us, but the very indwelling of the Holy Spirit is another proof that God always does exceedingly abundantly above all that we could ask or even think. (Eph.3:20.)

The Holy Spirit provides the new birth.

The Incarnate Christ is the first fruit making possible the new birth by God the Holy Spirit. "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Jn.3:5. The Holy Spirit provides this new birth based upon the word of God, from whence cometh the living water. The coming of the Holy Spirit came through the prayer of the Son of God. "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." Jn.14:16-17. What a privilege Christians have, being born of the Holy Spirit and becoming new creatures with the Spirit dwelling within us forever and ever! This makes us members of the royal family of God. Christian, whoever you may be, you are without excuse in understanding the word of God. The Holy Spirit dwells within you to guide and teach you the marvelous truths from the Bible, and also helps you in maintaining a life of prayer. From the day of Pentecost until the rapture, God has been calling out a peculiar people of all races, and languages, forming the body of Christ, to become the bride of Christ. We have already been born into the family of God and are eternally secured and sealed by God the Holy Spirit. "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Cor.5:17.

The Holy Spirit makes us new creatures.

By the provision of God through the Holy Spirit, we are recreated in Christ Jesus and become new, prepared for the new heavens and the new earth. We still have the old man to deal with, but through the power of God we are able to subject the old man of disobedience to the will of God. "Mortify, therefore, your members which are upon the earth: fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil desire, and covetousness (which is idolatry), For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the sons of disobedience; In the which ye also once walked, when we lived in them. But now we also put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds. And have put on the new man, that is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:" Col.3:5-10. Since we are already new creatures in Christ Jesus, our whole manner of life should be changed. "That ye put off concerning the former manner of life the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore, putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor; for we are members one of another." Eph.4:22-25. These principles which the Bible gives to us are necessary for the believers in order to maintain conversational rights before God. We then can come boldly before the throne of grace with our praise and petitions. "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh, And having an high priest over the house of God, Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering (for he is faithful that promised), And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works. Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much more, as ye see the day approaching." Heb.10:19-25. Certainly we are living very close to the return of the Lord for that great air lift to heaven, and it should remind us of the great work to be done for our soon coming Lord, through our prayers and commitment to God.

The Holy Spirit gives wisdom and guidance in our prayer life.

We must be reminded that the Holy Spirit is the third person in the Trinity and is co-equal in the Godhead with the same attributes as have the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit is not just some mystical force or power that we can turn off and on like an electric switch. He indwells believers for specific purposes, knowing all about us as he searches our hearts. "For what man knoweth the things of a man, except the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Spirit teacheth, comparing spiritual things with spiritual." 1 Cor.2:11-13. The natural unregenerate man cannot understand these spiritual things, and even less, be able to pray, reaching into the spiritual realm. "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him, neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ." 1 Cor.2:14-16.

Since the Holy Spirit indwells us, he desires that we allow him to fill our life with eternal thoughts, so that we can impart them to those around about us. He is our source of wisdom, being identified with us through his personal baptism. "For by one Spirit were we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Greeks, whether we be bond or free; and have been made to drink into one Spirit." 1 Cor.12:13; "Wherefore, I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of his glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his mighty power," Eph.1:15-19. God has richly provided for the saints by the constant presence of the Holy Spirit. So in our prayer life, we are admonished to depend upon the leading of the Holy Spirit, who thoroughly understands every situation in your life and my life.

The Holy Spirit intercedes for the believers.

The Triune God is our ever present help, and is mindful of our every need and situation that confronts us. "But if we hope for that which we see not, then do we with patience wait for it. Likewise, the Spirit also helpeth our infirmity; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Rom.8:25-28.

The Holy Spirit has a special interest in the saints and where we lack in understanding, he is able to direct us and supply whatever we lack.. Since our lives as saints are not dependent upon luck or gamble, we can depend upon the providence of God to make a way for us. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Rom.8:14. The best results in our prayer life is when we allow the holy Spirit to have his way in our lives and not grieve him by disobedience. "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, by whom ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." Eph.4:29-30. He is our comforter and gives us both wisdom in witnessing for the Lord and special gifts in the service of the Lord. "Now there are diversity of gifts, but the same Spirit............But all these worketh that one and the very same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will." 1 Cor.12:4-11. If you lack wisdom in your prayer life, let your request be made known unto the Holy Spirit, he is your ever present help. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord." Jas.1:5-7.

The Holy Spirit gives protection against worldly temptations.

Here is a very important issue in the Christian life. How do we differentiate between what is worldly and what is the will of God in the realm of pleasures and mode of life. The Holy Spirit is within our lives to guide and direct us in the right way. We are not talking about legalism as an addition to the requirements for salvation, but rather identifying ourselves in this world as new creatures in Christ Jesus. "Blessed is the man who walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth meditate day and night." Ps.1:1-2. The Holy Spirit through Paul said, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer in it?" Rom.6:1-2. It is true that we are in the world but not of it, and there are many necessities and obligations that we have in this present world system. The Lord reminded us, "And he said unto them, Render, therefore, unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's, and unto God the things which are God's." Lk.20:25.

Through the Holy Spirit, we have a new heavenly nature, which supercedes the old nature. However we continue to confront and battle with the old nature and it's desires. Our priorities should be altogether different from natural man and his limited wisdom. "Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that, in the wisdom of God, the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." 1 Cor.1:20-21. "For our citizenship is in heaven, from where also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who shall change our lowly body, that it may be fashioned like his glorious body, according to the working by which he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." Phil.3:20-21. The bible clearly sets the difference between the worldly pleasures and the purity of God. We belong to the Lord and the complete armor of God is necessary to stand against the onslaughts of the world, the flesh and the devil. The Holy Spirit is dwelling within us to not only give us wisdom against the wiles of the devil but also protect us from yielding to temptations. "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted. I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man. But every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of his own will begot he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures." Jas.1:12-17.

It is very easy for a child of God to go along with the worldly pattern and traditions. The world's governments make many evil practices legal, and the basis of "Human Rights", ignoring Biblical truths, set down by God himself. One could name many worldly things that are creeping into the assemblies of God, through the liberal trend today. We who are new creatures in Christ Jesus must keep separated from the conformity to the world system. "I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the re-newing of your mind, that ye might prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Rom.12:1-2. Make full use of God's protection through the Holy Spirit, who will lead you in paths of righteousness.

The holy Spirit restrains the evil forces in this wicked world.

As Television gives us every day affairs around the world, we are aware of the chaotic conditions in which millions of human beings are merely existing. The ruthlessness and violence which continues in this world are attroceous and appalling. We may even think that it cannot get any worse than it is now, but we would be mistaken. God is sovereign, but he does permit the freedom of choice, limiting this for reasons of his own. However, as we read what is going to happen during the great tribulation in the book of Revelation, we see something vastly more devastating, than all of the wickedness of the past. This violence universally would be on rampage right now, if God the Holy Spirit was not restraining the evil forces. Some of these evil forces right now are under lock and key until we the body of Christ are taken out of this world in that great "Air Lift". As the Holy Spirit protects the saints from being indwelt by the demons, so he is also restraining the devil from total war against the redeemed upon this earth. I want us to read carefully what the Bible has to say about this onslaught that is to come and the restraining power of the Holy Spirit which is present, while the body of Christ is being formed from precious souls around the world. Yes, there will be a great falling away from God's truth through the deception of these liberals. The Lord himself makes a terrifying statement. "Nevertheless, when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" Lk.18:8b.

"Let no man deceive you by any means; for that day shall not come, except there come the falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition, Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped, so that he, as God, sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Remember ye not that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what restraineth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work; only he who now hindereth will continue to hinder until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that wicked one be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming, Even him whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish, because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie, That they all might be judged who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." 2 Thess.2:3-12. This portion of Scripture is very important to the saints of God, reminding us of the controlling power of the Holy Spirit in this world until we are taken out from the wrath to come. (1 Thess.1:10.)

CONCLUSION.

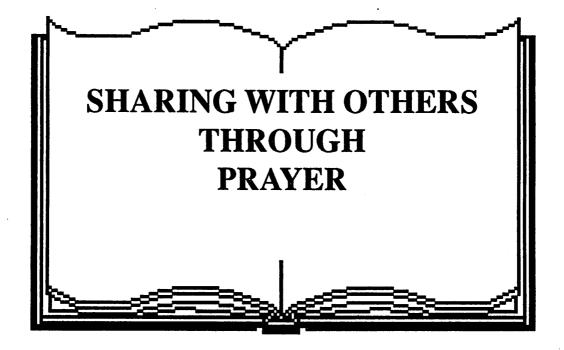
It may seem strange to some that we have associated the study of the Triune God to our pattern of a prayer life, but in order to talk to God, we better know of our restrictions as well as our liberties. Our prayer requests and notes of praise should never be just vain words, vain repetition, hoping to be heard by God. We approach God as believers as members of the royal family of God, adopted into the family on the merits of God alone. God has provided a powerful source through prayer and wants us to make full use of it. The Holy Spirit dwells within us to be our constant help, as we remain upon this earth. God's love toward us is beyond measure and is filled with blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Give of your best to the Master, for the journey through this temporary life will soon be over. That great "Air Lift" will soon take place, bringing us face to face with our Redeemer. What a day of rejoicing that will be!

CHAPTER 3

OUESTIONS.

- 1. What is the difference between Divine love and natural love. Explain 1 Corinthians chapter 13.
- 2. Why did God the Father send his Son to become a sacrifice for us? Give Scripture.
- 3. Explain John 11:41-42; and John 12:23-28.
- 4. What is the importance of the last supper? Write briefly.
- 5. Explain John 17:14-15; and John 17:20-24.
- 6. Was the Son of God forced to become the redeemer of the world? Explain with Scripture.
- 7. Can we as Christians expect to suffer since Christ suffered to redeem us? What relation does prayer have in your joys and sorrows?
- 8. Explain how believers are partakers of hope. Write briefly.
- 9. What benefits do we have as Christians? Give evidence from the Bible.
- 10. Are Christians to consider themselves as servants? Cite Scripture.
- 11. Should we consider ourselves, being believers, servants of the Lord through prayer?
- 12. Why is the Holy Spirit necessary in our earthly walk as believers?
- 13. What are some of the duties of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life?
- 14. How does the Holy Spirit enter into our prayer life? Give Scripture.
- 15. What should be the order of our prayer to the Triune God?
- 16. Explain Romans 8:25-28. Write briefly.
- 17. How does the Holy Spirit give protection against worldly temptations?
- 18. As believers, what should our priorities be?
- 19. Explain 1 Cor.20-21; and Philippians 3:20-21.
- 20. What does the phrase,"Not to be conformed to this world" mean to you? (Romans 12:1-2.)
- 21. Will world affairs get better as we evangelize for Christ? What can we expect according to 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12?
- 22. What can be learned from this study? Should our prayer life be improved by understanding the working of the Triune God in our behalf? Write briefly.

CHAPTER 4



CHAPTER 4.

SHARING THROUGH PRAYER WITH OTHERS.

A. BELIEVER'S PRIVILEGE IN SHARING.

Upholding others in prayer.

Sharing in prayer with others with the cares of this present life is of a great eternal value. From the natural viewpoint we could argue, "Well it is their own fault that they are helpless", or we could say, "They are poor managers of both time and money and they only have themselves to blame". There are many excuses that we could make, to excuse ourselves for not taking the time to share with others in their time of need. This may be the case for some of those for whom you are asked to pray for, but isn't that part of the Christian life? But by the grace of God, we are what we are, as the Bible says, "But by the grace of God I am what I am; and his grace, which was bestowed upon me, was not in vain, but I labored more abundantly than they all; yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me." 1 Cor.15:10. Wherein can any of us boast? It is God who works in and through us, working his perfect will for our lives. To God be the glory, great things he has done. Our duty is not only to uphold fellow believers in prayer, but also to pray for those who are lost. The Lord came to redeem poor lost sinners, condemned to die, and bring them into his marvelous eternal life of glory. Since God poured out his grace upon us, shouldn't we be willing to pray and share with others? The Lord left us here on planet earth to be a witness and testimony to his saving grace.

The privilege of responsibility.

I am so glad that the Lord has given us this privilege and responsibility to reach out to others in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. God's Divine love must flow through us to this sin cursed world, bringing a ray of hope to those who are in need of our prayer fellowship. God desires to share his magnitude of creation with his creatures, therefore we ought to be willing to bear one another's burdens. "Brethren if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye who are spiritual restore such a one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if a man think himself to be something, he deceiveth himself. But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another." Gal.6:1-4. This privilege and responsibility that the Lord has entrusted to us, builds our character for eternity. We accept this challenge by faith upon the authority of God's Word. God has sent us to tell to the nations this glorious gospel message, and endued us with power from the Holy Spirit.

The Lord is the source of our help.

A life of prayer and utter dependence upon the Lord is required and should be desired. Listen to what the Lord was willing to share with his people Israel. "Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people; for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation." Exod.19:4-6a. The Lord is the source of our help, and as we pray we are reminded to obey. God has not forsaken mankind, but mankind has departed from the will of God. Then when trouble comes, a quick prayer is uttered, in hope of getting God's attention. The Lord wants us to be willing to come to him in times of rejoicing as well as in the time of need. Our great examples of a caring God are found in the Old Testament. There are many illustrations of God's desire to have companionship with those he created in his own image. To name a few, Adam, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Joshua and David. Israel was reminded of the great desire that God has to share with them, declaring and claiming them as his adopted sons. "And in the wilderness, where thou hast seen how that the Lord thy God bore thee, as a man doth bear his son, in all the way that ye went, until ye came into this place." Deut.1:31.

The Lord is our constant source of help and strength and that is why a consistent prayer life is necessary. "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you; For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you whom, if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father, who is in heaven, give good things to them that ask him? Therefore, all things whatever ye would that men should

do to you, do ye even so to them; for this is the law and the prophets." Matt.7:7-12. As we share in prayer with others, we also enter into the prayers of others. The Lord is our help and strength, and the Holy Spirit gives us wisdom as he guides us through the Bible. Prayer is one important way of showing our love and concern for others. "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills. From whence cometh my help? My help cometh from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." Ps.121:1-2. It is an act of faith, both of communication with God, and presenting the needs of others to God.

God's great provision.

God the Father loves us with an everlasting love and provided his very own Son to redeem us from the penalty of sin, which would result in an eternal living death. "The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God." Isa.52:10. When the Lord created the heavens and the earth it was but finger play. "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth his handiwork." Ps.19:1. But to save a poor lost sinner, the Lord laid bare his mighty arm! "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed." Isa.53:4-5. God did more than share, in sending his only begotten Son to pay the terrible debt of sin.

The Son of God was willing.

