

Prayers and Reflections



BESIDE PEACEFUL STREAMS

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Introduction:

This booklet has two sections:

1. The first section of the booklet are prayers and meditations that the Lord has given to me over a series of years. I often used this with client care and when conducting prayer retreats.
2. The second section of the booklet are handout I use for prayer exercises—self examination, meditation, etc.

The Gift of my free will

The creature has nothing else in its power but the free use of its will, and its free will hath no other power but that of concurring with, or resisting, the work of God in nature

(from A serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life William Law)

Today.. LORD.. I seize my will—to obtain your will.
I use my gift of free will to choose YOU.
Choose YOUR ways, YOUR will, YOUR agenda, YOUR decisions.
My will I enact to hold You close—
My will I enact to gaze into Your face—
My will I enact to walk humbly in Your presence, step by step with Your Spirit.



I use the gift of my free will to
concur with the Will of YOU.
I will NOT refuse nor resist your
will.
I choose Your will and Your ways,
YOUR ways of life
YOUR ways of empowering
YOUR ways of grace, mercy,
YOUR ways of holiness
YOUR ways of presence and
purpose.
I enact my will to choose JESUS...
and the ways, styles, spirit of, and
intentions of JESUS.

TO Jesus I surrender all.

A Prayer Covenant

Lord—as I begin this new phase of my spiritual journey I hear the call to prayer.

I'm nervous because I'm not a real person of prayer—at least I don't think I am.
I do the —'Oh God help'—kind of praying—but nothing too deep.

But, I am hearing Your call today—in a fresh and real way...

You need me to pray.

In Your economy —You have designed things that need my prayerful input.

But Lord, I'm not sure I can measure up.

But I can surrender to Your calling and Your enabling power.

Send Your Spirit afresh into my life today.

Impart into my life—in this new phase—a passion for You and a passion for
prayer.

Immediately my 'accuser' the devil will tell me not to begin the journey.
Or he will lie, as he usually does and tell me 'God doesn't need me to pray—God
is asking someone other than me to do this!'

or 'You can't do it.'

or 'You better not even try.'

These are all lies from the accuser who has told me those kinds of things for many
years.

But, today—I choose to listen to the voice of the Spirit—who is calling me to
prayer.

I begin with this prayer covenant...offering very little from me.

I offer me.

Which in my mind is not much—but it is all You require.

I offer my surrender.

I offer my heart.

I offer my inabilities.

I offer my past, my present, and my future.

I, like the Apostles of old ask: Lord, teach me to pray.

Teach me to listen.
Teach me to pray.
Teach me to open my spirit.
Teach me to pray.
Teach me to wait upon You.
Teach me when to speak—and when to listen.
Teach me to pray.

Teach me to rise to this new level of prayer and intercession.
Give me grace not to quit.
Give me stamina to press on when I feel like quitting.
Give me power against me.
Give me power against the flesh.
Give me power against the world.
Give me power against the evil one.

My spirit longs to be united closer to You.
My mind needs to think God-thoughts.
Come to me now—in this fresh dedication
to be
a
person
of
prayer.

Lord—wouldn't that be something—to be known as
'a person of prayer'

To this end
I surrender to You.
LORD of all pray-ers.
LORD of all prayers.



The Call to Community

Heal us LORD

Heal us LORD of our bent toward individualism—Heal us LORD—that is our default position.

We love ourselves—We love our opinions—
We love our ability to choose—We love the way we do our own thing.

Lord open our hearts afresh to each other.

Give us a holy love for each other.

Give us a wholly love for each other.

To Love you—To Love others—This sums up the entire teaching of the Scriptures.

Lord why do we love our individualism so much and reject community? Lord teach us to love.

Lord, teach me the power of love.

Lord, teach me the power of forgiveness.

Lord, teach me the power of sharing.

Lord, teach me the power of giving.

Lord, teach me the power of serving.

Lord forgive my tendency to bullying.

Lord, forgive my tendency to arrogance.

Lord, forgive my wanting to be first and be heard above others.

Lord, forgive me for not loving the diversity and differences that are all around me.

Lord, cause me to love others like You love me.

Lord, cause me to love the Lord's table.

Lord, cause me to love the church.

Lord, cause me to love my church...and serve her faithfully.

Self Emptying

If I empty myself out—there is room for God, Grace and Mercy (Richard Rohr)



Philippians 2:5-8 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. (NRSV)

Jesus emptied Himself—it is an incarnational life of self emptying. Jesus came to do the will of the Father. He emptied Himself. (Surrendered the independent use of His Divine attributes.)

There needs to be a practice of self-emptying. Emptying ourselves of our agenda—our ego—our desires—our pride.

What am I full of? (If I am pricked by a pin—what comes out?)

What do I need to empty-myself of? (Or Better—what do I pray that the Spirit would empty me of?)

Lord I am too full of me.
I am full of pride.
I am full of my ego.
I am full of desires that hinder You in my life.

Lord, You are not willing to share my heart
Lord, You need all my heart.
But Lord, I cannot even empty my heart—I am not capable of doing that.
I am capable of crying out for mercy!
I am capable of asking Your Spirit to come afresh with me and clean me out—empty me.

I Lord—live in a highly consumeristic world.
I keep hearing I need more...
I need more money, food, clothes, friends, possessions, positions, power, sex,—just more and more.
I keep hearing I cannot survive with less—much less nothing.
Lord that message feeds my hunger.
Lord that message feeds my lust.

Help me Lord, walk the road of emptying—for it is only in emptying myself that I can really be full.
It is the paradox of the Christian spiritual life.
If I am empty—then I am full.
Because only in emptying—can I receive fullness.

Lord I want more
Not more —according to the world More—of You.
That comes through emptying.

Lord, I choose to be empty
I choose to pour myself out in your presence...
All anxiety, power, love, desire, depression, pain, misunderstanding, and ego...

I choose self-emptying—because I want YOU!

Come away my beloved

Hosea 2:14 ¶ Therefore, I will now allure her, and bring her into the wilderness,
and speak tenderly to her. (NRSV)

Come away...my beloved
Come away...my beloved
Come away...my beloved
...with me

Come away...my beloved
Come away...my beloved
Come away...my beloved
...and be

Be with Me now—always
Be with Me now—always
Come away—my beloved
Come away.

Come where the Streams flow free
Come where the Sun shines free
Come where the Wind blow free
Come away

Come away...my beloved
Come away...my beloved
Come away...my beloved
...with me

Come away...my beloved
Come away...my beloved
Come away...my beloved
...and be

Come lay your burdens down
Come lay your worries down
Come lay your life way down
Come away

It is time to walk away—but also—to walk into
Walking away is the pre-cursor for your walking in.

Don't simply walk away—but walk INTO
You cannot walk INTO Presence, INTO intimacy, INTO mystery—without first
walking away.

DO you hear the familiar voice of the Spirit?
It is the same call for hundreds of years: “Follow me.”

