



THE PRAYER CLOSET

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Praying The Names of God

In biblical times, a name would tell you a great deal about a person. Biblical names often had special meanings—they revealed truths about the person. It would show you what a person would be like. It would predict how a person would act. It would teach what that person's purpose was.

An example of this is Jacob. His name means "deceiver." Jacob lived out the meaning of His name. His life was characterized by deception. As you read the story of his life, he deceived person after person. His name declared his nature—what he would be like and how he would act.

In the Bible, you will find several names for God. **These names declare His nature—what He is like and how He will act!** These names teach you about God and what He can be to you. They also reveal His greatness. God is so great and glorious that He must have many names to describe Him.

God has revealed these names to you so that you can know and worship Him. You are to learn these names and gain a deeper understanding of who God is. This will radically change your life. Knowing who He is will lead you to put your trust in Him (**Psalm 9:10**). It will cause you to have confidence in Him (**Psalm 20:**). It will strengthen your prayer life (**Matthew 6:9**).

The purpose of this study is to teach you about the names of God and how to apply these names to your prayer life. You should use every truth you learn about God in your prayer life. This is especially true concerning the names of God.

You can apply your knowledge of the names of God to your prayer life in four ways. **First, determine how you can praise God for what you learn about Him through His names.** As you study each name and the passages where these are found, seek to discover what you can praise God for concerning this name. An example is "El Shaddai." Most English translations render these Hebrew words as "God Almighty." This name of God points out that God is the Sufficient One. He always gives more than is needed. Praise Him for this! Think about the times in your life when God sufficiently and abundantly provided for you. Record these instances and praise God for this.

The second way that you can use the names of God in your prayer life is by confessing and repenting of sins that relate to this name. "El Shaddai" reveals that God will sufficiently provide; He will not abandon His people, but will abundantly provide. Have you failed to trust God for this? Have you doubted God's abundant providing of your needs? This is sin; this is the failure to trust God. Confess this sin, repent, and determine to trust the sufficient God. You need to do this type of examination with your life. When you fail to depend upon and trust in God's character, this is sin and you must deal with it.

The next way that you can use the names of God in your prayer life is to thank Him for what He is to you. As "El Shaddai," the sufficient One, He is always abundantly blessing you and providing for you (**James 1:17**). As God provides, thank Him for being true to His name. You need to discipline yourself to do this for all of God's names. Determine how God is being true to His name and thank Him for acting according to His character.

The final way that you can use the names of God in your prayer life is by using them as the basis of your requests. If you are in need, then call on God to be true to His name. He is the sufficient God; plead with God to sufficiently and abundantly provide because of who He is. You must realize

that God has a characteristic for every crisis. His nature can meet your every need. His Person is sufficient for every problem that you face. In your God, you can find strength for your worst trials, comfort for your heart's deepest pains, and provision for your soul's greatest need! This is why the Bible says, "The *name* of the Lord is a strong tower; The righteous run into it and are safe (**Proverbs 18:10**).

Whatever problem or need that you have, God can help you. As you face these problems and needs, discover what name or names of God relate to the problem or need. Then, call on God to be true to His name; plead with Him to work according to His nature. As you learn about who God is, use this to make requests of Him.

The following study will help you get started. The names of God are given below. The Hebrew words and the English translation of the Hebrew are given. The passages where this name is used are listed. There is also a description of the name. You need to read and study each name and the passages that are given. Plead with God to teach you about Himself so that you praise Him. Then, use what you learn in your prayer life.

God

"Elohim" The God of Absolute and Total Power

Genesis 1:1, 2, 27, 28, 31; 9:6; Exodus 20:2; Numbers 27:16; Deuteronomy 23:5; Joshua 24:19; 1 Samuel 6:20; Psalm 7:9-11, 42:9, 47:7-9, 50:6, 77:13-14, 99:9; Ecclesiastes 12:13; Isaiah 37:16, 40:28, 41:13, 45:21, 46:9, 49:5, 52:10, Jeremiah 3:23, 32:37.