God the Son was willing to bear it all for you and me, and it behooves us as Christians to bear one another's burdens. The Lord himself said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matt.11:28-30. Praise God that we can come to God the Father in the name of God the Son and our prayers are heard. "Who his own self bore our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were healed. For ye were as sheep going astray, but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls." 1 Pet.2"24-25. Christ's love for us, not only led him to the cross, but is our constant, ever present help before the Father, who has sent the Holy Spirit to be our comforter, indwelling us forever.

God the Holy Spirit is our continual helper.

God the Holy Spirit was sent forth to comfort us and protect us from the evil forces. He is our ever present help, and without him it would be impossible to rightly divide the Word of truth. One can sit under the best theologians in the world and fail to understand the Word of God, apart from the Holy Spirit. He is the one who provides special gifts to the believers so that they may understand and impart the living word of God to others.

God the Holy Spirit has been given to Christians, indwelling them through time and throughout eternity. "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." Jn.14:16-17. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was sent to provide new birth, setting apart the believers by his personal identification through Spirit baptism. 1 Cor.12:13. This gives us confidence and assurance before the Father as we communicate with him through prayer. The Holy Spirit has made possible this intimate relationship with the Father by making us alive spiritually.

Sharing in prayer is the privilege of Christians.

Prayer is a wonderful way to share with those of like faith. The Christian fellowship through prayer, unites us together as members of the body of Christ. We join together with our brothers and sisters in the Lord, with both joy and sorrow. This is an important ministry, as we uphold one another in prayer. When we do this we are actually giving our best to the Master. It is God's way of working out in our new life, what he has implanted within us by God the Holy Spirit. When we share with others in prayer we are promised special blessings from God. "I have shown you all things, how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35. As the Lord sent forth his disciples he said, "Freely ye have received, freely give." Matt.10:8b. "Give, and it shall be given unto you;" Lk.6:38a. Sharing with others in prayer, especially those of the household of faith, is a wonderful privilege and

joy. It is also a great way that we can show the love of God shed abroad in our hearts to our fellow believer. "By this perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whosoever hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his compassions from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" 1 Jn.3:16-17. The needs among the believers in many parts of the world are great, and we cannot always reach them with their physical needs, but we can lift them up in prayer, that help will arrive. "Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf." 2 Cor.1:11.

Doing the will of the Lord.

As we seek to do the will of the Lord in sharing through prayer, let us do it consistently and continually with hearts filled with love for others. The Lord desires that we come to him with our prayer requests. Our high priest is available in the presence of God the Father. "For we have not an high priest who cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us, therefore, come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Heb.4:15-16. As Christians we should live a life of prayer and communion with our heavenly Father, with thanksgiving and praise to his name. "Let your manner of life be without covetousness, and be content with such things as ye have; for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." Heb.13:5-6. God's will must be done in our life, as we uplift one another in prayer,

Mature Christians have an established prayer life.

Prayer is a life style of well established and mature believers. This life style is only attained with the right relationship with the Lord of glory. We as prayer warriors for the Lord should never consider prayer only as a quick rescue channel in times of emergencies. Prayer should be a daily source of reporting back to our supreme headquarters. If prayer is your life style, then you are continually in touch with the Almighty God from heaven. God knows all about our daily affairs, so nothing is hidden, however he wants us to talk to him, which is a sweet essence before the throne of grace. One day when the silver cords will break and the glory of God shines forth, we will be glad that we kept the communication lines open, to the praise of God. God has given us a special privilege in this life, to ap- proach him through prayer, at any time. Our growth as Christians is linked by faith to the word of God.

The struggles of the early church.

The early church went through many hardships, both from Rome and from the Jewish leaders. They were ostracized from their community, losing their jobs, homes, and daily needs. The needs were great, and the believers were strengthened in the inner being as they met these challenges. "And the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and of one soul; neither said any of them that any of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus; and great grace was upon them all, Neither was there any among them that lacked; for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, and laid them down at the apostles feet; and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need." Acts 4:32-35. You can rest assured that as they gathered together in one accord that there were many prayer requests among the believers. These sharing prayer meetings must have overflowed with Christian love! Whatever the common need was among them, so the common need was joyfully met. The individual Christians still had their own possessions, but all was considered in the hands of the Lord. Giving of our time in prayer and of our substance should be enshrouded with the grace of God. It was necessary for the early church to speed the gospel light and at the same time provide for the necessities of life for the families. "Wherefore, brethren, look among you for seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word." Acts 6:3-4. Being filled with the Holy Spirit demands complete surrender to the Lord. By faith, we anticipate with great expectation the marvels of God, planned for the future. Our prayer life will declare this to our fellow believer.

The ministry of the Word of God in our prayer life.

The word of God cannot be ignored in our prayer life, for it is through the written word that we understand how to approach our heavenly Father. Since there was a prayer change from the Old Testament times with the priestly ministry assigned to the Levi tribe, offerings had to accompany temple prayer. Christ reminded the woman of Samaria of this change of worship. (Jn.4:5-42.) Christ taught a sample prayer to the disciples. (Matt.6:1-18.) The word of God classifies the Lord Jesus Christ and the Father as one. (Jn.14:7-12.) The word of God is very important to us, as we depend upon the Holy Spirit to help us rightly divide the word of truth. The great change that had taken place on the day of pentecost, verifies and helps us understand the Scripture. "And ye now, therefore have sorrow; but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you. And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name; ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs; but the time cometh when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall show you plainly of the Father. At that day ye shall ask in my name, and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you; For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God. I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world; again, I leave the world, and go to the Father." Jn.16:22-28. As you read just this short portion from the word, you cannot help but realize the importance of the word of God in our prayer life. There are many examples from the word of God, concerning prayer, which you will find analyzed in the final chapter of this book. However, Christ was very specific as to how the members of the body of Christ were to pray. "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it." Jn.14:13-14. The important factor in what we ask for depends upon your life style for the Lord. "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Jn.14:15. "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. In this is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you; continue in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love, even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love." Jn.15:7-10. Knowing the word of God is very important, as to how we pray to the Father, and what we ask from the Father. This helps prevent us from asking for the wrong things. We will desire that the will of the Father is done in our lives. The heavenly Father wishes to glorify his Son in our lives as we pray for one another, keeping the unity among the brethren. The Holy Spirit is always present to help us pray for the right things.

Being filled by God the Holy Spirit in our prayer life.

It is essential that we have a good understanding of the Word of God in our prayer life, but it is also very important that we are filled by God the Holy Spirit. Remember that we do not get more of the Holy Spirit, but rather that he gets all of us. As believers we are made alive through the Holy Spirit, and he will be our eternal life companion, indwelling us forever. Christ himself included this in his prayer. "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." Jn.14:16-17.

Whether we give of our substance, or continually offer ourselves through prayer, it becomes a very special way in which we worship and bring praise to the Lord. This necessitates the presentation of our body unto the Lord as a living sacrifice, once and forever. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Rom.12:1-2. This is made possible by the help of the Holy Spirit who was sent from heaven to empower the believers to accomplish this. The Holy Spirit's mission is to gather together the body of Christ from Pentecost to the Rapture, and keep us from the evil one. He never will force his way into your life style, but he is available to guide and direct you as a believer, if you will let him. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For we have not received the spirit of bondage again unto fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God;" Rom.8:14-16. If you resist the help of God the Holy Spirit and desire to do things your own way, you grieve the Holy Spirit. "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, by whom ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice; And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God, for Christ's sake, hath forgiven you." Eph.4:30-32.

The Holy Spirit is available for continual help.

God the Holy Spirit is our ever present help, at all times and under every circumstance. He is our comfort and prayer partner. "Likewise, the Spirit also helpeth our infirmity; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God." Rom.8:26-27. The protection and help that God has provided for every believer is beyond anything that we could imagine or desire! God the Son interceding for us in heaven, and God the Holy Spirit constantly praying for us in a Divine language which cannot even be put into our ordinary languages. God's grace toward us as believers is boundless!

Our worship is to God the Father, to whom we bow our knees, because all of the created families in heaven and earth are named to bring glory and honor to him. With our ever present help of the Holy Spirit in full control, we are strengthened by him in our inner man. "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend, with all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye may be filled with all fullness of God." Eph.3:14-19.

Being filled with the fullness of God, can only be attained as we allow God the Holy Spirit to fill our lives, accomplishing through a life of prayer, God's perfect will, succeeding in our lives. God has made every provision for us for time and eternity to glorify his name. God the Holy Spirit, dwelling within us, is our guarantee for the fullness of life in Christ Jesus forever and ever. "What shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creation, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord." Rom.8:35-39. As the Holy Spirit dwells within us forever, we have the surety from Christ that he will never leave us nor forsake us throughout eternity. May we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us in our prayer life, to bring glory and honor to God.

B. CHRIST EXALTED THROUGH OUR SHARING.

Prayer is an expression of worship

The Lord desires that we as believers make full use of the access that he has made possible through prayer. The disciples were amazed as they heard Christ pray to the Father, and desired to be able to pray as he did. When we pray to God the Father in the name of God the Son and in the power of God the Holy Spirit, we are well pleasing to the Father and exalt the name of Christ. Prayer is an expression of worship, glorifying the Son before the Father, as we ask our petitions in Christ's name. "Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at his footstool; for he is holy. Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among those who call upon his name; they call upon the Lord, and he answered them. He spoke unto them in the cloudy pillar; they kept his testimonies, and the ordinance that he gave them. Thou answeredst them, O Lord our God: Thou wast a God who forgavest them, though thou hast taken vengeance on their misdeeds. Exalt the Lord, our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the Lord our God is holy." Ps.99:5-9. May we always reverence our God who has given us access into his very presence! "Thou art my God, and I will praise thee; thou art my God, I will exalt thee. Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever." Ps.118:28-29.

Prayer is our life line to God.

We are reminded that our prayer life should be more than just asking, for it should also be a great part of our new life in Christ within the royal family of God. As members of the body of Christ, we should exalt the one who has made possible this new relationship with God the Father. Prayer and communion with our heavenly Father is certainly not a time to exalt one's self, or pretend to be something contrary to your life pattern. Note what Christ said about the religious leaders during his days upon earth. "Then spoke Jesus to the multitude, and

to his disciples, saying, The scribes and the pharisees sit in Moses' seat. All, therefore, whatever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not after their works; for they say, and do not. For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders, but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. But all their works they do to be seen of men; they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, and love the uppermost places at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the market places, and to be called by men, Rabbi, Rabbi. But be not ye called Rabbi; for one is your Master, even Christ, and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth; for one is your Father, who is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters; for one is your Master, even Christ. But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted." Matt.23:1-12.

Humility in our prayer life.

May we always remember, as we come to the Father in prayer to humbly pray, exalting Christ who has made possible our access to the throne of grace in heaven. "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." 1 Pet. 5:6-7. "This Jesus hath God raised up, wherefore we all are wit- nesses. Therefore, being at the right hand of God exalted, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear." Acts 2:32-33. "Wherefore, God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name." Phil.2:9. In the light of what the word of God tells us, certainly our prayer life should be seasoned with exaltation of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We pray in the name above every name, even the Lord Jesus Christ.

In order for us to be well pleasing in the sight of God the Father, the name of Christ should have the preeminence in our life of prayer. "That we might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, who hath made us fit to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints of light; Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son; In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins; Who is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation; 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; And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church; who is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in all things he might have the pre-eminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all the fullness dwell;" Col.1:10-19. One could ponder on these truths indefinitely and only partially understand the greatness of our glorious Saviour. May it always be our desire to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ in our life of prayer.

Prayer, our direct life line to God.

God the Father accepts our prayer in the name of his exalted Son. May we constantly remember this, in our direct prayers to heaven, and our life of prayer and dedication will give us great confidence in our daily life. "For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, who is the head of all principality and power;" Col.2:9-10. When we understand the eternal values of the Godhead, we then can set our priorities right as we bring our requests before our heavenly Father. "If ye, then, be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." Col.3:1-2. This is part and parcel of abiding in Christ, when we pray to the Father, making our requests known unto him. It helps us to ask according to God's will, rather than according to our wants.

There is no harm in thanking the Lord Jesus Christ for what he has made possible for us through his sacrificial death. It is also permissible to thank God the Holy Spirit for his guiding hand in our every day life. He is our silent partner in the Godhead, dwelling within us, to glorify the Son of God in and through us. In our daily experience with people of many lands, great respect is shown to the Elders, as we greet them in the name of their eldest son. The Masai people were well known for this type of greeting to the elders by acknowledging and honoring them in the name of their oldest son. Many times I have used this illustration among the Masai to teach them that it is necessary to approach God the Father in the name of his Son. All of our requests should

be made directly to the Father, in the name of God the Son and being led by God the Holy Spirit. This is an important way that we show respect and honor to God the Father.

The established temple of God.

The body of Christ with many members from all around the world has become the temple of God, rather than any particular place of worship that is found in this world. Until the rapture takes place, our bodies are the temple of God. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" 1 Cor.3:16. This is important in our prayer life, for where ever we are, we have access to God the Father, in the name of Jesus Christ. Whether we are aware of this fact as Christians or not, the Lord Jesus Christ is the only line of communication to the throne of grace. He is our heavenly high priest and intercedes in our behalf, as we bring our petitions before our heavenly Father. Christ is our high priest forever, "But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore, he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such an high priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins and then for the people's; for this he did once, when he offered up himself." Heb.7:24-27.

C. THE BELIEVER'S ETERNAL CHARACTER DEVELOPED FOR ETERNITY IN SHARING THROUGH PRAYER.

Being controlled by the Holy Spirit.

Character building during this present span of life is of great importance, for God has placed us in limited and peculiar circumstances, testing us as to the responsibilities that he will grant to us in the future. If you study the sermons spoken by Christ on the Mount, you will understand what God requires. Sharing with others or praying for others is a very special way of being fruitful for the Lord. The true concept of sharing through prayer, must be generated by God the Holy Spirit. He has been sent to give us new life, protect us and guide us into all truth. This includes our prayer life as well as being a Comforter and companion. In order to lead a successful Christian life, we must depend upon God the Holy Spirit to direct us. The Holy Spirit is identified with us through our spiritual baptism, and new birth. We need to be willing to surrender our whole life to him, which includes sharing through prayer. God has made every provision for us for time and eternity, and certainly by his grace, we should learn to share with others, demonstrating the love of God shed abroad in our hearts.