To follow One—you must leave the other.

Leave your busyness
Leave your self-importance
Leave your ego
Leave your agenda
Come away my beloved

Found at last!

Lord I am found.

At first—I'm not even sure I knew I was lost!

It was like coming to my senses—I realized—I was lost. I was wandering—
aimlessly.

I was thinking—endlessly in circles.

I was walking—with no-where to go

I was moving—away from you LORD.

And, I didn't even know it!

You —or more honestly—I—was moving, farther and farther away.

Your voice—I no longer heard.

Your presence —I no
longer felt. Your love—I
no longer cherished.
I moved so far from you—I
was lost.

But oh! I now am found
It was grace—Your grace
—Your love— found me
I am found!
I am free!
I am yours Lord!



Cease Striving:

"Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

(Ps 46:10)

Cease striving

I am God--you are off the hook.

Cease striving

I don't need your help--I can do this quite fine

Cease striving

You have nothing--that I didn't give you anyway

Cease striving, cease striving, cease striving.

Cease striving

I don't need an employee--I want a son/daughter

Cease striving

I don't need a performer--I want a lover

Cease striving

I don't care what you do--I simply want you

Cease striving, cease striving, cease striving.

Cease striving

I am in control--you are not

Cease striving

I have history in my hands--not in a book

Cease striving

I control the hours, the minutes, the seconds--you use a watch

Cease striving, cease striving, cease striving.

Cease striving

Stop your labours--I will give you rest

Cease striving

Stop your labours--I will give you energy

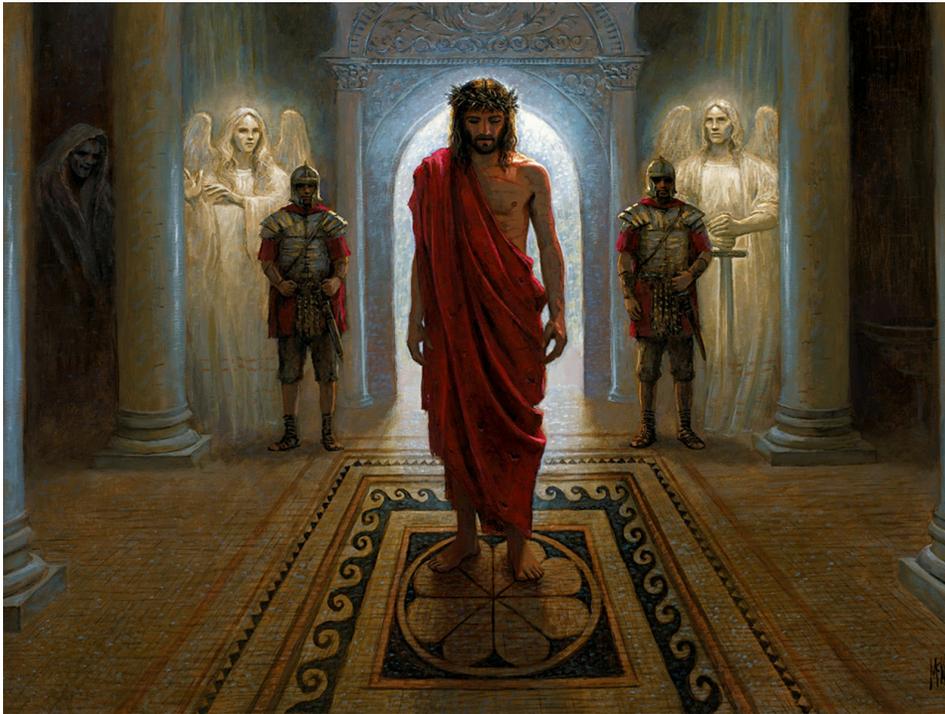
Cease striving

Stop *your* labours--I will give you *mine*

Cease striving, cease striving, cease striving.

Cease striving
You cannot earn my love--it's already yours
Cease striving
You cannot get my attention--it's already yours
Cease striving
You cannot get my forgiveness--it's already yours
Cease striving, cease striving, cease striving.

The Gift of Silence:



Matt 27:12
But when the
leading priests
and the elders
made their
accusations
against him,
Jesus remained
silent

Lord give me the
gift of silence:

Lord forgive me
—I have this
tendency
towards self

protection
this causes me to rise to my defence.
I want people to know I am not the bad guy—the other person is.
I didn't make the mistake—the other person did.
This is egotism. This is pride.
Lord, give me the gift of silence.

Lord forgive me—I think deep inside my opinion is superior—that people need to
hear me—
So I want to tell people
show people
explain
because I think my opinion is valid, superior, better.
This is egotism. This is pride.
Lord, give me the gift of silence.

Lord forgive me—I pray, pray, and pray—which translates into me talking,
talking, and talking—
It's like I think You need advice.

It's like I think I can twist Your arm—if I talk long and loud enough.

This is egotism. This is pride
Lord, give me the gift of silence.

Lord, give me the gift of silence.
In the midst of a noisy world
In the midst of a noisy brain
In the midst of my never stopping voice...
Teach me to be quiet.

Give me faith —so that I can be quiet.
Give me peace —so that I can be quiet.
Give me understanding —so that I can be quiet.

Kill my ego—so that I can be quiet.
Kill my pride—so that I can be quiet.

Fill me with love:
A love that is silent—
A love that is not defensive—
A love that is not boastful, arrogant or proud.

Lord give me the gift of silence.
For in silence—I can hear You.
In silence—I can hear what You hear.
In silence—I can hear what others are saying.
In silence —I can hear what others are not saying.

Lord give me the gift of silence!

The Seed I carry

I carry this seed as a
simple reminder.
I am born again of an
incorruptible seed
through the Word of God.
This seed is a seed that is
immortal, imperishable,
incorruptible.

This seed propels me to
my
destiny and purpose.
I am called to
immortality.
Each day that seed
continues to mature



and grow within me.

I am destined for greatness.
I am empowered for last-day living
and last-day ministry!
I am a success!
I have the seed of success and greatness
within me, and today it is growing
ever larger and ever more powerful.
I await the full manifestation of that seed
when this corruption shall put on incorruption
and what is left of my mortality shall put on immortality!

The Pattern

A Father's Day Prayer Pattern

I live my life according to a pattern:
This pattern is the pattern of Eternity, where Jesus is King, and Lord of my life.
I live my life according to a pattern: This pattern is Godly, holy, pure and distinct.

I'm not swayed by my culture or the pressures of this world.
I refuse to be caught up in the game of mere temporal success. I will live my life
according to a pattern--
with Jesus as my Lord
with the Spirit as my indwelling guide
with holiness as my standard
with Heaven as my goal.

I live my life according to a pattern:
I long to hear my Lord Jesus say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

I hunger not for the applause of men, but for the applause of Heaven.
I long to be in step with Heaven, more than being in step with the world.