In English translations, the word "God" is a translation of the Hebrew word "Elohim." This is the name for God as Creator. It reveals that God is the God of absolute power who has created everything. This name exalts the power of God. God's existence and power is made known through the creation of all things (**Romans 1:19-21**). God has made all things and all these things came about as a result of His mighty power. As you look at God's creative work, it shows how powerful that God is. The God of the Bible is a God of power who can do all that He has purposed. God's power flows from His person to accomplish all His purposes.

The Most High God

"El Elyon" The Sovereign Ruler

Genesis 14:18-20; Numbers 24:16; Deuteronomy 32:8; Psalm 9:2, 21:7, 47:2, 50:14, 56:2, 57:2, 87:5, 91:9, 78:35, 82:6, 83:18, 97:9; Isaiah 14:14; Daniel 4:17, 24-25, 32:35, 7:18, 22, 25, 27.

In English translations, the English phrase "The Most High" or "The Most High God" is a translation of the Hebrew name "El Elyon." This name for God reveals that He is the sovereign ruler over all things. Since God has created all things, He can therefore control all things. God's control over all things flows out of the fact that He has created all things. Nothing is greater than God. No one is greater than God. Because of this, He rules over all things, controlling the universe that He has created by His own power. This name of God shows that nothing can stop or overcome God and His will. He works out all things according to His own will. God causes all things to work together for the good of His people.

The God Who Sees **“El Roi” The Ever-Seeing God**

Genesis 16:1-14

The phrase “The God Who Sees” is the English translation of the Hebrew “El Roi.” This name of God teaches that God sees all and knows all. There is not one single thing that happens in time that escapes the attention of God. God sees and knows everything that happens. The believer is always under God’s watchful care. He sees you when nobody else does. He sees your sins, your motives, your desires, and your actions. He sees when you are lonely, brokenhearted, and discouraged. Even if no one else sees or knows, your God does. He is the God who always sees. You can absolutely trust God for this fact.

GOD ALMIGHTY **“El Shaddai” The God of Sufficiency**

Genesis 17:1, 28:3, 35:11, 43:14, 48:3, 49:25; Job 11:7, 33:4, 34:10; Psalm 91:1.

When you see the phrase “God Almighty” in an English translation, it is a translation of the Hebrew words “El Shaddai.” This name of God exalts the sufficiency of God. God is able to bless and bless beyond the asking and thinking of His people (**Ephesians 3:20-21**). Your God is sufficient for your every need, problem, and task. God is able to pour out His blessings on His people. Your God can take a situation where there are no answers and no hope and do mighty and wonderful things. An example of this is Abram. “God Almighty” turned fruitless, fatherless Abram into Abraham, “the father of multitudes. God is sufficient for you in everything.

Lord **“Adonai” The Rightful Lord**

Genesis 18:14, 19:16, 20:4, 20:18; Leviticus 11:44, 19:2-4, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 32, 20:8, 26; Deuteronomy 5:9, 11, 6:15, 7:6-8; Psalm 37:33, 40:5, 17, 89:1, 6, 103:13, 146:8, 147:1, Romans 14:9.

When you see the word “Lord” in an English translation, it is a translation of the Hebrew word “Adonai.” This name of God refers to His total possession of all things. Because He has created all things, controls all things, and owns all things, He has the right to expect and demand submission and worship. He must be submitted to; He is the Master of all. Those whom He has created and saved from sin are to submit to and obey Him. He is worthy because He is the rightful Lord of all (**Luke 6:46, 14:25-27**). By submitting to Him, a person finds mercy, hope, and peace. One cannot expect His blessings without submission to Him.