God the Holy Spirit wants to have complete control of our lives, not for the sake of dominating, but rather for the opportunity to mold and make us after the will of God the Father. Without the Holy Spirit dwelling within the believers, Satan would absolutely defeat God's plan for their lives. Always remember that the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit is our protection against the evil forces. This whole world is to be considered as totally depraved and under the evil influence, and would utterly destroy us if the Holy Spirit wasn't the restraining power. Christ reminded us of the importance of God the Holy Spirit coming to earth, replacing him as he returned to heaven. "Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: It is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgement:" Jn.16:7-8. The Holy Spirit is very important to us as believers. He not only gives us a new birth, indwelling us and giving of gifts, but he also keeps the evil forces under control. What had happened in the antediluvian days, and before the flood, would be repeated again, corrupting all of God's creation. But, praise God, for the Holy Spirit and his restraining power. Fellow believers, do not attempt anything without listening to the Holy Spirit witnessing in your lives as you continue in God's word. Many Christians, consistently blame God for leading them in difficult circumstances, not reckoning that the difficulties could have been avoided, had they listened to the inner voice of the Holy Spirit.

Believers to be led by the Holy Spirit.

God the Holy Spirit desires to help us in every moment of our lives. There is a mutual witness within us as believers, when we allow the Holy Spirit to direct us and guide us through life. "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. They are of the world; therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God. He that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. By this know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error." 1 Jn.4:4-6.

"The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God;" Rom.8:16. Knowing these marvelous truths, as we pray, we have confidence before God, as the Holy Spirit leads us and directs us in the will of the Father. "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us; and if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him." 1 Jn.5:14-15.

The importance of Christian character in our prayer life.

As we study the history of Christianity from the oppression by the Jewish religious leaders, and Rome, until this present day, we are aware of the terrible persecutions that many Christians had to endure. Being scattered throughout the whole world, living in caves, being hounded by religious groups of all sorts, as well as often being misunderstood by fellow man. Foxe's Christian Martyrs of the World, published by the Moody Press of Chicago, tells us of some of the terrible slaughterings of Christians. As Stephen became the first Martyr of the early church, we discover a personality entirely devoted to the Lord. Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the early church to serve the tables. Here were their qualifications. "Wherefore, brethren, look among you for seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit," Acts 6:3-5a. As Stephen addressed the Sanhedrin, God the Holy Spirit spoke through Stephen, using the Old Testament. He declared Israel's beginnings, from the call of Abraham to Israel's disobedience through the wilderness and her many sins in the promised land. He spoke with great zeal of the love of God and was stoned to death crying out as he saw the Lord standing in heaven, ready to receive him. "And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive, my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep. Acts 7:59-60. As Stephen drew his last breath, it was drawn in prayer, and although he only had a short time of witness for the Lord, his character for eternity was molded by his devoted life to the Lord. He was a man of prayer and filled by the Holy Spirit. Stephen demonstrated his devotion to the Lord through his life of sharing and that with tremendous faith.

Saul of Tarsus, witnessed this stoning of Stephen, and being zealous for the law, must have pondered within his heart upon the very words of Stephen. Nevertheless he continued to persecute the believers, as he was given great authority from the high priest to destroy Christianity from among the Jews. As Saul traveled on the road to Damascus, he met the Lord Jesus Christ, face to face, which was the turning point in his life. Ananias was God's prepared man to go to Saul as he prayed. "And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Spirit." Acts 9:17. Note what happened to Saul, who became Paul the apostle. Here is what Paul witnessed. "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, my Lord; for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but refuse, that I might win Christ," Phil.3:7-8. Paul considered himself the chief of sinners. "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief." 1 Tim.1:15. Paul realized that it was of great importance to recognize one's own short comings to be useful for the Lord and depend upon his mighty power. This builds character for eternity.

The Saul of Tarsus, meeting his Savior face to face on the road to Damascus became Paul the Apostle. "And immediately he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. But all that heard him were amazed, and said: Is not this he that destroyed them who called on this name in Jerusalem, and came here for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests? Saul had a direct contact with the Lord Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus and later on spent 3 years in Arabia, with special tutoring by the Lord Jesus Christ. He actually had a three year Bible course from the Lord. "But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ." Gal.1:11-12. The Lord prepared Paul to endure the future suffering, and with his theological training, God the Holy Spirit used him in a very special way to establish Christian doctrine.

Suffering for the Lord becomes glory to the Lord.

The Lord Jesus Christ did not promise us an easy life style when we become a Christian, but rather a life of testing. As believers face the trials of life, they become more sympathetic in sharing through prayer with others. "In this ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold trials,

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ, Whom, having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory,

Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls." 1 Pet.1:6-9.

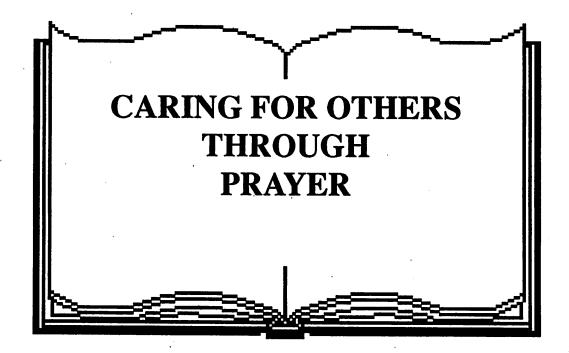
Most of the apostles suffered severely for their faith, being crucified, pulled asunder and brutally slain. Their trials and tribulations were not in vain, but helped spread the gospel to the ends of the world. Paul was stoned at Lystra, (Acts 14:19-20.) and left for dead, but God raised him up to continue the ministry, "Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. And when they had ordained elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed." Acts 14:22-23. Paul declared the great commission before kings and rulers as to his high calling in Christ Jesus. "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them who are sanctified by faith that is in me. Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision." Acts 26:18-19. The gospel message spread through great persecution, and the power of God prevailed. "So mightily grew the word of God, and prevailed." Acts 19:20. Paul suffered much as he furthered the gospel message and his reward before the Lord will be great. "Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. Of the jews five times received I forty stripes, save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Besides those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is offended, and I am not ashamed? If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not." 2 Cor.11:23-31. Who can match the trials which Paul went through as he preached the Gospel and taught the word? Very few would pray this prayer which Paul prayed. "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his suffering, being made conformable unto his death." Phil.3:10. It will not be long until the heavens open and the Lord himself will descend with a trumpet and lead us into those heavenly mansions. "For our citizenship is in heaven, from where also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who shall change our lowly body, that it may be fashioned like his glorious body, according to the working by which he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." Phil.3:20-21. "Beloved, now are we the children of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." 1 Jn.3:2. "Knowing that he who raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal." 2 Cor.4:14-18.

CHAPTER 4.

QUESTIONS.

- 1. What advantage does a prayer sharing believer have in his Christian walk?
- 2. Why should we uphold each other in prayer? What does the Bible say about this?
- 3. Is sharing in prayer part of evangelism and church development? Cite Scripture.
- 4. What sources of help do we have in our prayer life?
- 5. Name a few Old Testament saints, with whom God had direct fellowship. Cite Scripture.
- 6. Write briefly on Isaiah 52:10; Isaiah 53:4-5; and Psalm 19:1.
- 7. What part in prayer does God the Holy Spirit have? Cite Scripture.
- 8. Name some privileges that the Christian has in prayer sharing. Cite Scripture.
- 9. Why is a life of prayer helpful in the life of a mature Christian?
- 10. Explain Acts 4:32-35; and Acts 6:3-4.
- 11. Why is it necessary to know the Word of God in our prayer life?
- 12. Explain John 4:4-42; Matthew 6:1-18; John 14:7-12; John 16:22-28; John 14:13-15.
- 13. Why is it necessary to keep on being filled with the Holy Spirit in our prayer life? Eph.3:19.
- 14. Why is the truth of Romans 8:26-27. so important to our prayer life?
- 15. How do we exalt Christ in our sharing prayer life?
- 16. Name some attributes of prayer. What does prayer involve? Cite Scripture.
- 17. Why must we pray to the Father in the name of Jesus Christ. Cite Scripture.
- 18. What value does prayer have on the Christian's eternal character?
- 19. Why is it necessary to be controlled by the Holy Spirit in prayer?
- 20. Name some of the ministries of the Holy Spirit in the world and in the believer's life. Cite Scripture.
- 21. Explain character building in our prayer life. Give Biblical evidence.
- 22. Our trials and tribulations are of what eternal value?
- 23. Give Old Testament and New Testament examples of the saints of God experiencing trials and tribulations.

CHAPTER 5



CHAPTER 5.

CARING FOR OTHERS THROUGH PRAYER.

INTRODUCTION.

Caring for others through prayer is more than just idle words. As we join in prayer for others who are in dire need, we also express to God our appreciation for what he has abundantly provided for us. Let us ask ourselves an important question, "Do I really care for others, and especially those of the household of faith"? We are aware that the word of God says, "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer; and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. By this perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whosoever hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his compassions from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him." 1 Jn.3:14-19. As we care through our prayers for our fellow man, so let us provide for the brethren, as we can.

OUTLINE.

- A. SHARING GOD'S CARE FOR OTHERS.
- B. DECLARING OUR CARE FOR OTHERS TO THE WORLD.
- C. EXALTING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST THROUGH OUR CARES FOR OTHERS.

A. SHARING GOD'S CARE FOR OTHERS.

God's care for others.

Antediluvians.

From the very beginning of the creation of man, God gave of his time to walk in the cool of the evening with Adam and Eve, made in the image of God. God made them with the height of intelligence and gave them the responsibility of caring for that paradise of gardens. There was nothing that they were in need of, with a perfect surroundings in great beauty. Suddenly, dis-obedience brought sudden spiritual death and eventually after 930 years Adam died, just like God said he would. However, God was aware that this would happen and taught him how to sacrifice to cover his sins until the Messiah would come and remove the sin barrier. Suits of clothing were made for them by God.(Gen.3:21.) Cain was born and rejected God and hated his brother Abel, but God put a sign upon Cain, to prevent capital punishment upon him. This was another indication of God's grace. Mankind had longevity in those early days and multiplied rapidly. Methuselah lived 969 years before he died. There were two other men with whom God walked and they were Enoch and Noah. God showed his tender care of Enoch and delivered him out from the coming flood. (Gen.5:23-24.) Noah and at least part of his family were delivered from the flood, by God's great provision for him. (Gen.6:1-8:14.)

God was gracious to Adam and gave him a new lineage replacing Cain and his wicked dynasty. You may note that Cain established a City of Enoch, after his son, which was a counterfeit to the real Enoch born of the lineage of Seth. (Compare Gen.4:16-24; and Gen.5:6-32.) "And Adam knew his wife again; and she bore a son, and called his name Seth. For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew. And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enosh: then began men to call upon the name of the Lord.......And Jered lived after he begot Enoch eight hundred years, and begot sons and daughters. And all the days of Jared were nine hundred sixty and two years: and he died. And Enoch lived sixty

and five years and begot Methuselah. And Enoch walked with God after he begot Methuselah three hundred years, and begot sons and daughters. And all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty five years. And Enoch walked with God, and he was not; for God took him." Gen.4:25-5:24. This was the turning point in the history of man. God had the Messianic lineage protected as he separated Noah unto himself, from the lineage of Seth. (Gen.Gen.5:1-32.)

The lineage of Shem.

As I had mentioned before, it was imperative that God stop the demon possession in the whole race of mankind, and it was time that the Messianic hope be preserved through the family of Shem. The ancestry of Abram was preserved by God, making a great nation of Israel. They were given the sign of circumcision, so that they could be identified as God's special people, preserving the Messianic hope. God was always mindful of the first promise of a Redeemer. (Gen.3:15.) This was his loving care for all mankind. Having separated the lineage of Shem, God became specific and chose Abraham Isaac and Jacob. This may seem to some that God was a respecter of persons, but on the contrary, he was a respecter of promises. (Acts 10:34; Gal.3:18.) God is immutable and with his pre-knowledge of the future, he never needs to make alterations or change of plans. Shem who became the fore-runner of Abram, (Gen.11:10-32.) was a protected lineage for the Messianic promise.

The land of promise.

In order for God to preserve a people for the promise of the Messiah, he also had to provide a title deed to a land. The unconditional covenant made with Abraham stands the test of time. "In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:" Gen.15:18. "But the land, to which ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven. A land which the Lord thy God careth for. The eyes of the Lord thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year. And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the Lord your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, That I will give you rain of your land in its due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy grain, and thy wine, and thine oil. And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full." Deut.11:11-15. That certainly is a promise of great care over Israel. This land of Israel is divided among several nations now, but God will in his own time, restore it all to Israel as he promised.

The Messiah of promise.

"But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore, thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ." Gal.4:4-7. God cared for Israel in order to provide for all who would believe in the Messiah, which hope was preserved under Israel. God had foretold as to the manner of the Messiah coming into this world. "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Isa.7:14. "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was in this way: When, as his mother, Mary, was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit," Matt.1:18. God's loving care upon all mankind has been provided through his separating a nation unto himself.

The care for each other as heirs of God.

 is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit were we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Greeks, whether we be bond or free; and have all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many....... That there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it." 1 Cor.12:12-26. May we as believers accept the responsibility to pray for one another. Often times those prayers involve confessing for both the healing of the soul, the spirit and body. "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual, and fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Jas.5:16. Our care for others through prayer is another indication of our desire to live uprightly for the Lord. " For we ourselves also were once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after the kindness and love of God, our Savior, toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit, Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ, our Savior, That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they who have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men." Tit.3:3-8.

As members of the body of Christ, let us be mindful of one another, as the Word says, "Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor that which is evil; cling to that which is good. Be kindly affectionate one to another with brotherly love, in honor preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing diligently in prayer. Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality." Rom.12:9-13. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and sup-plication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made know unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Phil.4:6-7.

God has made provision for us as the body of Christ to share in his great undertaking to redeem precious souls. We have been entrusted with the great commission, to evangelize and teach the Word of God. Sharing through prayer, helping each other, units us as the redeemed, bringing glory and honor to the Lord Jesus Christ. "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." 1 Pet.5:7.

B. DECLARING TO THE WORLD THAT WE CARE FOR EACH OTHER.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the supreme challenge.

Since the unbelievers in the world are dead spiritually, their only avenue of understanding is in the temporal realm. They have been brain washed by Satan and under the bondage of sin. "But if our Gospel be hidden it is hidden to them that are lost, In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them who believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shone in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." 2 Cor.4:3-7. This is certainly a great responsibility, entrusted to Christians. It is an easy task to preach about oneself or personal interests, but it is of the most utmost importance that we lift up Christ before the nations. As the Lord prayed, prior to the crucifixion, listen to what he said. "Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour. But for this cause came I unto this hour. Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. The people, therefore, that stood by and heard it, said that it thundered; others said, an angel spoke to him. Jesus answered, and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes. Now is the judgement of this world; now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. This he said, signifying what death he should die." Jn.12:27-33. We are the spokesmen for the Lord, making known this gospel.