I am not a lone ranger.
I do not have a maverick spirit.
I join my soul with other brothers who will walk the road with me. I submit myself
to those in authority over me--
for, that is all... according to God's pattern.

I am a proud husband to my wonderful wife. She is my completion, and I am her
biggest fan. I will love her as Christ loves the church
for, that is God's pattern for me.

I am a proud Father to my children and grandchildren. I am their biggest fan.
I will pour my heart out for them--
for, that is God's pattern for me.

I will be a person of integrity.
I will be a person of character-- for, my life is following a pattern.

I care not what the world thinks of me.
My Heavenly Father is He whom I seek to please.

I will live my life according to a pattern-- the pattern God has for me

Staying on track

There is a straight line for you to walk

Use your map

Use your compass... do not veer off to the right or to the left. Stay focused.

Use your map.

Use your compass walk a straight line... stay focused .

The word, teaching, revelation are the map

The compass is my Spirit.

Do not get side tracked.

If you get side tracked you will exhaust yourself, and wear yourself out.

You are designed to walk the straight path I have set before you. Getting off track will wear you out.

STAYING ON TRACK



Staying on track will invigorate you.

Receive My invigoration right now!

Walking in the straight line...

listen to my Spirit.

Don't get so uptight... what you need to know, when you need to know—I will tell you.

You know what you need to know right now... not what you need to know next week!

receive Holy Ghost invigoration—right now....

Coming to the end of myself— yearning to love and give love

I no longer need to be right.
I no longer need to have might.

I no longer need to have position.
And I surrender all my ambition.

What I want—
What I need—
Is You Lord

I no longer need to prove my point.
I no longer crave that I might anoint.



What I need—
What I want—
Is Love—Supernatural love flowing in and
through me.

Lord why have I craved the wrong things
for so long?

Lord, why have I pursued the wrongs
things for so long?

It's like I was blinded in my pursuit of
purpose, destiny, success.

Ah, but then I realize...

This has all been in Your plan
For I cannot have You—if I don't come to the end of myself.
When Jesus said: "I of my own self can do nothing," Jesus knew that intuitively.
Me—on the other hand—I have learned that over many years of missing.

And now, I am again—coming to the end of myself.
The end of myself—IS the beginning of You!

So—I pursue You—and You alone.
I crave Love—unsurpassable Divine love flowing
into me and through me.

Now—to get to this place in my spiritual journey—
You Lord, have allowed the cross in my life—
As the early church fathers used to say
‘Bona Crux’
A good cross.

So I still welcome the bona crux that you have for
me.
For the Glory comes only through the Cross.

I welcome the Bona Crux
I welcome the LORD
I welcome Divine Love.



Which means: I surrender. I give up.
I want You Lord more than
stuff
position
success
name
ambition

I Just want You LORD.

Sample Breath prayers

Lord Jesus Christ, thou son of God... Have mercy on me

Lord Jesus Christ—be formed in me

Abba— I belong to you

The LORD is my Shepherd—I shall not want

Speak Lord, Your servant is listening

Father into your hands I commit my spirit

Know that Jesus is Lord—cease striving

Jesus be the Centre

Be still and know that I am God

O LORD, show me Your way

Holy one—heal me

Holy Wisdom—guide me

Jesus—let me feel your love

Come Lord Jesus—come

I belong to YOU LORD.

Lead me LORD, I will follow

Jesus, lead me into joy

May God be merciful—and bless me

May God's face smile with favour on me

Whom have I in heaven but you—I desire you more than anything else on earth

Jesus—Master—have mercy on us

Jesus—Son of David—have mercy on me

His faithful love—endures forever

The Lord is my strength, my son—He has given me victory

This I know—the Lord is on my side

The LORD is my shelter and my shield

Let all that I am wait quietly before the LORD

May your unfailing love and faithfulness watch over me

A Place of Rest

Lord, Your Word tells me You are looking for a place of rest.
I think of myself as needing a place to rest—so I run to You.
I seek You out—but You also, by Your Desire —are seeking a place of rest—A
place of habitation.

David sought a place for You.
David said: “I will not enter my house or go to my bed-- I will allow no sleep to
my eyes, no slumber to my eyelids, till I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling for
the Mighty One of Jacob.” Psalms 132:3-5, NIV.

Then, in an astounding response You Lord said:
“For the LORD has chosen Zion, he has desired it for his dwelling: “This is my
resting place for ever and ever; here I will sit enthroned, for I have desired it--”
Psalms 132:13, 14, NIV.

Does this mean LORD You still seek to rest in certain places?

Yes! This is what Your Word tells me.

So LORD—welcome today.

Welcome into me.

Welcome into every facet of me.

Lord choose me.

Lord find rest in me. Lord find a place of habitation in me.

Lord, shift what needs shifting.

Lord, change what needs changing.

Lord, rearrange what needs rearranging.

Lord, clean up what needs cleaning.

I'm like David of old—I need You in my life.
I need You MORE than anything or anyone. Please come and rest in me Lord.

Covenantal Pledge

Christ's Resurrection

Lord—Hear my confession:

I confess today my need of salvation.
I confess today my need of a Saviour.
I confess today I am a sinner.

Lord—I believe:

I believe Jesus died for my sins.
I believe Jesus rose again three days later.
I believe Jesus ascended into heaven.
I believe Jesus is coming back to earth to receive unto Himself—His followers.

Lord—I receive:

Jesus as my Resurrected Saviour
Jesus as my Reigning King
Jesus as my Coming King

Lord—I expect:

To receive forgiveness for my sins
To receive healing for my body
To receive deliverance in my life
To receive resurrection of my body when You come again

Lord—I pledge:

To surrender to my Resurrected, Ascended, and Soon Coming King.
To follow with all my heart my Resurrected, Ascended, and Soon Coming King.
To serve with all my intention—my Resurrected, Ascended, and Soon Coming King.
And Lord, I pledge to tell others about the wonderful and awesome privilege of being a child of my Resurrected, Ascended, and Soon Coming King.

Lord Heal Your Church

We have picked up our cultural norms—LORD have mercy

- we are consumerist
- we are competitive
- we are fragmented

Lord have mercy on us

Christ have mercy on us

Lord have mercy on us

**Heal us... from consumerism... and cause us to love and serve each other.
Deliver us from the mind-set—‘what’s in it for me?’**

Fill us LORD with Holy Love.

“And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.” “Dear brothers and sisters, I urge you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. Do this because of your love for me, given to you by the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:30, NLT.

Deliver us from church shoppers and cause us to be church servers.

Heal usfrom having a competitive edge... and cause us to lay down our lives for each other.

There is only one church universal.

There are many congregations—many expressions of Christ—but one body

There is a place of commanded blessing: “<<A song for the ascent to Jerusalem. A psalm of David.>> How wonderful it is, how pleasant, when brothers live together in harmony! For harmony is as precious as the fragrant anointing oil that was poured over Aaron’s head, that ran down his beard and onto the border of his robe.