The LORD **Yahweh (Jehovah) The Eternal, Unchanging God**

Genesis 2:7, Exodus 3:14-15, 6:2, 15:11, 20:2, 33:19, 34:5-7, Deuteronomy 10:17, 28:10, 1 Kings 2:3, Psalm 10:16, 103:6, 130:3-5, 146:10; Isaiah 33:22, 43:3, 45:24, Jeremiah 31:31-34, Daniel 9:14, Amos 5:8, Malachi 3:6.

It is important to notice the difference between “Lord” and “LORD.” The reason that both these words appear in English translations is to show that two different Hebrew words are being translated. When you see “Lord,” this is a translation of the Hebrew word “Adonai,” as stated above. Yet, when you see “LORD,” it is a translation of the Hebrew word “Yahweh” or “Jehovah.” “Yahweh” or “the LORD” is the most frequently used name for God in the Old Testament. This name refers to the fact that God is self-existent, that He has no beginning or end and that He has always existed in and of Himself. God always has been, He is now, and He always will be. God is eternal and does not change. He eternally stays the same. He is always true to His character, His Word, His promises, and His people. God is always with the believer and will always keep His promises to the believer. God will never fail to do what He has promised.

The LORD Will Provide **Jehovah-jireh The Providing God**

Genesis 22

This name of God reveals that He provides for His people. This is clear from the account of Abraham’s life that is found in Genesis 22. When Abraham needed a ram to sacrifice, God provided one. This name of God teaches that God can provide everything that you need. He is able to meet your every need. You will never have a need that is too great for God to meet. Notice that this is a combination of the word for “LORD” and the word for “provide”. This reveals that the unchanging God will always provide for His people. He will never fail to provide what His people need. He will supply all that is needed to save, to strengthen, to make holy, and to bless His people. He cannot fail in this. He has provided, He is providing, and He will always provide for the needs of His people. In every circumstance of life, you can trust God to provide what you need.

The LORD Who Heals **Jehovah-rapha The God of Healing**

Exodus 15:26, Deuteronomy 32:39; Psalm 103:3, 147:3.

This name of God reveals that He is the Healer of His people. God can heal a person physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Only God can heal a person, a church, and a nation. He and He alone has the power to do this. Again, this is a combination of “Jehovah” and the Hebrew word for “healing.”

This is declaring that God does heal and delights in doing this. God has healed, He is healing, and He will heal. You can cry out to Him and trust Him for healing. There is no case too hopeless for the God of healing.

The LORD Is My Banner **“Jehovah-nissi” The God of Victory**

Exodus 17:15

In biblical times, a banner was an object, a flag, or a pole with a bright shining object at its top. This was used as a rallying point for an army. When the army was going into battle, it would gather at the banner. Then, the army would march behind the banner into battle. The eternal, unchangeable God is the Banner of His people. We must look to Him and trust Him as we fight the battles of faith. This name for God shows that He is able to give victory. He is able to enable and empower His people to overcome every enemy that they must face. There is no need to be faint-hearted or afraid. There is no need to panic or tremble. God can give victory to His people. God has given victory, God is giving victory, and God will give victory. God can always enable you to be victorious if you will cry out to Him and trust in Him. No enemy can overcome you when you trust in and call upon the God of victory.

The LORD Who Sanctifies You **Jehovah-mekoddishkem The God of Holiness**

Exodus 31:13

The word “sanctify” means “to set apart.” This name of God refers to the fact that He is working to make His people holy. God has determined to make His people holy. He desires that they grow in freedom from sin and live obedient lives. God has saved you from sin. Now He wants to make you holy. This is God’s primary desire for your life. He wants you to deal with the sin in your life so that you can grow in living a life that pleases Him. He will grant you the power you need to do this. He can enable you to overcome temptation. He can empower you to root sins out of your life no matter how powerful they may seem. This is something that God is always working at in your life. You can depend on the God of holiness to help you in your battle against sin and temptation.