As God's witnesses in this world of strife, envy, greed, hatred, jealousy, adultery, fornication, idolatry, drunkenness, murders, and all sorts of godlessness, we are vessels of rightteousness for the out pouring of God's caring love. By your loving care through prayer, you declare to the world, the saving grace of our loving Lord. Many Christians are so involved in the cares of the world and for the things of the world, that they are out of

touch with God, neglecting a life of prayer and trust. When these things, surrounding us in this world, get hold of us, the Word of God is neglected. "And these are they that are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, and the cares of this age, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lust of other things entering in, choke out the word, and it becometh unfruitful." Mk.4:18-19. "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For like a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye, therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." Lk.21:34-36.

Exaltation of the Lord in our Christian life.

If Christians are to be used of God to deliver the children of this world from the power of darkness, it must be the power of God, working in and through them. The world wants proof of something better than what this world offers. Discord among the brethren is an abomination unto God. "These six things doth the Lord hate; Yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that are swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among the brethren." Pr.6:16-19. These hateful things are often used by Christian leaders in order to exalt themselves above their fellow believers. This is a misuse of the responsibility that has been entrusted to them, lording it over others and changing their good works into "wood, hay, and stubble"! Fellow Christian leader, do not be guilty of such, but rather humble yourself before God. "Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." Heb.12:1-3.

As I conclude this issue of exalting the Lord Jesus Christ in our every day life, I want to ask you a very personal question. Are you satisfied as a Christian that you are glorifying the Lord in thought, word, and deed? One day we shall see him face to face, and certainly will want to hear him say, "Well Done"! It will be too late to change your whole pattern of a prayer life after you breathe your last breath. Make sure that your priorities are right and you can say, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

Evidence of your care for others.

The world of people always have some sort of religion or philosophy. When Christianity came to foreign lands, many were willing to add it to their form of worship, for various reasons. The learned Greeks were no exception. Paul was aware of this as he visited Athens. "Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoics, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? Others, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods; because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection. And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, May we know what this new doctrine, of which thou speakest, is?.... Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are very religious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom, therefore, ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. God who made the world and all things in it, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands, Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breadth, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation, That they should seek the Lord, if perhaps they might feel after him, and find him, though he is not far from every one of us; For in him we live, and move, and have our being;" Acts 17:18-28a.

It was my privilege to visit Athens and to stand on Mars Hill, where Paul preached that clear cut and short sermon, with great results. Our guide in Athens took us to the temple of gods and specifically pointed out that all of the gods' heads were cut off, after Paul the Apostle had preached Jesus Christ the eternal Son of God. I saw the evidence of the power of the gospel, through the faithfulness and care of Paul. All of these religions bind and enslave the soul into submission to that which man develops, and never reaches to the Living God. Christianity delivers the soul from bondage and binds one to the Living God, who provides everything, for his family of believers. Christianity is a relationship with the true God, and must be attained by being born into the family of God.

As the apostle Paul used every opportunity to witness for the Lord, so ought we to be willing to welcome others into this wonderful royal family of God. Be concerned about the problems which your fellow man faces, and show him that you care. The living God may be unknown to him, and that gives you an opportunity to introduce him to the true God who answers prayers and cares.

God's indwelling love.

Now concerning those who are in the family of God, we certainly should be willing to care for one another as brothers and sisters in the Lord. A prayer life for each other, portrays that divine love working in and through each believer, toward one another. The body of Christ is made up of many members, and of all races of people around the world, it is our family responsibility to care for one another in the Divine love of God. This caring love for fellow believers, goes far beyond any natural love among the unregenerate. "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love, and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casteth out fear, because fear hath punishment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. If any man says, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar; for he that loveth not his brother, whom he hath seen, how can he love God, whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also." 1 Jn.4:11-21.

Christian's over flow of God's love through prayer.

Care and prayer with love is so important in our Christian walk through this temporal life. It is one of many ways in which we express our love to God, in caring for one another. The Christian who endeavors to please the Holy Spirit, and allow him to fill his life is well on the way to maturity. That Divine love that sent Christ to Calvary's cross, must also flow though us to our fellow believers. We are all homeward bound to our heavenly Father with the Lord. These earthly bodies of ours are to be changed and be like the Lord Jesus Christ in his glorified incarnate body. "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." 2 Cor.5:1. Those around about us, will readily discover the joy in our lives when we are in the right relationship with God. God's love will radiate through our lives, when filled by God the Holy Spirit. "Therefore, seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not, But have renounced the hidden things of dis-honesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending our-selves to everyman's conscience in the sight of God." 2 Cor.4:1-2.

Declaring our faith through prayer to the world.

As we pray to our Father in heaven, it should always be an act of faith based upon evidence from God's word. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders received witness. Through faith we understand that the ages were planned by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." Heb.11:1-3. The unregenerate of the world want evidence of reality, and through our prayer of faith, believing that we are heard by God, they will see the substance of answered prayer. As we draw from the word of God evidence of answered prayer. We as believers, claim the promises from God's word and declare God's wonder working power to the world. "For whatever is born of God overcometh the world; and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" 1 Jn.5:4. Faith is a necessary attitude in our life of prayer as we witness to the world.

Christ had to reprimand the disciples, "And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you. Be not anxious for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. The life is more than food, and the body is more than raiment. Consider the ravens; for they neither sow nor reap, which neither have storehouse nor barn, and God feedeth them; how much more are ye better than the fowls? And which of you by being anxious can add to his stature one cubit? If ye, then, are not able to do that thing which is least, why

are ye anxious for the rest?" Lk.12:22-26. The whole world is under stress and strain, and we as Christians need to be steadfast in faith, believing in our God who cares. Our faith in the Lord as we pray should manifest great confidence, contending for the faith." Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." Jude 3. Our life of prayer should be full of faith and established in the word of God. The walk of faith of every believer should be based upon the authority of God's word, with great expectation and never wavering. "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him?" Jas.2:14. Faith is always followed by the expression of faith through works. "Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?" Jas.2:22. Faith is always followed by confidence in God and stepping forward with assurance that God will accomplish it. God has left us in this world for a purpose, witnessing to the saving grace of our loving Lord. Christ's prayer before he went to the cross, contained the following. "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also who shall believe on me through their word;" Jn.17:15-20. Here you see the importance of our faith through prayer in reaching precious souls for Christ. We are in the world but not of it, but are to declare to the unregenerate that God cares and sent us into the world to show his loving care toward them.

C. EXALTING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST THROUGH OUR PRAYERS.

The Lord Jesus Christ loves us with an everlasting love and since we are members of the body of Christ, we ought to glorify and exalt the name of the Lord in our lives. The Lord wants to share with the saints that eternal love that the Father has for him. "And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it, that the love with which thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them." Jn.17:26. God's love for us through his Son is reflected in so many ways and beyond our comprehension. "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? Or who hath been his counselor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory forever. Amen." Rom.11:33-36. The Lord cares for each of us and pours out his eternal love upon us. God the Holy Spirit was given to us, bringing newness of life which will bring forth the fruit of the Spirit. (Gal.5:22-23.)

Our daily walk with the Lord.

What a great privilege is ours as saints of God, to walk moment by moment with the Lord through a prayer life! We can walk and talk with the Lord freely, day or night. We can take our joys and sorrows to him, maintaining prayer communication as well as an attitude of prayer. The more that we know about the Bible, the more we will have to carry on our conversation with the Lord. As has been brought out previously, it is an act of faith, and should always be a two way communication. As we assimilate the precious promises from God's word, our understanding of Almighty God increases. We learn to claim the promises of God, as we find the promises of God, written in the Bible. A thorough understanding of what the Lord accomplished for us, makes us want to walk and talk with the Lord more than ever! The Lord's love toward us is beyond all human comprehension and we must depend upon God the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us in the study of God's word. As we walk with the Lord, we walk in the light of the Word. "Then spoke Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." Jn.8:12. Christ also admonished his disciples to continue walking with him. "Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you; for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not where he goeth. While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the sons of light," Jn.12:35-36a. Today we walk and exalt the Lord Jesus Christ by faith and in the Holy Spirit. "Therefore, we are always confident, knowing that, while we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith. not by sight." 2 Cor.

5:6-7. "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." Gal.5:16 "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." Gal.5:25. Christ has sent the Holy Spirit to us in his absence, to protect and comfort us as well as teach us through the Word, how to walk worthy in the Lord. "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation to which ye are called. with all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Eph.4:1-3.

This walk with the Lord should be a walk of adoration of our bridegroom. "Be ye, therefore, followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor." Eph.5:1-2. "For ye were once darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord; walk as children of light. For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth, proving what is acceptable unto the Lord." Eph.5:8-9. It is imperative, as we walk with the Lord and talk with him that we might be found well pleasing with him in all things. "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and long suffering with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, who hath made us fit to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son. In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins." Col.1:9-14. When one who is a Christian realizes all that the heavenly Father has provided for us through his Son, we shout with joy! May God help each of us to be established in the Lord of glory. "As ye have, therefore, received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him, rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding with thanksgiving." Col.2:6-7.

The Heavenly Father has called us into his royal family and has made all of the preparations for this new relationship for time and eternity. May our walk always be in the light of God's word, so that we have a continual fellowship with God Almighty. "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from all sin." 1 Jn.1:7. This walk with the Lord through our prayers and cares, demands that we walk in the truth of God's word. "For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. I have no greater

joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." 3 Jn.3-4.

Our daily walk with the Lord should make the day for each of us, as the Lord walks with us and talks with us, through the word of God. God has provided us with a complete revelation and there is no other visions or revelations necessary. Those that try to exclude portions of the Bible, or add to what God has revealed are condemned by the very word of God. "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book; And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." Rev.22:18-19. Our prayer life should absolutely be engulfed in the word of God. What better way of walking and talking with the Lord, than to speak about the powerful and living word of God.

Our life of prayer is of utmost important in keeping the right relationship with the Lord. It is not to emphasize asking the Lord for certain things, but primarily to praise "The Lord of glory" for his continual care over us. "Praise ye the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation. The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all them who have pleasure therein. His work is honorable and glorious, and his righteousness endureth for- ever". Ps.111:1-3; "I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications. Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live."Ps.116:1-2. Praise from our lips demands praise and exaltation in our daily life. "Thou art my God, and I will praise thee; thou art my God, I will exalt thee." Ps.118:28. "Make me to understand the way of thy precepts; so shall I talk of thy wondrous works." Ps.119:27.

Our life pattern through him.

Although the eternal Son of God was in the public ministry for only three years, and we have but a fragment of his life style, yet there is ample testimony of his incarnate life on the planet earth for us to follow. The Lord has been tested and tried in every aspect of the human life, for our admonition and help. Perhaps the most trying time that the Lord Jesus Christ experienced was being tested by Satan in the wilderness for 40 days and 40 nights. This occurred just before the Lord went into his public ministry. There are all sorts of imaginations of the early life of Jesus, but these are not certified, except for four occasions.

1. Presented on the eighth day for circumcision, identifying him as under the law of Moses. (Lk.2:21-24.) Note that a pair of turtle doves or two pigeons were mentioned, which is what the poor were required to bring.

2. During one of the feasts of the Passover, when Jesus remained in the temple and talked with the elders, causing them to be amazed at his understanding and answers to their questions. "And the child grew, and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon him. Now the parents went up to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover. And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned,

the child, Jesus, tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. But they supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinfolk and acquaintances. And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him. And it came to pass that, after three days, they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were amazed at his understanding and answers. And when they saw him, they were astonished; and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? Behold thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? Knew ye not that I must be about my Father's business? And they understood not the saying which he spoke unto them." Lk.2:40-50. This in itself is a mighty revelation of the Incarnate Christ!

- 3. The baptism of Jesus, which identified him with Israel and the coming kingdom. This was a very important event with both the testimony of John the Baptist, and God the Father from the heavens. (Lk.3:21-22; Matt.3:13-17; Mk.1:9-11; Jn.1:31-34.) "Behold the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world. This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man who is preferred before me; for he was before me. And I knew him not; but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. And John bore witness, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not; but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he who baptizeth with the Holy Spirit. And I saw, and bore witness that this is the Son of God." Jn.1:29b-34. "Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also, being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended in a body shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased." Lk.3:21-22.
- 4. The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for 40 days and 40 nights. (Matt.4:1-11; Mk.1:12-13; Lk:4:1-13. These temptations which Jesus faced were of great importance to us as Christians. The test was not as to whether Jesus would fall to these temptations of the devil, but that we would be convinced of the impeccability of the Son of God. This should give us great confidence toward God, knowing that the Triune God can never sin. Christ always was the Lamb of God without blemish, which was necessary to make atonement for our sins and remove the penalty of sin, which is death, as far as the east is from the west, and the two shall never meet! Amen! and Amen!

There are a few points of great interest, concerning these four appearances before the public ministry of the Lord. "And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them; but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." Lk.2:51-52. Jesus being the first born, was also responsible to provide for the family when Joseph died. The ways of God are past our finding out! The younger members of the family and mother Mary were all taken care of by Jesus before he started his earthly ministry. The Lord Jesus Christ was always 100% God and 100% man with that great hypostatic union, the Incarnate One.

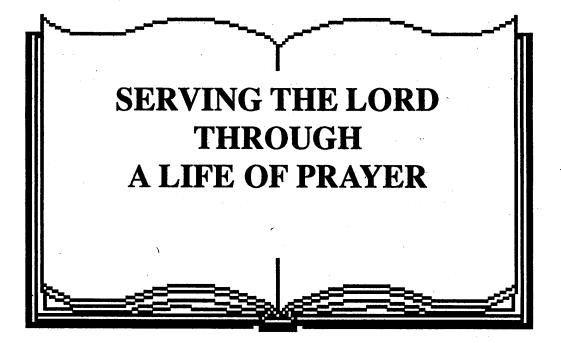
CONCLUSION.

As we conclude this study of "Caring Through Prayer For others", we must always keep in mind that a life of prayer is greatly involved in our life style. If our prayer life is to grow, we must search out the deep things of God's Word. Anything less than that, our prayer life becomes stagnant. Our prayers become vain repetition and a mere form. As members of the body of Christ, we should be concerned about the other members within the body. That is why it is so important that we care for one another in prayer with thanksgiving, earnestly uplifting one another before the throne of Grace. Anything short of this misses the wonderful blessings that the Lord has in store for us, through prayer. Let's walk and talk with the Lord often, bringing before him our brothers and sisters in the Lord, with thanksgiving.