Harmony is as refreshing as the dew from Mount

Hermon that falls on the mountains of Zion. And the LORD has pronounced his blessing, even life forevermore.” Psalms 133:1-3, NLT.

Pray for a pure manifestation of Agape love—

Agape love not an emotion— but a decision to love, serve, give, honour...

It is a self sacrificing kind of love—and serves and lays down one’s life for another
““A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” John 13:34, NIV.

Heal us from... being fragmented... and cause us to live as a community of merciful, gracious, giving, loving people. To live holistically, loving God with all our minds, hearts souls, and our strength—and loving our neighbours as ourselves.

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:42-47, NIV.

“The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptised by one Spirit into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free-- and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honourable we treat with special honour. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honour to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it.” 1 Corinthians 12:12-26, NIV.

Heal us LORD—join our hearts together.

Empower us LORD to be a kind, welcoming community of believers—that welcomes the lost and fulfills the gospel mandate of Matthew 25 ““Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ “The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’” Matthew 25:34-40, NIV.

Every sin, Every mistake, Every missed opportunity— presents to me a new day!

Dear Lord

Thank you that my dumb, selfish, egotistical, brainless—moments and decisions—are grace filled.

They have turned into unexpected paths of mercy.

So my mistakes are not dead-ends. They are not —“The End.”

As a matter of fact, I can say, my mistakes are in some ways —“The Beginning.”

They have revealed or will reveal a loving, forgiving, gracious God—who somehow tolerates—but more...almost welcomes my mistakes.

My mistakes, My sins...

give You LORD—this wonderful opportunity to reveal Your steadfast love in moments when I least deserve it.

In these moments—when others would quit me—when I would even quit myself, You are there...in wonderful grace and mercy.

Thank you LORD that You are not even surprised, shocked, or taken unawares by my idiocies.



It's no wonder David comes up with this line: “Is this your usual way of dealing with man, O Sovereign LORD? (2 Sam 7:19).”

Thank you Lord, that you are my New Beginning.

You are ALWAYS my fresh start.

“Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: The unfailing love of the LORD never ends! By his mercies we have been

kept from complete destruction. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each day. I say to myself, “The LORD is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!”” Lamentations 3:21-24, NLT.

While Lord, I need to—want to—and plan on—living a repentant life—

And

I need to—want to—and plan on—NOT sinning, NOT missing the mark, and NOT making bad choices...

Chances are I will—many more times—sin, miss the mark, and miss opportunities.

So I am back to the beginning...a New Beginning.

A New Day.

Living, walking, breathing, enjoying, God's grace and mercy

Shining ever brighter until the full light of day! (Prov 4:18)

I want nothing but Your Presence

“Then he said to Him, “If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. “For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people

who are upon the face of the earth.” So the LORD said to Moses, “I will also

do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name.” And he said,

“Please, show me Your glory.”” Exodus 33:15-18, NKJV.

“Then Moses said to him, “If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from

all the other people on the face of the earth?” And the LORD said to Moses, “I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name.” Then Moses said, “Now show me your glory.”” Exodus 33:15-18, NIV.



Oh, my foolish flesh would ask for many things.

Things needed.

Things wanted.

Things that my mind, history—and culture would tell me are necessities! My

mind tells me I need more.

Culture mocks me—how can you live without _____ (fill in the blank).

But LORD this is not true

David wrote: “Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.” (Ps 73:25)

So, David knew.

David experienced.

“You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your

right hand are pleasures forevermore.” (Psalm 16:11)

The everlasting eternal joys are not received except through YOU Lord and Your Presence.

Your Presence is Your face. It is face to face.

It is Your breath.

It is Your smell.

It is Your look.

Away world!

Away flesh!

Away temporary thrills, wants, and passions!

Come Presence.

Come Spirit.

Fill me to overflowing with Presence.

Fill mind, soul, body.

Fill past, present, future.

Nothing satisfies that longing in my heart like Presence. Nothing will do.

Everything

Everyone

Will fall short.

But Oh—You Lord, Your Presence

Satisfies—and yet somehow—incredibly creates a hunger for more.

Adam and Eve hid themselves from Your presence... I want to seek, run into, be filled with Your Presence.

May I, like Gabriel—stand in Your presence-

Not because I am angelic like Gabriel.

But because I am cleansed and brought close because of Jesus.

UNTIL

Isaiah 32:15-20

“15 until at last the Spirit is poured down upon us from heaven. Then the wilderness will become a fertile field, and the fertile field will become a lush and fertile forest.

16 Justice will rule in the wilderness and righteousness in the fertile field.

17 And this righteousness will bring peace. Quietness and confidence will fill the land forever.

18 My people will live in safety, quietly at home. They will be at rest.

19 Even though the forest will be destroyed and the city torn down,

20 God will greatly bless his people. Wherever they plant seed, bountiful crops will spring up. Their flocks and herds will graze in green pastures.”

Until

LORD there is an until!

Until at last—the Spirit is poured down upon us from heaven. Thank you LORD for the untils.

Thank you that until does not mean NO!

Thank you that until does not mean NEVER!

Thank you that until does not mean GIVE UP!

Until means until.

Until means GOD is in control.

Until means keep seeking.

Until means keep on calling. Until means keeping your eyes on the prize.

The until—keeps speaking when all is quiet.

The until—keeps shining when all is darkness.

The until—keeps singing when there is no more music. Until —at last—the Spirit is poured down upon us from heaven!

Let us rise up by faith—until... Let us bend our knees—until... Let us raise our hands—until... Let us cry out to the LORD—until!

Jos 4:10 The priests who were carrying the Ark stood in the middle of the river until all of the LORD’s instructions, which Moses had given to Joshua, were carried out. Meanwhile, the people hurried across the riverbed.

Jos 8:26 For Joshua kept holding out his spear until everyone who had lived in Ai was completely destroyed

Jud 5:7 There were few people left in the villages of Israel--until Deborah arose as a mother for Israel

1Sa 16:11 Then Samuel asked, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse replied. "But he's out in the fields watching the sheep." "Send for him at once," Samuel said. "We will not sit down to eat until he arrives."

1Ki 17:14 For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: There will always be plenty of flour and oil left in your containers until the time when the LORD sends rain and the crops grow again!"

2Ch 36:20 The few who survived were taken away to Babylon, and they became servants to the king and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power.