The LORD Is Peace **“Jehovah-shalom” The God of Peace**

Judges 6:22-24

In the dark hours of Israel’s history, God revealed Himself to Gideon as “Jehovah-shalom,” the LORD is peace. Gideon and the entire nation needed peace. The hour was dark and the situation was desperate. Yet, God granted Gideon and the nation peace in the midst of trying circumstances. God can give you a peace that passes understanding no matter what your circumstances. The circumstances of your life can be utter chaos on the outside, but, on the inside, you are calm and restful due to God’s peace. You can only find this in God. You can always find this in God. There is no other source for true and unshakable peace. God has given peace, He is giving peace, and He will give peace to His people. He will keep you in perfect peace when your mind is fixed on Him (**Isaiah 26:3**).

The LORD of Hosts **“Jehovah-sabaoth” The General of The Angelic Army**

1 Samuel 1:3, 11; 2 Samuel 5:10; 2 Kings 19:31; Psalm 24:10, 46:7, 11, 84:1, 3, 8, 12, 148:2; Isaiah 14:27; Haggai 1:2, 5, 7, 9, 14, 2:4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 23; Zechariah 1:4, 4:6-9, Malachi 1:4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 2:2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 12, 16, 3:1, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, 17, 4:1, 3.

This name of God teaches that God is the General of the armies of heaven. The “hosts” refers to the angelic army that God has created, controls, and commands according to His will and purpose. No matter how powerless you may feel, God is able to help you. No matter how inadequate your resources may be, God has an army of angels that He can send to aid you, help you, and rescue you. You can find deliverance no matter what the circumstances of your life. Your God is the mighty General of an army that is always able and willing to do whatever He commands.

The LORD Is My Shepherd **“Jehovah-raah” The God of Constant Care**

Psalm 23

This name of God shows that the eternal, unchangeable God is your Shepherd. This means that God has an intimate love for you. He exercises a continual care and protection over your body and soul. He is the One who is leading you and sustaining you. In this Psalm, David reveals all the blessings that God grants to His people as their Shepherd. God has always been the Shepherd of the believer, He is the Shepherd of the believer, and He will always be the Shepherd of the believer. This will not change regardless of a person’s circumstances or feelings.

The LORD Our Righteousness **“Jehovah-tsidkenu” The God of Righteousness**

Jeremiah 23:6

This name reveals that God gives righteousness to His people. To be accepted with God, one must be righteous. This is impossible for the sinner. Yet, when the sinner turns to Christ from sin and trusts in Him, that person is credited with the righteousness of Jesus Christ. In this way, the believer is accepted and received by God into a personal relationship. He brings us into relationship with Himself through the righteousness of Jesus Christ. You stand perfect and complete before Him. You are totally forgiven, accepted, and loved by God. However, God does not stop there. He works to make the believer righteous in his life. He works to lead the believer to right thinking, right feeling, and right behavior based on the Word of God. This is God’s desire and God’s demand. He can enable you to obey His Word.

The LORD Is There “Jehovah-shammah” The God of Hope

Ezekiel 48:35

God revealed this name to the people of God when they were in captivity. They would be there seventy years (**Jeremiah 29:10**). The temple that they never thought could be destroyed had been demolished. The people felt that the situation was hopeless. They felt abandoned by God and alone. Yet, God reveals that He would again be at Jerusalem (**John 1:1, 14**). This meant that they would return to Jerusalem. They would rebuild the temple and once again worship the Lord God. They did have a future. They did have hope. Because of God, you can have hope. You have a future with God. He is working out His purpose for you in this life. He is going to bring you into His presence in heaven. You will spend eternity with Him, worshiping Him and perfectly enjoying Him.

God's Great Desire

What is God's great desire? His great desire is that you worship Him. He wants you to take the time to praise Him daily. The Lord Jesus Christ said, "But the hour is coming and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; *for the Father is seeking such to worship Him* (**John 4:23**)." The Lord Jesus Christ stated that He came from the Father to seek and save the lost (**Luke 19:10**). The Father sent Christ to seek and save for the purpose of producing worshipping people. The main reason that you were saved was not so that you could receive eternal life and the blessings of the Christian life, but so that you might give worship to God. A Christian is to be a worshiper of God; he is not so much concerned with what he gets *from* God as he is what he gives *to* God.