CHAPTER 5 QUESTIONS

- 1. Why should christians care for each other with prayer and care? Cite Scripture.
- 2. Give some examples of God's care during the "Antediluvian" times?
- 3. How did God care for Adam and Eve after they sinned? Cite Scripture.
- 4. Why was the flood a special protecting care from God in keeping his promise?
- 5. What does the rainbow remind us, concerning God's promises?
- 6. Why does the Bible only contain a complete lineage of Seth and continue through Shem?
- 7. Where is the land of promise, and to whom did God promise it? Cite Scripture.
- 8. Explain, writing briefly on the following. Gen.3:15; Isa.7:14; Isa.9:6-7; Gal.4:4-5.
- 9. As joint heirs with Christ, why should we as believers uphold one another in prayer? Cite Scripture.
- 10. Name several ways that we can declare to the world that we care for each other as Christians.
- 11. What are some of the reasons for our faith in prayer?
- 12. Name some ways that we can exalt the Lord in our Christian walk.
- 13. How do we manifest evidence that we care for others?
- 14. How do you know that you have God's indwelling love? Cite Scripture.
- 15. What benefits do we have through prayer? Cite Scripture.
- 16. How important is our faith in convincing the unregenerate of God's love?
- 17. How do we exalt the Lord through our prayers?
- 18. Explain fully how we approach God the Father in our prayers.
- 19. How do we continue in prayer for each other?
- 20. What is your personal life pattern through prayer?
- 21. Name the four appearances of Christ, prior to his earthly ministry.
- 22. How does one's prayer life grow? Cite Scripture.

CHAPTER 6



CHAPTER 6.

SERVING THE LORD THROUGH A LIFE OF PRAYER.

- A. MAKING FULL USE OF PERSONAL TALENTS AND SPECIAL GIFTS FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT.
- B. BEING A PROFITABLE AND FAITHFUL SERVANT TO THE LORD.
- C. BEARING MUCH FRUIT FOR THE LORD THROUGH OUR LIFE OF PRAYER.

INTRODUCTION.

The Lord's prayer, as he approached the cross is filled with loving care for his own. He knew the terrible suffering that he was about to face, but was so faithful to his own, as he committed them unto the Father. "While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name; those that thou gavest me have me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world." Jn.17:12-18.

There is work to be done in this hateful world, and the Lord has entrusted to us the ministry of evangelizing and speeding the Gospel message to the regions beyond, while there is still time. We cannot personally be everywhere around the world, but we can reach around the world through our prayers, contributions for missions, and sending forth the printed page. The Lord has entrusted to us this great responsibility of being his witnesses. "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have shown toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end; That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises." Heb.6:10-12. May each of us be encourage to diligently serve the Lord, being faithful to him who has called us out of darkness into his glorious light.

A. MAKING FULL USE OF PERSONAL TALENTS AND SPECIAL GIFTS FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Natural Personal Talents.

Each individual born into this world, has some natural talents, and a personal character. Some of us are like impetuous Peter, and others like quiet John or Nathanael in whom there is no guile. "Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile."Jn.1:47. Each of the disciples were different, and before God, there are none of us duplicated or made of the same mold. Even in nature, God created all things according to his will, and there is a diff- erence. The zebra may all look alike to us, but the markings of their stripes are all different. So each of us born into this world have more or less talents when born. When Adam and Eve were created they were the sum total of intelligence with the highest I.Q. of all beings, rather than a progressive development that the evolutionists would like us to believe.

Since we have natural talents, the Lord knows exactly our capability, being omniscient. The Lord recognized this in his earthly ministry, and Nathanael is a good example of this. "Nathanael saith unto him, How knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee. Nathanael answered, and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the king of Israel. Jesus answered, and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? Thou shalt see greater things than these. And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man." Jn.1:48-51. Constantly, the Lord was dealing with men of diff- erent talents and knew their ability to fulfill his great com- mission. The Lord's great desire for you and me is that we present these natural talents in our bodies to him for his use. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Rom.12:1.

These natural talents will find expression to God in a life of prayer. However, God cannot use these talents, until Christ is accepted as one's personal Saviour. If you feel that you have very few good talents, the Lord has

the solution for this. "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shone in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." 2 Cor.4:6-7. God wants to use our natural talents for his glory and honor. If you have a lack of wisdom and do not know what the Lord would have you to do, look to him in prayer. "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into various trials, knowing this, that the testing of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, lacking nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord. A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways." Jas.1:2-8.

Practical Christian living is essential in our life of prayer. The Lord is ready and willing to provide, using your natural talents as you serve him. The Lord knows every thought and intent in our lives, and assigns us to various tasks accordingly. The religious leaders tried their best to defeat the Lord in every way possible, but they were unaware that he already knew their thoughts and intents. (Heb.4:12.) The Lord had to reprimand the pharisees for their deception. "And he said unto them, Ye are they who justify yourselves before men, but God knoweth your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God." Lk.16:15. Your action in daily life is also reflected in your prayer life. The Lord reminds us of these things. "And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are; for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and at the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy room, and when thou hast shut the door, pray to thy Father, who is in secret; and thy Father, who seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the pagans do; for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye, therefore, like unto them; for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him." Matt.6:5-8.

Special gifts from the Holy Spirit.

As the word of God reminds us through James to ask the Lord for wisdom, with faith, not wavering, so God the holy Spirit is ready and willing to provide those extra gifts and talents as the needs occur. However, if you neglect to use your natural talents for the glory of God, how can you expect to receive gifts from the Holy Spirit? May we scan through 1 Cor.12, 13, and 14, for the purpose of learning the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives for a fruitful ministry.

First Corinthians Chapter 12.

Our attitude toward the Lord Jesus Christ is very essential and that is maintained thoroughly by God the Holy Spirit. Our whole Christian life and witness, gives the Lord Jesus Christ the pre-eminent place in our lives, by the power of the Holy Spirit. This is very important in our Christian walk and determines the various gifts which the Holy Spirit will give to each of us. We may desire certain gifts from the Holy Spirit, but he alone determines what is best for us. (1 Cor.12:11). Another important issue, as members of the body of Christ, is the fact that we all have been baptized into one body by the Holy Spirit, when we were born again and given new life by the Spirit. (1 Cor.12:13). We need to constantly be reminded that if one member of the body of Christ suffers, we all suffer. Therefore we urgently need to constantly be in prayer one for another as members of the body of Christ. (1 Cor.12:26.) We are to use our gifts from the Holy Spirit to glorify the Lord, who loves us with an everlasting love. As we approach 1 Cor.13; the Holy Spirit shows us a more excellent way. (1 Cor.12:31.)

First Corinthians Chapter 13.

In this chapter we are reminded that the fruit of the Spirit, should be uppermost in our use of all gifts from the Holy Spirit. Faith, hope, and love are all essential in our Christian walk, as we are reminded, "For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith." Gal.5:5. This love which is referred to is not a natural love, but rather a Divine love, working in and through us and comes as the fruit of the Spirit. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control; against such there is no law." Gal.5:22-23. Let me remind you that you do not separate these various traits, but they are as a package deal and are listed as "The Fruit of the Spirit".

First Corinthians Chapter 14.

Here we are reminded to follow after this "Divine love", which can only come from the Holy Spirit, giving whatever gifts we may have, a special value in the ministry for the Lord. Since the Bible contains more than half prophetic utterances, certainly we need to search out both the fulfilled prophecy as well as the future prophecy. We are not to be boastful in our speech, nor speak in a language unfamiliar to those we are witnessing to. "So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? For ye shall speak into the air." 1 Cor.14:9. The Holy Spirit is reminding us of particular languages in the world and not some sort of gibber. "There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification." I Cor.14:10. This also refers to using strange languages in our prayers. "For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is it, then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also; I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also." 1 Cor. 14:14-15. The Apostle Paul was a linguist and spoke many languages as he reminded us. "I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all." 1 Cor.14:18. However, when he is in the church and teaching the word of God, Paul wanted to make sure that everybody understood. "Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue." 1 Cor.14:19. Bear this in mind, my fellow believer, and use your gifts to the greatest advantage in glorifying the Lord and building up the saints in the most holy faith.

Another very important truth about these various languages, as were heard on the day of Pentecost. There was no need of interpreters, as each heard in their own language. "And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?" Acts 2:8. What was God's purpose with such a miracle? "Wherefore, tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not; but prophesying serveth not them that believe not, but for them who believe." 1 Cor.14:22.

Now if a believer wants to speak in his own language and the majority of the church does not understand, then he should get at least two or three interpreters, and let one interpret and the others check him out for accuracy. If this is impossible, then he should not speak in that unknown language. (1 Cor.14:27-29.) This all reminds us, "For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."

The final important issue in this chapter is that the women should be silent as to speaking in the churches. (1 Cor.14:34.) That does not mean that they cannot speak, but rather that they do not usurp the authority of the man. Many times in evangelism around the world, there are no men available to bring the Gospel message, and the women have to step in the breech. and the final word is, "Let all things be done decently and in order." 1 Cor. 14:40.

It behooves us as believers to make full use of our personal talents as well as those special gifts that the Holy Spirit gives to us. Our desire should be to be fruitful for the Lord in using these talents and gifts, fulfilling that great commission. "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age. Amen." Matt.28:19-20. "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. In this is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you; continue ye in my love." Jn.15:7-9.

B. BEING A PROFITABLE AND FAITHFUL SERVANT TO THE LORD.

As servants of God, there is nothing that we can do to add or take away from the character of God. Being profitable and a faithful servant to the Lord will establish that one in the Lord for special recognition. "For bodily exercise profiteth little, but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For, therefore, we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe. These things command and teach." 1 Tim.4:8-11. God desires us to be faithful to his word and bear profitable fruit for the Lord. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Tim.3:16.

The importance of the word of God.

We get our instructions from the word of God and perfect understanding of the word of God through God the Holy Spirit. To be profitable and faithful unto the Lord, we must abide by the instructions from the Bible. The word of God demands application and action, and not mere words. "Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers. Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Tim. 2:14-15. Being profitable and faithful to God in the application of his word through prayer and care brings forth God's approval. This requires our faithfulness to the Lord in spite of opposition or accusation. "For now we see in a mirror, darkly; but then, face to face; now I know in part, but then shall I know even as also I am known." 1 Cor.13:12. As believers are faithful to the Lord, regardless of the circumstances, the Lord becomes more precious. "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusteth in him" Ps.34:8. "Oh, love the Lord, all ye his saints; for the Lord preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer. Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord." Ps.31:23.

Be alert to the coming of the Lord.

The Lord Jesus Christ expects us to be found faithful, watching and praying, waiting for his return. "Therefore be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Who, then, is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord, when he cometh, shall find so doing." Matt.24:44-46. The Lord also reminded us to use our talents in a profitable way. These talents which we have demands a life of prayer and care. May we be found faithful to the Lord in our Christian life. "His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things. Enter thou into the joy of thy lord." Matt.25:21.

Being responsible before God.

God wants us to take responsibility in this life, in preparation for the eternal life. "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much; and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. If, therefore, ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous money, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and money." Lk.16:10-13. As we talk to God and live according to his word, we learn how to be faithful and profitable to the Lord. "I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ, that in everything ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge, even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you; So that ye come behind in no gift, waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." 1 Cor.1:4-9.

Faithful stewardship.

The duty of those in high positions in the Lord's work is to be as a servant of all rather than lording it over all. Much time should be spent in prayer for the flock and manifesting the fruit of the Holy Spirit in so great a responsibility. Christ gave us a tremendous example of humility as he washed the disciples feet. "So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was seated again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord; and ye say well; for so I am. If I, then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him." Jn.13:12-16. Certainly all Christian leaders should take note of the Lord's humility, and practice it in every dealing with those under their authority. Feet washing was necessary in the land where there was open sewerage and a servant was usually assigned to wash the visitor's feet. If you wish to practice feet washing, let it not be a sham where you go through a routine. However, what Christ was teaching was an over all principle of what he said, "But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And

whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted." Matt.23:11-12. "And whosoever of you would be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of man came, not to be ministered unto but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." Mk.10:44-45. If the eternal Son of God was willing to give his all for us, how much more we should give of our best to the Lord in our daily walk by faith? May we take up our cross and follow the Lord, knowing that God the Father is well pleased with his Son.

C. BEARING MUCH FRUIT FOR THE LORD, THROUGH OUR LIFE OF PRAYER.

A life of prayer devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ, denotes our trust and confidence in Almighty God who is able to make our life fruitful to his glory and honor. You may think that your attitude of prayer as Christians, has little value before God, but on the contrary. "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; ye are of more value than many sparrows." Matt.10:29-31. God wants every believer to be fruitful in this life, as we live by faith.

The purpose of fruit bearing through prayer.

We as Christians have been commissioned to bear fruit for the Lord. The Lord has sent us forth for this very purpose, testifying to the saving grace of our loving Lord. The source of our power in praying for others is in the Lord. "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing." Jn.15:4-5. This is why our prayer to the Father in the name of Jesus Christ is very important. We have been given that great commission to use every means possible to reach the lost and dying before it is too late. "By him, therefore, let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and share forget not; for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." Heb.13:15-16. At times the Lord has to teach us through pruning, in order that we might bear more fruit, to his glory and honor. "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." Jn.15:2.

The benefit from fruit bearing through prayer.

It cost God the Father his very own eternal Son to redeem us, providing us with the fruit of eternal life. God highly values the soul and desires to exercise his Divine love through us."The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise." Prov.11:30. "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God. Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and long suffering with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, who hath made us fit to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son; In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins;" Col.1:9-14. Prayer is a mighty weapon to break down every barrier, redeeming the time and reaching out to "The Regions Beyond".

Concern for others through prayer.

Christ is the only escape route from the penalty of sin, and when we understand the terribleness of the eternal wrath of God, we certainly do not want our friends to come under such terrible judgement. We need to constantly pray that as we sow the Gospel seed that it will fall upon prepared soil. "But that on the good ground are they who, in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience." Lk.8:15. Prayer is very important as we reach out to these lost souls. It is God alone who can make us fruitful. "So, then, neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth, but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one; and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor." 1 Cor.3:7-8. "And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal, that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together." Jn.4:36.

It is important that our prayer life for the needs of others should be consistent flavored with Divine love. Our passion to reach lost souls should be uppermost in our Christian lives. We need to be reminded that the

Lord has set us free from the wages of death, with a great desire to claim the lives of others through our prayers. "What fruit had ye then in those things of which ye are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord." Rom.^:21-23.

CONCLUSION.