Ps 105:19 Until the time came to fulfill his word, the LORD tested Joseph's character

Mt 2:13 After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up and flee to Egypt with the child and his mother," the angel said. "Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to try to kill the child."*

Mt 2:15 and they stayed there until Herod's death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: "I called my Son out of Egypt."*

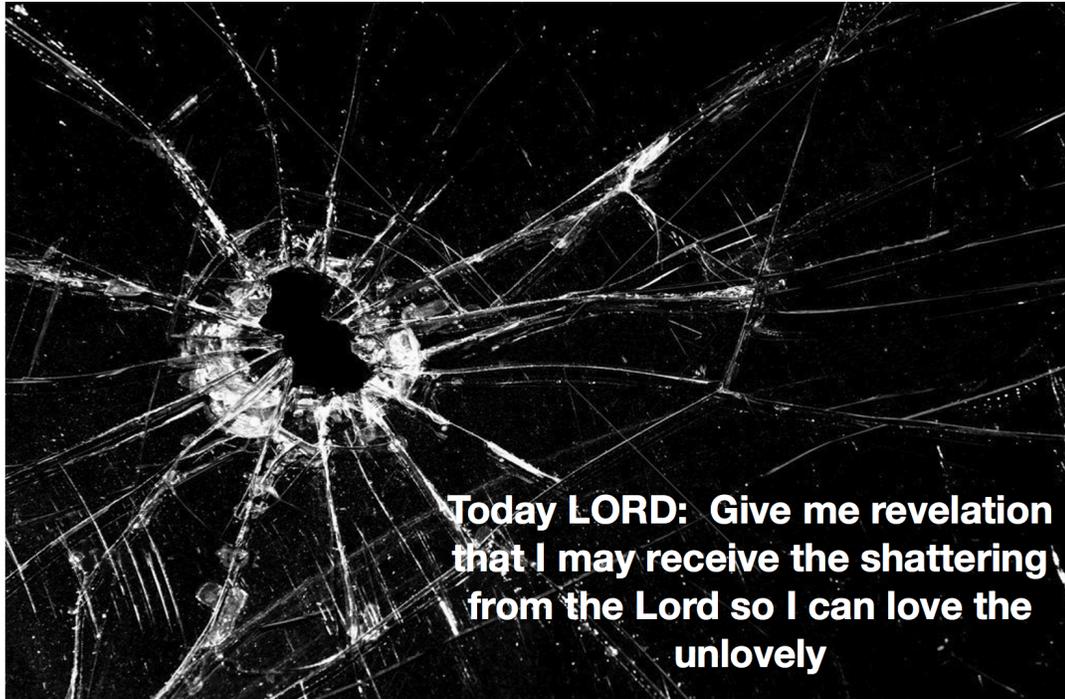
Ac 1:4 In one of these meetings as he was eating a meal with them, he told them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you what he promised. Remember, I have told you about this before.*

Yes....You oh LORD—are an ‘until kind of GOD.’

I'm not giving in.

I'm not giving up.

I'm not quitting. Because—You are —an ‘until kind of God!’



The Shatterings of God

Lord if I don't accept Your blows how can I love those You call me to love?
I've run out of my love.
I've expended all the love that I can muster.
I've simply run out.

But Lord, there is the promise of Your love flowing into me.
But again, my heart is full!
There is no more room.
Where can this love reside in a heart that is full?
Simple question: where will Your love live in me?

It's painful but true—in Your shatterings.
If I allow you to shatter and break my heart—my heart will be enlarged.
My heart can then receive God's love—Divine love—Supernatural love.

Lord I recoil at pain.

Lord I walk away from difficulties and uncomfortable situations—
But Lord, these are the very things that You send my way to break me.

So I welcome pain.

I welcome circumstance of difficulty— not because I'm a masochist—but because
I need Your love flowing into my heart and then out of my heart to others.

I welcome Your yoke. Your yoke is ultimately easy—Your burden is ultimately
light—I just need faith to get me to that place.

Hebrew 12:2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down
at the right hand of the throne of God.

Is this dimension and quality of love available for me?

Yes!

This is a gift from You, Lord—through the seasons of shatterings.

Lord, I open my heart and life to Your shatterings—
Because I want and need God's love filling me and flowing through me!

Fix me oh LORD!

Lord where I am failing—show me
Where I am missing it— fix me
Where I am lost—guide me
Where I am confused—teach me
Where I am anxious—calm me
Where I am sinning—redeem me
Where I am sick—heal me
Where I am powerless—empower me
Where I am indifferent—awaken me
Where I am blind—cause me to see
Where I am speechless—embolden me
Where I am talkative—silence me
Where I am in too much of a hurry—slow me down
Where I am too slow—hurry me up
Where I am unkind—fill me with Divine love
Where I am judgmental—fill me with a Divine perspective
Where I am without compassion—flow through me with Your compassion

Lord—I am not so broken You cannot fix me.
YOU Lord—are what I need
So come Lord Jesus, please come to me.
Flow through me
Manifest Yourself through me.
May Christ be formed in me!

On being a branch

You, LORD are the Vine



I am the branch.

I choose, by surrender and by confession of my sin, to receive my position as a branch.

I choose to receive the Holy sap of Your presence flowing into me.

Left to myself—I am a dead branch.

I have nothing

I am nothing.

I can do nothing.

I am dead. I am lifeless.

I am empty.

But, by GRACE I abide in the Vine.
As I receive Your life-giving sap, I will bear much fruit.
Teach me that journey of abiding.

This begins with a sense of longing.
This begins with coming to the end of myself.
It is a realization of—there is more!
More love!
More presence!
More fruit!
I want more, LORD!

This continues with a sense of surrendering.
This desire for more...leads to a journey of daily surrendering.
The flesh says—I can do that! And at that juncture...I stop abiding.
Teach me more and more surrender.
Help me to rest in my nothingness and Your everything-ness.
Help me to be content to be powerless, dead, empty—
for that knowledge leads to
——surrender, which leads to Holy sap flowing into me.

Holy sap,
Holy presence,
Holy Spirit,
Flow into this piece of dead wood...

Holy Vine
Holy Victory
Holy Vitality
Flow into this branch with Your life.

Andrew Murray:

Be wholly occupied with Jesus. Sink the roots of your being in faith and love and obedience deep down into Him. Come away out of every other place to abide here. Give up everything for the inconceivable privilege of being a branch on earth of the glorified Son of God in heaven. Let Christ be first. Let Christ be all. Do not be occupied with abiding—be occupied with Christ. He will hold you; He will keep you abiding in Him. He will abide in you.
P 59 The True Vine, Moody Classics

On the Manifestation of Divine Love



Lord, is this not the greatest need in my life? —Love one another as I have loved you. By this shall all men know you are my disciples—if you have love one for another.

This is the greatest calling—
This is the greatest need—
 in my life, a life
overflowing with love.

But this is where I fail! Forgive me
LORD.

I fail because I imagine there lies
somewhere deep within me the

ability to stir up some deep, forgiving, Christ-like love through work, effort, and tears!

But I must come to the end of MY love. I must come to the end of myself!

This love is not in me.

This love is not created by me.

This love cannot be stirred deep from within.

This love comes ONLY from You. It is God's love poured into me FOR others.

This loves come through repentance

...through yielding.

...through abiding in the vine.