Praising God is not optional but essential. God is worthy of all your praises and all the honor that you can offer Him. You are to daily praise Him in your quiet time and at various points during the day. Yet, this may be the most neglected part of the prayer lives of believers.

Much of our praying is man-centered. This means that the focus of our prayers is on ourselves and others. Rarely do believers pause to praise God. There may be a casual mentioning of praise, but it is not the deep response of the heart and is simply a well-worn cliché. This is a sin against God and robs the believer of a more intimate relationship with God. It also denies the believer of power in prayer.

You must grow in the art of praising God. However, this is going to take a commitment on your part. Why does it take a commitment on your part? It is because praising God requires a sacrifice on your part. The Bible declares in Hebrews 13:15, "Therefore by Him (Jesus Christ) let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name." It is the duty and the privilege of the believer to continually praise and give thanks to God. Our offering of praise is referred to as a "sacrifice." Believers do not have to sacrifice goats, rams, and sheep to God due to the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ (**Hebrews 10:1-4, 10**). Yet, our sacrifice is to give praise to God. Just as the sacrifices of the Old Testament were costly, so our sacrifice of praise of God will be costly to us.

It will be costly because you will not always feel like praising God. There will be times and circumstances in your life that will not make it easy to praise God. You may have doubts about God and His will. You may wonder what God is doing. However, you must remember that it is not God's will for you to always have "mountaintop" experiences. You must be committed to praising God regardless of feelings and circumstances. Your feelings and circumstances may change, but God doesn't. He is

always worthy of praise and trust. Even when you don't feel anything, you must persist in praising God.

It will be costly because you must defeat "busyness" in your life. It takes time to praise God. It takes time and discipline to learn how to praise God. You will have to make time to get alone with God and praise Him. You will have to make a radical choice against the never-ending stream of things to do and places to go in order to praise God.

It will be costly because you must be growing in your knowledge of God. Praise is based on what you know of God. The deeper you know God, the deeper and more intense your praise of God. In order to keep your praise from stagnating, you must daily freshen it with a deepening knowledge of God. You must press on to know Him better. By doing this, you will find fresh materials for praise that will go beyond your past praises.

Praise can be a costly sacrifice. Yet, it is a sacrifice that is worth the cost. Praising God will deepen your relationship with God. It will strengthen your prayer life. It will delight your soul to honor God. It will bring God's power and presence. It will liberate and thrill your mind and heart. You will learn the truth that the psalmist declared in Psalm 147:1, "**Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; For it is pleasant and praise is beautiful.**"

You can grow in your ability to praise God. Yet, it will take a commitment on your part to do so. In Psalm 71. This psalm is written by an old man looking back on his life. He is once again in difficulty and is calling on God to once again deliver him. Yet, he makes an incredible statement in verse 14. He declares, "**But I will hope continually, and will praise You yet more and more.**" Even in his old age, he commits to praise God more and more. He declares that he will grow in his ability to praise God. After years of walking with God, this man continued to grow in praise.

I want to challenge you to grow in your praise to God. Will you make that commitment? Will you begin to strive to grow in your ability to praise God? This is a necessity if your relationship to God is going to grow and become more intimate. It is also a necessity for the maturing and deepening of your prayer life.

You may be thinking, "I want to grow in praise. But how do I do this?" This newsletter will be offering you many practical steps in this matter. Yet, there is a simple first step. It is to start a "**Notebook On God.**" As you read the Word of God, write down what you learn about God. As you learn more and more about God, record this in your notebook. You can also record what you learn about God from sermons, Sunday School lessons, and your talking with other believers.