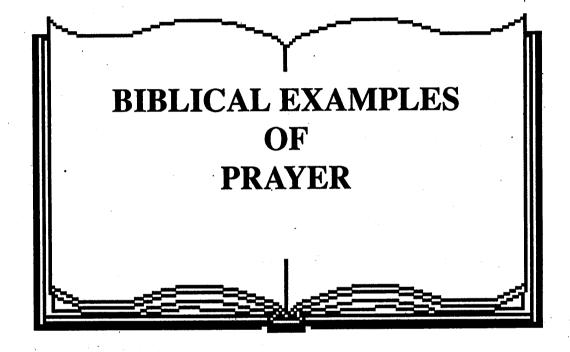
We are very dependent upon consistent contact with our heavenly Father through prayer, with the word of God as our guide line, and the Holy Spirit as our teacher. We enter into the spiritual realm of God through our prayer life. As members of the royal family of God, we are directed by God in our new creation into spiritual worship based upon the truth of God's word. "God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." Jn.4:24. As we pray for one another we open a vast and dynamic resource from our heavenly Father, in the name of his dearly beloved Son, in whom he is well pleased. Don't neglect this tremendous access which God has provided for us. Our heavenly Father wants to be our ever present source of help and is waiting for you and for me to call upon him. Wait upon the Lord. "Be ye also patient, establish your hearts; for the coming of the Lord draweth near." Jas.4:8.

Prayer makes the vital link into very heaven itself and we are utterly dependent upon the intercessory prayer of the Lord Jesus Christ before the Father. Satan continually accuses us before the Father and it is necessary that we have an Advocate and someone pleading our cause continually. "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And he is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." 1 Jn.2:1-2. It is also wonderful how the Holy Spirit also prays in our behalf. Likewise, the Spirit also helpeth our infirmity; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God." Rom.8:26-27. God has amply provided for us as members of his royal family, and as his children, may we be found faithful to Him who has called us out from darkness into his marvelous light.

CHAPTER SIX OUESTIONS.

- 1. Differentiate between the Lord's prayer (John 17.) and the Disciples prayer. (Matt.6:9-13; Lk.11:1-4.)
- 2. Write briefly on Hebrews 6:10-12.
- 3. How do our natural talents benefit us in our work for the Lord?
- 4. Do we demand certain gifts from the Holy Spirit? Explain 1 Corinthians 12.
- 5. Write briefly on 1 Corinthians 13 and 14.
- 6. Being profitable to God through our prayer and care for others, what results can we expect?
- 7. Explain the importance of the Word of God in our prayer life.
- 8. Explain Matthew 24:44-46.
- 9. What are our responsibilities as Christians, in this present life?
- 10. Explain thoroughly what is faithful stewardship in the Lord's work.
- 11. What importance is our prayer life in fruit bearing for the Lord?
- 12. What are the Christians main sources in fruit bearing?
- 13. What benefits do we develop from fruit bearing through our prayers?
- 14. Explain Luke 8:15; 1 Corinthians 3:7-8; and John 4:36.
- 15. When we pray what is the entire scope of our prayers?
- 16. Why should we usually pray directly to God the Father?
- 17. At times is it Scriptural to pray directly to the Lord Jesus Christ?
- 18. Should we ever talk to God the Holy Spirit and thank him for his help in our Christian life?
- 19. Explain what an attitude of prayer means to you.
- 20. Should we daily have personal prayer alone with God the Father? Explain.
- 21. In the Triune God, who do we have praying for us? Give Scripture.
- 22. Why do we need an Advocate and someone to intercede for us before God the Father?

CHAPTER 7



CHAPTER 7.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF PRAYER.

Old Testament Prayers.

Let us search through the Bible and glean some prayer help from those saints of God who lived long ago. We will limit our research to just a few compared to the many prayers offered before Almighty God. Some of these prayers will be in frustration and anguish while others have special requests, flavored with praise and thanksgiving. There were a few saints that had a special communication with God, such as Adam and Eve, and Enoch, who were given the privilege of walking and talking with the Lord. The Disciples also were privileged to spend 3 years with the Eternal Son of God. One day we, who have put our trust in the Lord, will see him face to face. However, at this time, let us hear the prayers of God's chosen ones, which are recorded in the Bible.

Abraham.

"And Abram said, Lord God, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir." Gen.15:2-3. Abram's prayer was answered, and God eventually provided Isaac as his heir, as well as multiplying his seed.

Abraham was a friend of God and also had the privilege of seeing God in three persons, and sat down with them in the shade of a tree and ate. (Gen.18:1-8). The promise was confirmed by God that Sarah would have a son and heir.

Abraham's intercessory prayers for Sodom and Gomorrah were of no avail because there were not even ten righteous within these cities. Gen.18:23-33. But God spared Lot and two of his children.

Eliezer of Damascus.

"And he said, O Lord God of my master, Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and show kindness unto my master, Abraham. Behold I stand here by the well of water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water; And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also; let her be the one whom thou hast appointed for thy servant, Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shown kindness unto my master." Gen.24:12-14. God answered his prayer exactly as he prayed. (Gen.24:15-21). This is another marvel of God, working in behalf of Abraham through the prayer of his servant. Rebekah was also prepared and put by God in the right place, at the right time.

Jacob.

"And Jacob said, O God of my father, Abraham, and God of my father, Isaac, the Lord who saidst unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee; I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shown unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands. Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children. And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good, and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude." Gen.32:9-12. In this prayer we find Jacob claiming the promises of God spoken to Abraham in a very humble way.

Moses.

"And Moses said unto the Lord, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore nor since thou has spoken unto thy servant; but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue. And the Lord said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? Or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? Have not I the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth and teach thee what thou shalt say. And he said, O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send." Ex.4:10-13.

This of course angered the Lord that Moses was not willing to trust him to correct anything lacking, and Aaron his brother was brought in to be of help. It is so important as we pray and the Lord gives us work to be done, that we trust God the Holy Spirit to help us in the development of our gifts, and add certain gifts that are required.

Moses Intercedes for Israel.

"And Moses besought the Lord his God, and said, Lord, why doth thy wrath burn against thy people, whom thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand? Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou didst swear by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it forever. And the Lord repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people." Ex.32:11-14.

"And Moses returned unto the Lord, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin-; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written." Ex.32:31-32. God answers Moses."And the Lord said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book." Ex.32:33.

Gideon.

"And Gideon said unto him, O my Lord, if the Lord be with us, why then is all this befallen us? And where are all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt? But now the Lord hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites." Jud.6:13.

"And Gideon said unto God, If thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said, Behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; and if the dew be on the fleece only, and it be dry upon all the earth beside it, then shall I know that thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said. And it was so; for he rose up early on the next day, and thrust the fleece together, and wrung the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full of water. And Gideon said unto the God, Let not thine anger be hot against me, and I will speak but this once; let me make a trial, I pray thee, but this once more with the fleece; let it now be dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew. And God did so that night; for it was dry upon the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground." Jud.6:36-40.

Samson.

"And Samson called unto the Lord, and said, O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes. And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left. And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he slew at his death were more than they whom he slew in his life." Jud.16:28-31.

Hannah.

"And she vowed a vow, and said, O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a male child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head." 1 Sam.1:11.

"And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the Lord, mine horn is exalted in the Lord; my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies, because I rejoice in thy salvation. There is none holy like the Lord; for there is none beside thee, neither is there any rock like our God. Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth; for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed." 1 Sam.2:1-3.

King David.

"O Lord my God, in thee do I put my trust; save me from all those who persecute me, and deliver me, Lest he tear my soul like a lion rending it in pieces, while there is none to deliver...... I will praise the Lord according to his righteousness, and will sing praise to the name of the Lord most high." Ps.7:1-17.

"Hear the right, O Lord, attend unto my cry, give ear unto my prayer, that goeth not out of feigned lips. Let my sentence come forth from thy presence; let thine eyes behold the things that are equal............Keep me as the apple of the eye; hide me under the shadow of thy wings,.......As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness;

I shall be satisfied when I awake, with thy likeness." Ps.17:1-15.

"Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in thee; let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me.......Show me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths. Lead me in truth, and teach me; for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.......For thy name's sake. O Lord, pardon mine iniquity; for it is great. What man is he that feareth the Lord? Him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose......Let integrity and uprighteousness preserve me; for I wait on thee. Redeem Israel, O God, out of all troubles." Ps.25:1-22.

"Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving-kindness; according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight, that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest......Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto thee........The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion; build thou the walls of Jerusalem." Ps.51:1-18.

There are many prayers throughout the Psalms that need to be studied by those who wish to commune with Almighty God. These that I have chosen are but a few of the many cries before God who cares.

King Solomon.

Solomon followed his father very well in the early part of his rule, and especially at the beginning. "And Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of David, his father; only he sacrificed and burned incense in high places. And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there; for that was the great high place: a thousand burnt offerings did Solomon offer upon the altar. In Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, ask what I shall give thee. And Solomon said, Thou hast showed unto thy servant David, my father, great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. And now, O Lord my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David, my father; and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in. And thy servant is in the midst of thy people whom thou hast chosen, a great people, who cannot be numbered or counted for multitude. Give, therefore, thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad. For who is able to judge this thy people? And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. And God said unto him, because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies, but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern justice. Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and understanding heart, so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like thee. And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honor, so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days. And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father, David, did walk, then I will lengthen thy days." 1 Ki.3:3-14. Add to this Solomon's prayer of dedication of the temple. (1 Ki.8:22-61.)

Elijah's Prayers.

"And he cried unto the Lord, and said, O Lord, my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son? And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the Lord, and said, O Lord, my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again. And the Lord heard the voice of Elijah, and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived." 1 Ki.17:20-22.

"And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah, the prophet, came near, and said, Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel,

and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench." 1 Ki.18:36-38.

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree. And he requested for himself that he might die, and said, It is enough! Now, O Lord, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers. And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat. And he looked, and behold, there was a cake baked on coals, and a cruise of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid down again. And the angel of the Lord came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for thee. And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of the food forty days and forty nights unto Horeb, the mount of God." 1 Ki.19:4-8.

The Prophet Elisha.

"And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city, both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! What shall we do? And he answered, Fear not; for they who are with us are more than they who are with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw; and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the Lord, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha." 2 Ki.6:15-18.

King Hezekiah.

"And Hezekiah received the letter by the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up into the house of the Lord, and spread it before the Lord. And Hezekiah prayed before the Lord, and said, O Lord God of Israel, who dwellest between the cherubim, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth. Lord, bow down thine ear, and hear; open, Lord, thine eyes, and see, and hear the words of Sennacherib, who hath sent to reproach the living God. Of a truth, Lord, the kings of Assyria have destroyed the nations and their lands, and have cast their gods into the fire; for they were no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone. Therefore, they have destroyed them. Now therefore, O Lord our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the Lord God, even thou only. Then Isaiah, the son of Amoz, sent to Hezekiah, saying, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, That which thou hast prayed to me against Sennacherib, king of Assyria, I have heard." 2 Ki.19:14-20.

In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah, the son of Amoz, came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live. Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the Lord, saying, I beseech thee, O Lord, remember, now, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept very much. And it came to pass, before Isaiah was gone out into the middle court, that the word of the Lord came to him, saying, Return, and tell Hezekiah, the captain of my people, Thus saith the Lord, the God of David, thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears; behold, I will heal thee. On the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the Lord. And I will add unto thy days fifteen years. And I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; And I will defend this city for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake." 2 Ki.20:1-6.

The Prophet Isaiah.

And Hezekiah said unto Isaiah, What shall be the sign that the Lord will heal me, and that I shall go up into the house of the Lord the third day? And Isaiah said, This sign shalt thou have of the Lord, that the Lord will do the thing that he hath spoken. Shall the shadow go forward ten degrees, or go back ten degrees? And Hezekiah answered, It is a light thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees: nay, but let the shadow return backward ten degree. And Isaiah the prophet cried unto the Lord; and he brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down in the dial of Ahaz." 2 Ki.20:8-11.

"Then said I, Woe is me! For I am undone, because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." Isaiah 6:5.

"O Lord, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things;

thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth." Isaiah 25:1.

Future prayer from the remnant of Israel.

Joshua's prayer.

Then spoke Joshua to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajolon. And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hastened not to go down about a whole day. And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the Lord hearkened unto the voice of a man; for the Lord fought for Israel." Josh.10:12-14.

May you note that with these two astronomical miracles of God, that one whole day was erased from the sky. This was confirmed by astrologers who found one whole day missing in their calculations. How great thou art, Oh God Almighty!

King Josiah.

Go ye, inquire of the Lord for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that is found; for great is the wrath of the Lord that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened unto the words of this book, to do according unto all that which is written concerning us...........And the king sent, and they gathered unto him all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. And the king went up into the house of the Lord, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great; and he read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the Lord. And the king stood by the pillar, and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord, and to keep his commandments and his testimony and his statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people joined in the covenant." 2 Ki.22:13-23:3.

Ezra.

"Blessed be the Lord God of our fathers, who hath put such a thing in the king's heart, to beautify the house of the Lord, which is in Jerusalem. And hath extended mercy unto me before the king, and his counselors, and before all the king's mighty princes. And I was strengthened as the hand of the Lord, my God, was upon me, and I gathered together out of Israel chief men to go up with me." Ezra 7:27-28.

 in our trespasses; for we cannot stand before thee because of this. Now when Ezra had prayed, and when he had confessed, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, there assembled unto him out of Israel a very great congregation of men and women and children; for the people wept bitterly." Ezra 9:5-10:1.

Nehemiah.

"And it came to pass when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven. And said, I beseech thee, O Lord God of heaven, the great and awe-inspiring God, who keepeth covenant and mercy for them who love him and observe his commandments: Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee; both I and my father's house have sinned. We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the ordinances, which thou commandedst, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant, Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the people; But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them, though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from there, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name. Now these are thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand. O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who delight to fear thy name; and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king's cupbearer." Neh.1:4-11. (Nehemiah's answer. Neh.2:1-8; Neh.4:4-9; Neh.9:1-38.)

Job.

Moreover, the Lord answered Job, and said, Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him? He that reproveth God, let him answer it. Then Job answered the Lord, and said, Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay my hand upon my mouth. Once have I spoken, but I will not answer; yea, twice, but I will proceed no further. Then answered the Lord unto Job out of a whirlwind, and said Gird up thy loins now like a man; I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me." Job 40:1-7.

"Then Job answered the Lord, and said, I know that thou canst do everything, and that no thought can be withheld from thee. Who is he who hideth counsel without knowledge? Therefore have I uttered that which I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. Hear, me I beseech thee, and I will speak; I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear, but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes." Job 42:1-6.

A prayer for old age.

"In thee O Lord, do I put my trust; let me never be put to confusion. Deliver me in thy righteousness, and cause me to escape; incline thine ear unto me, and save me. Be thou my strong habitation, whereunto I may continually resort. Thou has given commandment to save me; for thou art my rock and my fortress..... O God, thou hast taught me from my youth; and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works. Now also when I am old and gray headed, O God, forsake me not, until I have shown thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to everyone that is to come. Thy righteousness also, O God, is very high, who hast done great things. O God, who is like thee? Thou, who hast shown me great and severe troubles, shalt revive me again, and shalt bring me up again from the depths of the earth." Psalm 71:1-24.