You are the Vine...I am a branch. I love by abiding not trying. I love by yielding not working harder. I love by connection to You.

Teach me to abide—ah, there is the answer to love's manifestation.

Teach me to yield —yes, there is the release of Divine Love into me, and through me.

A Deeper Surrender

Teach me LORD today a deeper dimension of surrender.
A deeper dimension of letting go.
A deeper dimension of abandonment.



For therein is true life.
There is no life in me.
None in my work.
None in my decisions.
None in my future.
None in my efforts.
Life is only IN You.
Life is only FROM You.

Why, oh why do I seek life elsewhere?
Why, oh why do I look for life in all the wrong places?
Why do I work so feverishly to obtain life—to obtain You?
I work, I try, I strive—all to no end—
For You are there ever waiting to impart life and fulfillment.

I cannot buy—that which is a gift.
I cannot earn—that which is birthed by love.
I cannot work—for that which is free.
This comes only through revelation.
This comes only through surrender.
This comes only through grace.

Here I am LORD... to receive!

Andrew Murray: (p 89 The True Vine)

He wants to be wholly our possession, that we may be wholly His possession.

He gave His life for us to possess that we might give our lives for Him to possess.

Your Ways

Lord, with renewed passion and desire I choose Your ways. Ways that are counter cultural, counter me.

Ways that ascend.

Ways that lead to higher intimacy—deeper intimacy.

Ways that lead to closeness, vitality, warmth, peace, quietness, confidence, tranquility and presence.

Ways that are fed by Spirit to spirit interaction.

Ways that defy logic...defy common sense.

Ways that require abandonment.

Ways that demand crucifixion.

Ways that terminate the flesh and my ways.

Ways that are lovely.

Ways that are paradoxical.



I see your sandaled feet pounding into the dusty roads... clouds of dust are rising. It's a dry road and dusty. But your gait is strong determined, focused.

I want to reach out and touch Your feet.

I want to grasp them.

Hold them.

Crawl down on my hands and knees to grab your feet.

Not to trip you up... but I want to

walk IN you.

Not just with You—

I want to walk within You, Jesus.

I'm moved or focused on Your determination. As You resolutely set Your face to Jerusalem—

so ,I must resolutely set my face... to Seeking YOU

Walking precisely in Your steps.

God's Perspective



Think Big.
Think Large.
There is nowhere—where I
am not.
There is nothing happening
anywhere at anytime that I
am not mindful of.
There is nothing that
escapes My gaze.

Your gaze, your focus is myopic, you see such a small picture.
If you would rest in Me, and not stare at your present circumstances, you would
learn to live by faith and not by sight.

You cannot live by sight because you see so little.
I see everything.
What I see surpasses anything you could ever imagine!

But remember, what I see—by faith you may also see!
1 Corinthians 2:9-10 (NKJV) But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,
Nor have entered into the heart of man, The things which God has prepared for
those who love Him.” But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the
Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

When you see things from your perspective—you live by sight, and miss Me!
When you see things from My perspective—you live by faith, and I am WITH
you!
So lift up your gaze.
Lift up your wonderings.
Lift up your doubtings.
Lift up your confusions.
Lift up and see Me—
 Join Me
 Walk with Me
 See with Me.

The Ambiguity and Mystery of Ministry

It is not by might—
It is not by power—
It is by my Spirit, saith the Lord of Host.
Zechariah 4:6

I cannot force God's hand.
I cannot make God heal a sick person.
I cannot back God into a corner and make him do anything.

I can preach.
I can minister.
I can provide care.
I can provide counsel.

But I cannot provide answers, results, or miracles.

No amount of my praying
No amount of my fasting
No amount of my faithfulness will force the hand of God.

God is sovereign.
God is over all.
God is in charge—
I am not.

I cannot push God.
I cannot manipulate God.
I cannot trick God.
I cannot drive God.

God is God.
God is in control.
God holds all things together by the word of his power.
Hebrews 1:3

Am I simply then to sit and wait?
Am I to do nothing?
Am I to stop everything?

Here is the key: I cannot force God, but I CAN stop God!

I can hinder God by my laziness.
I can hinder God by my lethargy.
I can hinder God by my unfaithfulness.
I can hinder God by my disobedience.

Above all things God requires my
obedience
passion
cooperation
faithfulness
commitment.

He does not require my
popularity
success
numbers
acclaim.

So let's settle down in front of the face of God.
Let's adore him.
Let's honour him.
Let's obey him.
Let fascination and intimacy ever arise in our hearts as we gaze into his face.

Let's partner with God.
Let's walk with God.
Let's listen to God.
Let's do what God tells us to do.

Let's forget about results.
Let's forget about fame.
Let's forget about a following.

Let's just watch God work in the manner he chooses.

And more—

Let's rejoice at what God is doing elsewhere.

Let's rejoice at the wonders of God in another place.

Let's learn to dance together.

“A Man can receive nothing unless it is given to him from above”

John 3:25

Lord I want to see!

Blind beggar of Luke 18

I want to see!
Lord give me eyes to see.
Give me eyes to see what you see,
The beauty
The peace
The lovely
The kind
The humble
The pure.

Give me eyes to see what you see,
The pain
The sorrow
The loneliness
The depression
The worry.

Give me eyes to see what you see,
Perspective
Eternity
Big picture
The end
The result
The whole.

Give me eyes to see what you see,
Heal my vision
Heal my perspective
Heal my myopia.

When I see only from my eyes
I worry

I get angry
I seize control
I manipulate
I want to be the saviour—the performer—
I need to be in control
I need to be right
I need to be first
I need to be above
I am in desolation
I hate.

When I see from your eyes,
I am calm
I am in consolation
I am faithful
I am humble
I am kind
I am at ease
I am in love
I am nice to be around.

I am reminded of this other verse

Luke 11:33 (NLT) “No one lights a lamp and then hides it or puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where its light can be seen by all who enter the house.

34 “Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. But when it is unhealthy, your body is filled with darkness. 35 Make sure that the light you think you have is not actually darkness. 36 If you are filled with light, with no dark corners, then your whole life will be radiant, as though a floodlight were filling you with light.”

Incredible!

*“Is this your usual way of dealing
with man, O Sovereign LORD”*

Thank you Jesus.
Thank you LORD... I trust in you.
You are doing it all.
You are in control.

INCREDIBLE

Thank you that I don't
understand,
that I am fragile
and unlearned in many
things.
This keeps me
undeniably connected
to you.

Thank you that my knowledge is limited—
this keeps me walking by faith.

Thank you that on many, if not most occasions, I am blind and can't hear well.
This keeps me walking in hope.
Hope that your healing will continue to flow,
giving me eyes to see
and ears to hear.

Thank you for my pain and sorrow,
this drives me to your presence.
This compels me to seek you,
this draws me into your loving arms.

Thank you for your apparent distance.
This causes me to realize that I am on a journey towards ultimate union with you.
When I see you I will be like you, for I will see you as you truly are.
This apparent distance is a sign I am doing well!
I am on the right track.
I am heading home!

Thank you that I am me—that I am not another.
This causes me to love you more and more.
This causes me to well up with eternal praise to you, who loves me.
You love me, this gives me permission to love me.

Thank you that often I am wrong, I sin, I make mistakes, I simply blow it.
This causes me to really see grace and mercy.
I am who I am, faults and all—and yet, you choose me.
My wrongness, my sin, my mistakes draw me into your cleansing presence.

How can I not love you?
How can I not commit my every breath to you?
My every moment to you?
How can I not deny myself and serve you with all my heart, mind, soul, and
strength.

Incredible!

David said it best:
Psalms 8:3-4 (NLT) When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers
—the moon and the stars you set in place—what are mere mortals that you should
think about them, human beings that you should care for them?

2 Samuel 7:18b-19 (NIV) “Who am I, O Sovereign LORD, and what is my family,
that you have brought me this far? And as if this were not enough in your sight, O
Sovereign LORD, you have also spoken about the future of the house of your
servant. *Is this your usual way of dealing with man, O Sovereign LORD?*”

The Paradox of Spirituality

Thank you Jesus for my nothingness.
Thank you Jesus for my emptiness.
Thank you Jesus for my inabilities .



Thank you Jesus for my
powerlessness.

These are the ways and the means
of abiding in you.

My nothingness is my fullness—
My emptiness is my overflow—
My inability is my giftedness—
My powerlessness is my
empowerment.

It is the wonderful paradox of the
mystical union with Christ,
Me nothing——You everything.

My nothingness produces my ‘everything-ness.’
My ‘everything-ness’ would produce my nothingness.

Oh to be empty.
Oh to be lost.
Oh to be confused.
Oh to be surrendered.

For in that is fullness.
In that is life.
In that is the great exchange.

If I can only be lost enough, I can be found.
If I can only be empty enough, I can be filled.
If I can only be confused enough, then I can be brilliant.
If I can only be surrendered enough, then I can be strong.
If I can only be small enough, then I can be useful in your kingdom.



GENEROSITY:

freedom from meanness or smallness of mind or character

Father, I am asking today that you would fill me with a spirit of generosity. If I let the world culture dictate to me I will be:

- small minded
- look after me
- forget the needy and the poor
- hoard my money
- hoard my time
- hoard my talents

But Lord, I am not of this world, even as you are not of this world—deliver me from having a worldly mentality.

Lord, infuse my being, infuse my mind with generosity.

Generosity of thinking

Generosity of emotion

Generosity of time

Generosity of things

Generosity of money

Generosity of character.

Anything I have—anything I own—anything that is mine is actually yours!

Let me hold things loosely.

Let me look for opportunities to give.

Let me listen to your generosity and make that my generosity.

**Forgive my small mindedness.
Forgive my stinginess.
Forgive my littleness.
Forgive my fear of not getting what I think I need or want.
Forgive my little faith.**

**I receive your spirit of generosity.
I surrender my all to you . . . everything!
This is the way of grace.
This is the way of mercy.
This is the way of Jesus.**

Generosity!

Prayer Exercises

The Father's house:

14:1* ¶ “Don’t be troubled. You trust God, now trust in me.

2* There are many rooms in my Father’s home, and I am going to prepare a place for you. If this were not so, I would tell you plainly.

3 When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. (John 14:1-3 NLT)

14:1* ¶ “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

2* “In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. (John 14:1-3 NKJV)

God has prepared a place:

What does that look like? What does that mean? Where has God prepared a place? What kind of place does God prepare? Are you invited? Who is there with you? Why are you there? What does it look like?

A Place: **topov** topos—an abode, place, room to live, stay sit etc. Revelation 12:6 “6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where God had prepared a place to give her care for 1,260 days.”

1. Using the past tense?

2. Using the present tense?

3. Using the future tense?

On Being Drawn by Father



Draw Me Close

John 7:44. *For no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me, and at the last last day I will raise them up....*

This drawing:

(Meaning). to draw a pers. in the direction of values for inner life, draw, attract, an extended fig. use of mng. 1 (Pla., Phdr. 238a; Epict. 2, 20, 15 ἡ φύσις ἔλκει; Aelian, NA 4, 13; Porphy., Marc. 16 μόνη ἡ ἀρετὴ τ. ψυχὴν ἄνω ἔλκει καὶ πρὸς τὸ συγγενές; Jer 38:3; SSol 1:4; 4 Macc 14:13; 15:11; Jos., Ant. 15, 27; Ath. 26, 1 περὶ τὰ εἰδῶλα) J 6:44. (Greek Lexicon of the N.T. BDAG)

The Father Draws me

- ✦ He attracts me
- ✦ This requires my response... an opening of my will and affections towards Father.
- ✦ An opening of all my senses
- ✦ This requires my sensitivity my openness, my responsiveness

Meditate on that concept—writing a prayer of praise and wonder!

I can't come to Christ—simply because I want to
I can only come to Christ because the Father is attracting me
Am I listening?
Am I open?
Am I wooed by the Father's attracting?

*Jer 31:3 The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying,
Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love:
therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.*

*Song of Solomon 1:4 Draw me, we will run after thee:
the king hath brought me into his chambers:
we will be glad and rejoice in thee,
we will remember thy love more than wine:
the upright love thee.*

So I am opening myself to the Father.
I am surrendering myself to the Father.
I am listening for Father's voice.
I am waiting for the Father's nudges.

What has the Father said to me in the past?

What is the Father saying to me about the present?

What is the Father saying to me about the future?

Describe the feelings, senses, etc of when you have felt the Father's direction—His drawings?

Described events, circumstances etc when you have refused the Father's drawings?
Then write a prayer of repentance:

What is Prayer?

1. Readings: Luke 11:1-13; 18:1-14

2. Reflections: Try to define prayer. What does prayer mean to you? What is accomplished in prayer? When, how long, why—do you pray? What, if anything happens if you don't pray? Why did Jesus apparently pray so much? What does God think of your prayers—your prayer life? Is your prayer life exciting, dull, dutiful, or ?