Jeremiah

"Woe is me for my hurt! My wound is grievous, but I said, Truly this is a grief, and I must bear it. My tabernacle is spoiled, and all my cords are broken; my children are gone forth from me, and they are not; there is none to stretch forth my tent any more, and to set up my curtains............O Lord, I know that the way of a man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. O Lord, correct me, but with justice; not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing. Pour out thy fury upon the nations that know thee not, and upon families that call not on thy name; for they have eaten up Jacob, and devoured him, and consumed him, and have made his habitation desolate." Jer.10:19-25. (Jeremiah's continued prayer and God's answer. Jer.12:1-17.)

O Lord, thou knowest; remember me, and visit me, and avenge me of my persecutors; take me not away in thy long-suffering. Know that for thy sake I have suffered rebuke. Thy words were found, and I did eat them,

and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart; for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts......And I will deliver thee out of the hand of the wicked, and I will redeem thee out of the hand of the terrible." Jer.15:15-21.

The prophet Daniel.

"Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions. That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret, that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God forever and ever; for wisdom and might are his, and he changeth the times and the seasons; he removeth kings, and setteth up kings; he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to those who know understanding; He revealeth the deep and secret things; he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him. I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee; for thou hast made known unto us the kings matter." Dan.2:17-23.

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did previously." (The results landed Daniel in the lions den, but with God's protection. Dan.6:11-24.)

And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes; And I prayed unto the Lord, my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and awesome God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments, We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thine ordinances; O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee. To the Lord, our God, belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him.Now, therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake. O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name; for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy mercies. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God; for thy city and thy people are called by thy name." Dan.9:3-19. (Daniel's answer. Dan.9:20-27.)

Jonah.

"Then Jonah prayed unto the Lord, his God, out of the fish's belly, And said, I cried by reason of my affliction unto the Lord, and he heard me; out of the belly of sheol cried I, and thou heardest my voice. For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas, and the floods compassed me about; all thy billows and thy waves passed over me. Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thine holy temple. The waters compassed me about, even to the soul; the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head. I went down to the bottom of the mountains; the earth, with its bars, was about me forever; yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O Lord, my God. When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the Lord; and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple. They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord. And the Lord spoke unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon dry land." Jonah 2:1-10.

Habakkuk.

"O Lord, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid; O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy." Hab.3:2. (God's answer. Hab.3:3-19.)

New Testament examples of Prayer.

Virgin Mary.

"And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden; for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me

blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. He hath shown strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He hath helped his servant, Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; As he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed forever." Lk.1:46-55.

Simeon.

"And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Spirit, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child, Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people, Israel. And Joseph and his mother marveled at those things which were spoken of him. And Simeon blessed them and said unto Mary, his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." Lk.2:25-35.

Anna the prophetess.

"And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher; She was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, who departed not from the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day. And she, coming in that instant, gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spoke of him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem." Lk.2:36-38.

Christ feeding the multitude.

"And he commanded the people to sit down on the ground: and he took the seven loaves, and gave thanks, and broke, and gave to his disciples to set before them; and they did set them before the people." Mk.8:6.

"And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and broke them, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken pieces that were left seven baskets full." Matt.15:36-37.

Christ teaches the Disciples a prayer.

"After this manner, therefore pray ye: Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen. Matt.6:9-13. (Lk.11:1-4.)

Christ at the tomb of Lazarus.

"Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always; but, because of the people who stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me. And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes; and his face was bound about with a cloth. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go." Jn.11:39-44.

Christ encourages to pray.

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you; For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." Matt.7:7-8.

Christ's prayer over Jerusalem.

"O, Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them who are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord." Matt. 23:37-39. (Lk.13:34-35.)

Christ's prayer to the Father.

"And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt......... He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying. O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me except I drink it, thy will be done...... And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words...... Rise let us be going; behold he is at hand that doth betray me." Matt.26:39-46. (Mk.14:35-41; Lk.22:41-44.)

Christ's intercessory prayer.

"These words spoke Jesus, and he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee. As thou has given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth; I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with me; for they are thine......And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.......I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth. As thou has sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also who shall believe on me through their word. That they all may be one, as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me...... O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee; but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it, that the love which thou hast loved me may be in them and I in them." John 17:1-26.

Christ's prayers on the cross.

"Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Lk.23:34.

"And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, la'ma sabach'thani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Matt.27:46.

"And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit, and, having said this, he gave up the spirit." Lk.23:46.

Stephen's last prayer.

"When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my

spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep." Acts 7:54-60.

Cornelius a man of prayer.

"There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band. A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, who gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always......On the next day, as they went on their journey, and drew near unto the city, Peter went upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour..................... And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, and said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God. Send, therefore, to Joppa, and call here Simon, whose surname is Peter; he is lodged in the house of one Simon, a tanner, by the seaside; who when he cometh, shall speak unto thee. Immediately, therefore, I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now, therefore, are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee if God." Acts 10:1-33.

Peter in prison.

"Peter, therefore, was kept in prison; but prayer was made without ceasing by the church unto God for him......And behold, an angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shone in the prison; and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands. And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me........ And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John, whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying.... But Peter continued knocking; and when the had opened the door, and saw him, they were astonished." Acts 12:5-16.

Paul in prison in Philippi.

"And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God; and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awakening out of his sleep and seeing the prison doors open, drew out his sword and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm; for we are all here. Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." Acts 16:25-31.

Paul's prayers.

"For God is my witness, how greatly I long after you all in the tender mercies of Jesus Christ. And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgement; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God." Phil.1:8-11.

"For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, who hath made us fit to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son; In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins;" Col.1:9-14.

Prayer for one another.

"Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Is any merry? Let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins,

they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain; and it rained not on the earth by a space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit." Jas.13-18.

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in bonds; that in this I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak." Eph.6:18-20.

The four heavenly creatures and twenty four elders praise God.

(Presenting the prayers of the saints of God.)

"And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of saints." Rev.5:8.

The saints in heaven sing praise and worship the Lord.

"And they sang a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God a kingdom of priests, and we shall reign on the earth." Rev.5:9-10.

The martyred remnant cry out to God.

(Portion of the Tribulation Saints.)

"And when he had opened the fifth seal I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long. O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled." Rev.6:9-11.

The great number of those who will come out of the great tribulation.

With the heavenly Angels.

"After this I beheld and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and peoples, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands, and cried with a loud voice, saying, salvation to our God who sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four living creatures, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshiped God, Saying, Amen! Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might be unto our God forever and ever. Amen. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, Who are these who are arrayed in white robes? And from where did they come? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they who came out of the great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters; and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." Rev.7:9-17.

The 24 Elders.

"And the four and twenty elders, who sat before God on their thrones, fell upon their faces, and worshiped God, Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, who art, and wast, and art to come, because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants, the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great, and shouldest destroy them who destroy the earth." Rev.11:16-18.

The glory of God in heaven.

"And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire, and them that had the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? For thou only art holy; for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest." Rev.15:2-4.

The great voice in heaven.

"And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever. And the four and twenty elders, who sat before God on their thrones, fell upon their faces, and worshiped God. Saying, We give thanks, O Lord God Almighty, who art, and wast, and art to come, because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned." Rev.11:15-17.

The 144,000 on Mount Zion with the Lamb of God.

"And I looked and, lo, a Lamb stood on Mount Zion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of a great thunder; and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps. And they sang, as it were, a new song before the throne, and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, who were redeemed from the earth. These are they who were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they who follow the Lamb wherever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile; for they are without fault before the throne of God." Rev.14:1-5.

The last prayer.

"He who testifieth these things saith, Surely, I come quickly. Amen. Even so come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. Rev.22:20-21.

Benedictions recorded in the Bible.

At Mizpah.

"And Laban said, this heap is a witness between me and thee this day. Therefore was the name of it called Galeed, and Mizpah; for he said, The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another." Gen.31:48-49.

Hear O Israel.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." Deut.6:4-5.

Moses' farewell.

"Because I will proclaim the name of the Lord; ascribe ye greatness unto our God. He is the Rock, his work is perfect; for all his ways are justice; a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he." Deut.32:3-4. "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms; Deut.33:27a.

From the Psalms of David and others.

"O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!" Ps.8;9.

"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer." Ps.19:14.

"Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be lifted up ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory." Ps.24:8-10.

"Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart. Wait, I say, on the Lord." Ps.27:14.

"O Lord, my God, I will give thanks unto thee forever. Ps.30:12b.

"Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord." Ps.31:24.

"Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we hope in thee." Ps.33:22.

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. Amen, and Amen." Ps.41:13.

"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge." Ps.46:10-11.

"I will praise thee, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing unto thee among the nations. For thy mercy is great unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds. Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; let the glory be above all the earth." Ps.57:9-11.

"O God, thou art awe-inspiring out of thy holy places; the God of Israel is he who giveth strength and power unto his people. Blessed be God." Ps.68:35.

"And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it." Ps.90:17.

"Exalt the Lord, our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the Lord our God is holy." Ps.99:9.

"Oh, praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise him, all ye peoples. For his merciful kindness is great toward us; and the truth of the Lord endureth forever. Praise ye the Lord." Ps.117:1-2.

"The word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Ps.119:105.

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills. From whence cometh my help? My help cometh from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." Ps.121:1-2.

"The Lord shall reign forever, even thy God, O Zion, unto all generations. Praise ye the Lord." Ps.146:10.

BENEDICTIONS FOUND IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

"He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father, David. And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." Lk.1:32-33.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Lk.2:14.

"For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen." Matt.6:13b.

"Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age. Amen. Matt.28:19-20.

"For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creation, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord." Rom.8:38-39.

"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit." Rom.15:13.

"Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen. Rom.15:33.

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. Now to him that is of power to establish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was

kept secret since the world began, but now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: To God, only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen." Rom.16:24-27.

"But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same

image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord," 2 Cor.3:18.

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." 2 Cor.9:15.

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen." 2 Cor.13:14.

"That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend, with all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now unto him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus through all ages, world without end. Amen." Eph.3:17-21.

"Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God, the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be

with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen." Eph.6:23-24.

"Now unto God our Father be glory forever and ever. Amen." Phil.4:20.

"Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all. The grace

of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen." 2 Thess.3:16 & 18.

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen." Heb.13:20-21.

"But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after ye have suffered awhile, make you perfect, establish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." 1 Pet.5:10-11.

"Ye therefore, beloved, seeing that ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen." 2 Pet.3:17-18.

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God, our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen." Jude 24-25.

CHAPTER 7

QUESTIONS.

- 1. What was one prayer request of Abraham? Cite Scripture.
- Write briefly on Abraham's meeting the Triune Lord and his intercession for Sodom and Gomorrah.
- Write briefly on Genesis. 24:12-21.
- Write brifely on Genesis. 32:9-12.
- What would you consider an outstanding prayer of Moses? Cite Scripture.
- Write briefly on Judges 6:36-40.
- Write briefly on Judges 16:28-31.
- Write briefly on 1 Samuel 1:11; and 1 Damuel 2:1-3.
- 9. Write briefly on King David and his outstanding faith in God.

- 10. In Solomon's request before God, what lesson in prayer can we learn?
- 11. Write briefly on Elijah's prayer life. Was he the only one who did not bow before Baal?
- 12. Write briefly on God versis Baal on Mount Carmel.
- 13. Write briefly on 2 Kings 6:15-18.
- 14. What do we learn from the Bible concerning the heavens from Joshua and Hezekiah's experiences? (2 Ki.20:8-11; and Josh.10:12-14.)
- 15. Write briefly on King Josiah and the Word of God. (2 Ki. 22:13-23:3.)
- 16. What was the outstanding faith in the prayer life of Ezra and Nehemiah?
- 17. How was Job's prayer life different from his friends?
- 18. According to the life of Job and Jeremiah, is it also likely that we will be called upon to suffer for the Lord?
- 19. Write on Daniel's prayer approach to God. (Dan.2:17-23; Dan.9:20-27.
- 20. When did Jonah first pray, when running away from God's call?
- 21. Why did the Virgin Mary need a Savior just like the rest of us? (Luke 1:46-55.)
- 22. Explain the disciples prayer pattern and Christ's intercessory prayer. (Matt.6:9-13; John 17.)
- 23. Can we just ask anything that we want in prayer, or are there stipulations to our prayer requests?
- 24. Write down the prayers of Christ as he hung on the cross.
- 25. Write briefly on the importance of Cornelius the Gentile and Peter's vision to visit Cornelius, breaking the Jewish tradition.
- 26. Give three prayers after Pentecost that you consider outstanding.
- 27. Give three outstanding future prayers in the book of Revelation.
- 28. Give three future prayers in song, recorded in the book of Revelation.
- 29. Write the last prayer recorded in the Bible.
- 30. Give three benedictions which you like from the Scripture.

FINAL CONCLUSION.

As Christians our prayer life is so often neglected, and yet it is our life-line with our heavenly headquarters. We so often use our opportunities through prayer as a panic button, rather than the glorification of the Lord. In the world in which we live, the business system is highly developed into a stream lined communication, reaching their headquarters within seconds. As the representatives of companies travel along the highways, they are in constant touch with the home office. If they feel the need to keep in touch with the home office, with their temporary commodities, how much more we should keep in touch with our heavenly Father with our eternal Power House!

God has given us every possible aid in our Christian walk with the Lord Jesus Christ. We have been made new Creatures in the Lord Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. We have total backing through prayer by the Lord

and the Holy Spirit. The Word of God is now understandable as the Holy Spirit is our constant teacher, as we walk in the light of the Word. Our defence against the enemy's of our soul is adequate, but we must know how to use it. "Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the devil" Eph.6:11. As we use this armor, which God has provided for us, we need to be aware of the enemies tactics and God's provision to defend his own. As Joshua was provided with a Divine Captain, (Josh.4:13-15.) so we have been provided with God the Holy Spirit, dwelling within us to guide us into this battle against the evil forces. The journey through this life will not be an easy one, but a blessed one, as the Lord will never leave us nor forsake us. There is suffering to be endured, as we stand upon the promises of God. Christ is our way, our truth and our life. Always remember that prayer changes difficult circumstances, into glorification of the Lord, as you stand true to the Lord, who loved you and gave himself for you.

As I close these simple teachings on prayer, may you study these principles, not merely as a subject, but rather as a life style to attain. Keep your faith fixed upon that final goal. "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, 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." Phil.3:13-14. "Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Phil.4:4-7.