3. Pray and ask for revelation on the following quotes:

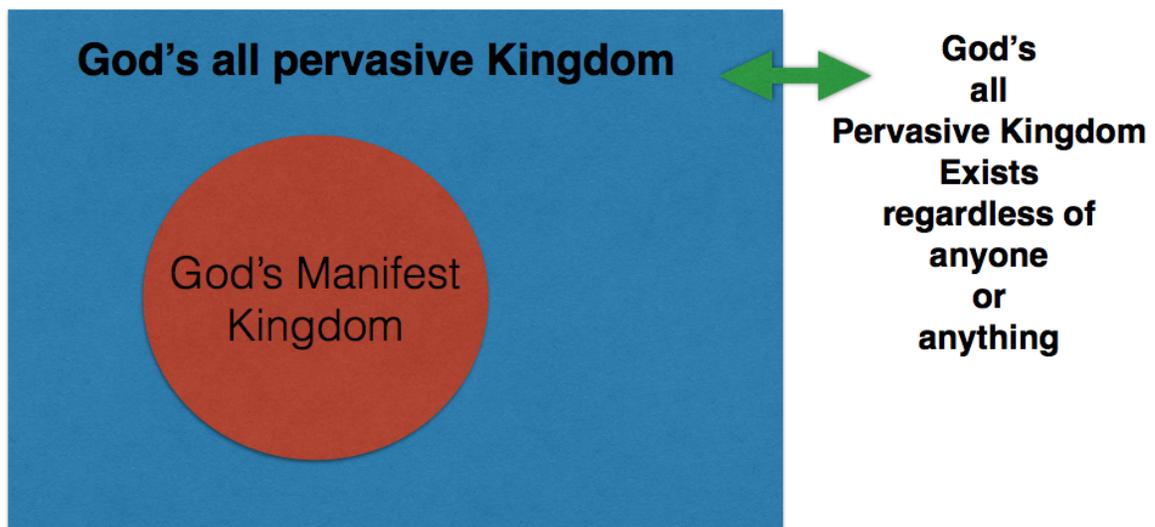
“I describe prayer now as listening to God or experiencing God's presence. Sometimes it's simply life itself” Janet O. Hagberg *The Critical Journey*

For John Calvin, prayer cannot be accomplished without discipline. He writes, “Unless we fix certain hours in the day for prayer, it easily slips from our memory.”

Billy Graham: “[Jesus] prayed briefly when He was in a crowd; He prayed a little longer when He was with His disciples; and He prayed all night when He was alone. Today, many in the ministry tend to reverse that process.”

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. The kingdom come. They will be done, on 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!!!



God's manifest kingdom requires these things:

- 1. Submission**
- 2. Obedience**
- 3. PRAYING it into reality!**

The Lord's prayer is a guide, sample, for the believer to use to enact and release Father's will.

Father's will (in a person, family, church, city, politics, business, ANYWHERE) requires three things:

1. Submission to Father's will. Lu 22:42* Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.
2. Obedience to Father's will. Heb 5:8* Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;
3. PRAYING the Father's will into reality. If this were not the case Jesus would not have instructed us: Pray like this...May your kingdom come.. may your will be done on earth as it in heaven

Prayer guide:

Pray the Lord's Prayer:

- a) insert your name
- b) insert the names of your family, church, city, situations that are close to you, concerns you have,

“ Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come in the life of _____ Thy will be done, on earth in the life of _____ as it is in heaven. Give _____ today _____ daily bread. And forgive _____ sins; as _____ forgives those who trespass against _____ And lead _____ not into temptation, but deliver _____ from Evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Abiding in the Vine

John 15:1-5 New International Version (NIV)

The Vine and the Branches

15 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. **2** He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes^[a] so that it will be even more fruitful. **3** You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. **4** Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Footnotes:

- **John 15:2** The Greek for *he prunes* also means *he cleans*.
-

1. Lord help me abide. Teach me to abide.
 2. What stops me/ hinders me from abiding?
 3. Do I understand abiding?
-

Prayer:

- Pray that I would abide
- Pray that I would model abiding
- Pray that I would lead others in abiding
- Help me Lord to open up to abiding with You—this is a spiritual exercise of release and surrender. It is a being WITH Christ, not a doing FOR Christ.

Helps in Silence and Listening (Adapted from *Into the Silent Land*. Martin Laird)

*Isaiah 30:15 (KJV) 15 For thus saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel;
In returning and rest shall ye be saved;
in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength:
and ye would not.*

Why Silence?

Isaiah 41:4 (NLT) “Listen in silence before me, you lands beyond the sea.
Bring your strongest arguments.
Come now and speak.
The court is ready for your case.

Lamentations 3:28-29 (NLT) Let them sit alone in silence beneath the Lord’s
demands. Let them lie face down in the dust, for there may be hope at last.

Zephaniah 1:7(NLT) Stand in silence in the presence of the Sovereign Lord, for the
awesome day of the Lord’s judgment is near.

Mark 4:39-40 (NLT) When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the
waves, “Silence! Be still!” Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm.

Revelation 8:1-2 (NLT) When the Lamb broke the seventh seal on the scroll, there
was silence throughout heaven for about half an hour.

Psalms 4:3-4 (NLT) You can be sure of this: The Lord set apart the godly for
himself. The Lord will answer when I call to him. Don’t sin by letting anger
control you. Think about it overnight and remain silent.

John of the Cross: “Preserve a loving attentiveness to God with no desire to feel or
understand any particular thing concerning God.”

Helps To Practice Silence:

1. The physical impact and power of deep breathing. Sitting comfortably, in a pleasant surrounding in complete quietness and stillness—close your eyes and just breathe deeply.
2. Assist this deep breathing with a prayer word as necessary. Use a breath prayer: ‘Lord Jesus Christ thou son of God, have mercy on me’. Or simply say a word: Jesus, Healing, Saviour.
3. You may have to practice the above two for 5 to 10 minutes.
4. Now, when you are doing this—chances are your mind is racing and your thoughts are pounding away at your exercises.
 - i. Refuse to have a dialogue with your thoughts.
 - ii. Battle those thoughts with scripture or simple breath prayers or repeating # 2 above.
 - iii. Laird: “This is the specific purpose of the prayer word: to keep the attention from chasing thoughts and, once catching them, which it does with lightening-quick speed, whip up some commentary about the thought.” p 51
5. Let go and live in the moment—ask for nothing. Seek the silence. In other words don’t be grasping at a vision, hearing God, finding a solution for a problem, seeking a feeling, wanting an experience.
6. A deep skill we must learn is to push away our thoughts, our fidgetiness, our wanderings NOT with a commentary but with stillness. Laird writes “Whenever we turn within, we meet chatter, thinking, and commenting p.79.” So we look to Christ in our silence and train our minds and thoughts to be quiet! 2 Corinthians 10:5 (KJV) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;
7. Sometimes just naming our concern, thought, feeling instead of what Laird calls ‘spinning a commentary about the thought,’ is very helpful.
8. Meet any and all distractions head on—not with commentary, but with ‘a steady silent gaze.’ P 89
9. Laird helps with ignoring our thoughts with this: realize that we are not our thoughts and feelings—and once we realize this we have crossed the threshold. “We are not the mind-stream of thoughts and feelings.”
10. Do not berate or judge yourself. Relax you are on a journey.

Results of Silence

1. Formation over information
2. Emotional and inner healing
3. Nearness of God's Presence
4. Quietness trains our minds to be quiet, our spirits to rise—and lead us.
5. Quietness does not produce listening ears to the voice of God—but quietness provides fertile ground for hearing the voice of God.