Prayerfully Yours,

Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Losier

Founder and President

of

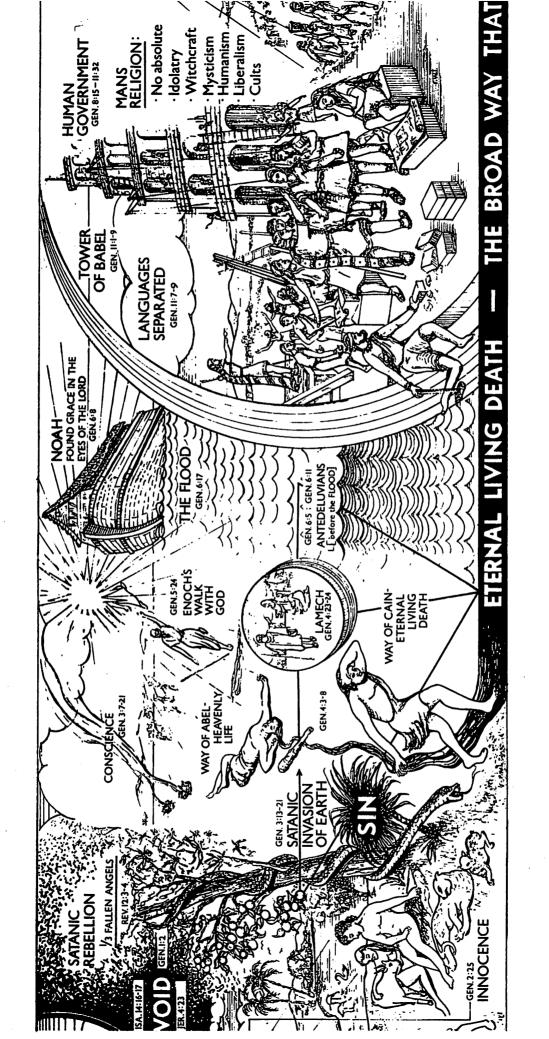
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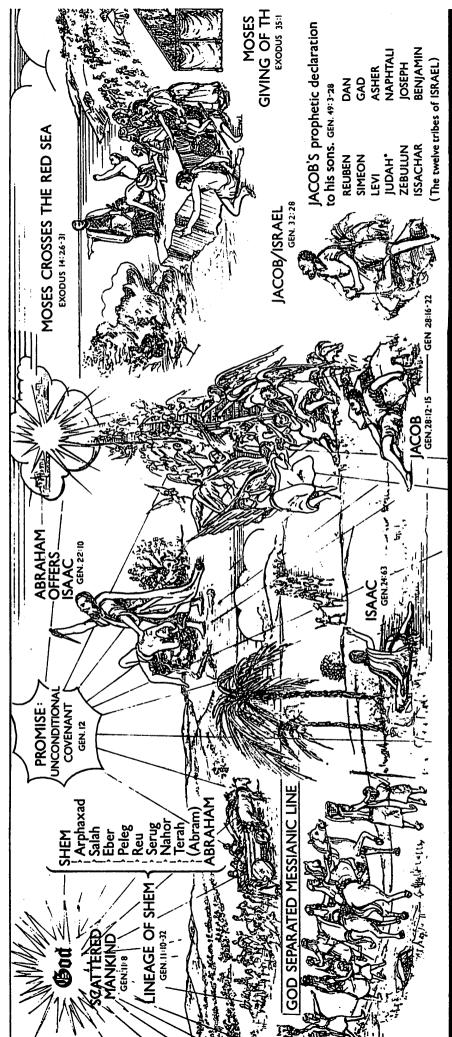


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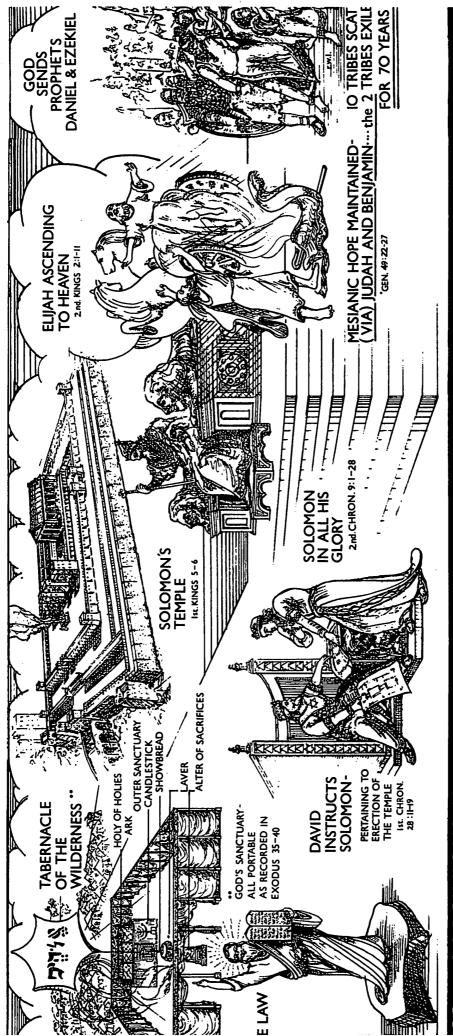


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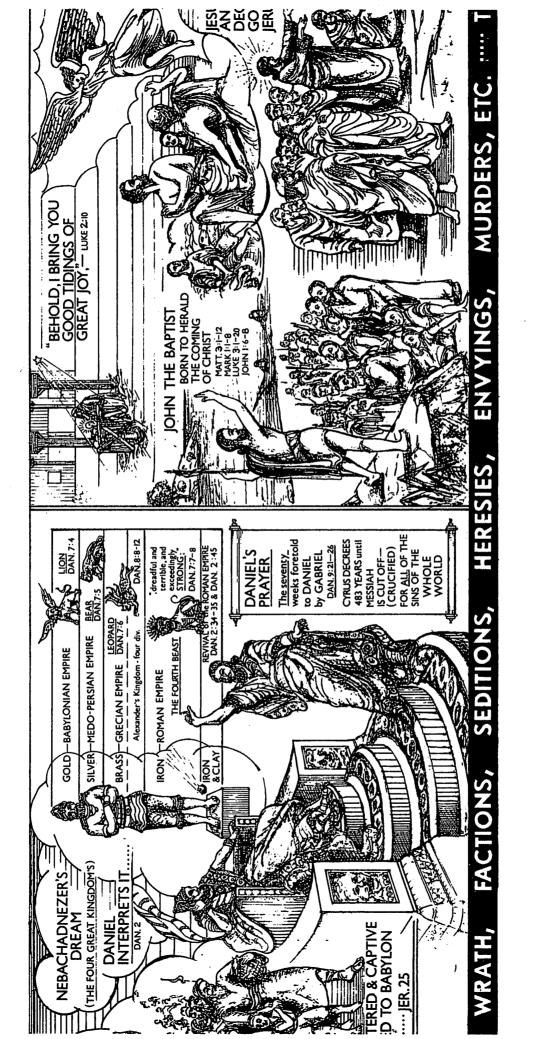
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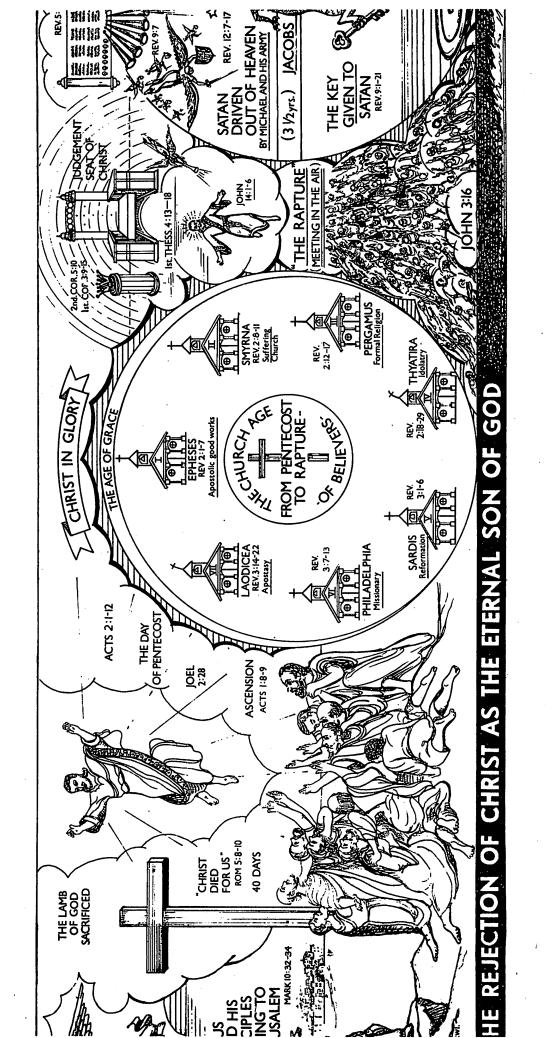


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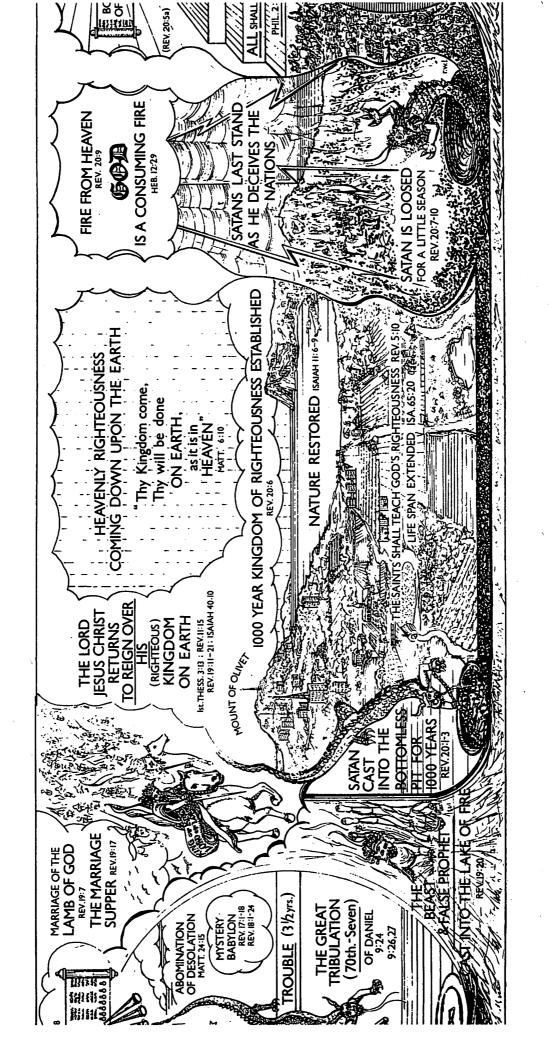
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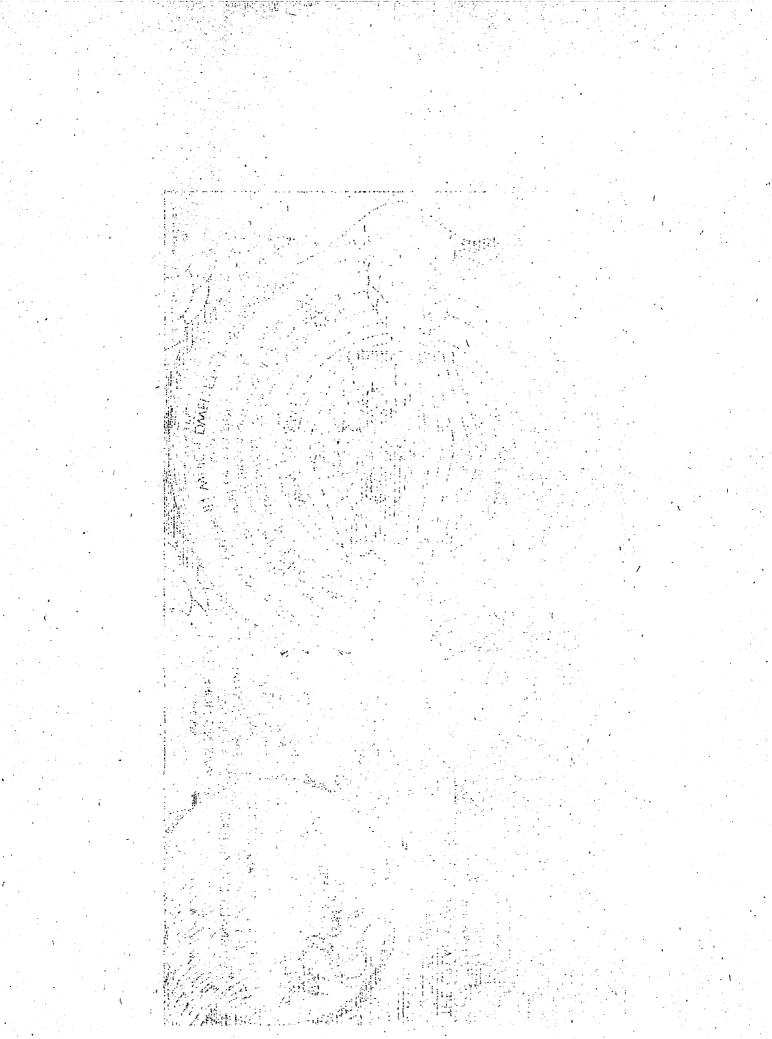


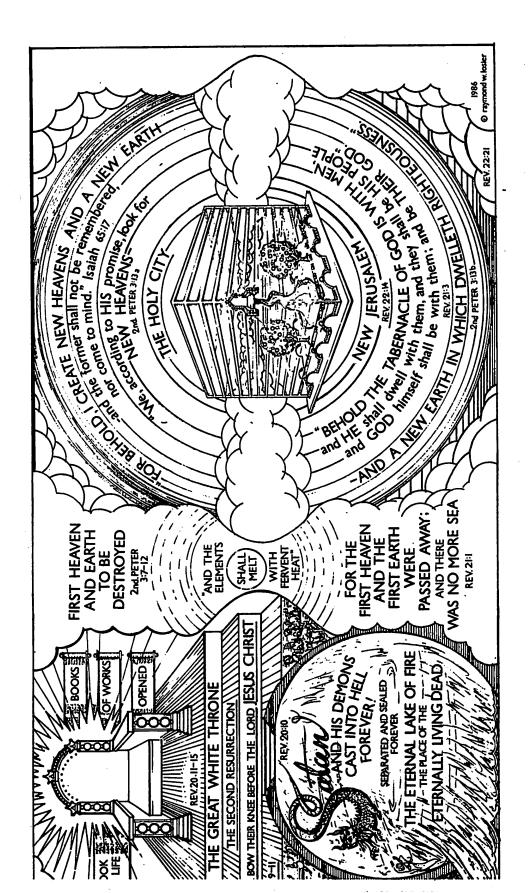
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