There is not set procedure for this notebook. You need to customize it for yourself. The key issue is to record what you learn about God and the Scripture that this truth is found. Then, meditate on this truth about God. Ask yourself some questions: How does this truth about God affect me? How can I use this truth to praise God. Following this, record your insights. Then use this in your prayer time. Tell God how much you admire Him because of this. Declare to God how this truth makes Him glorious and exalted. Honor God on the basis of truth that you have learned about Him.

This is an excellent devotional habit to instill in your children. In your family worship time, you might want to consider having a family "**Notebook On God.**" As you read the Bible as a family, the parents and the children can point out something to praise God for during the prayer time. As the family members point these things out, record these in the notebook. As various points, go back and review what you have learned and praise God for this growth. In doing this, you will be showing your children the importance and the necessity of praise. You will also be showing them how to praise God.

A Prayer of Commitment To Praise God

The following prayer is offered as a guide to help you in making a commitment to praise God and to persist in this commitment. You may be a spiritual infant in this matter. Now is the time to start growing in this discipline and privilege of the Christian faith. Do not delay! Do not make excuses! Call on God to teach you how to praise Him. Plead with Him for the grace and power to offer acceptable praise. It is essential that you daily seek the filling of the Holy Spirit. It is this filling that will release the power in your life to praise God. You can grow in praising God. Yet, it begins with a commitment to seek Him and to learn what He has revealed in His Word. You can pray this pray for yourself or you can pray this for others (your children, your friends, your church leaders).

Eternal and Almighty God, You are the one true God. There is no other God than You. I praise You because from eternity to eternity You are God and God alone. You are glorious and majestic. You are holy and righteous. No one can fully understand you; there is no limit to your understanding. You and Your ways are past finding out. Greatly to be praised and greatly to be feared, You and You alone are the everlasting, unchanging, and all-wise God.

Because You are such a unique, almighty, and holy God, I pray that _____ will experience a more intimate relationship with You. I plead that You would create a hunger and thirst in _____ to know You. I ask that _____ soul would thirst for You, the living God. I beg that _____ heart and flesh would cry out for the living God. Make _____ long for You like a thirsty land does water. I plead that You will be the greatest desire of _____ life.

Cause _____ to grow in praise. Enable _____ to always appreciate and adore You. Teach _____ about Yourself and Your works so that _____ can give you glorious and acceptable praise. Let the desire of _____ heart to praise and worship You all the days of _____ life. Bless _____ efforts to praise You. Amen.

Praying The Beatitudes Matthew 5:10-12 Blessed Are The Persecuted

Righteous and true God, merciful and faithful Father, I praise You that You have saved me and that you have set me apart for Yourself. I thank You that You have brought me into relationship with Yourself and that You have forgiven me of all my sins. This is simply due to Your grace and mercy, the blood and righteousness of Your Son, and the work of Your blessed and powerful Holy Spirit.

I plead that my life would powerfully reveal the fact that I belong to You and that You have saved and set me apart for Yourself. I realize that this may result in persecution. Yet, I will gladly suffer for Your sake. I will endure whatever persecution comes because You have been so merciful and gracious to me. I will endure whatever persecution comes because I truly want to be salt and light in this world. Make me different so that others will notice the difference and give me the opportunity to share the gospel with them.

I plead that you will never allow me to suffer because of my own evil or because of a mean spirit. Deliver me from arrogance and a "holier-than-thou" attitude. Let me be humble and kind. Yet, give me the grace to make a stand as the prophets and saints before me have made. Grant that I would be true to You, Your Word, and to the prophets and saints who have gone before me. Amen.

Advancing The Kingdom

NORTH KOREA

Less than fifty years ago, the North Korean city of Pyongyang was nicknamed "Asia's Jerusalem." The strong influence of Christianity in North Korea merited this nickname. Some two thousand churches filled the nation and Western missionaries were actively engaged in numerous projects.

However, a devastating change took place. In North Korea today, all outward forms of Christianity have been wiped out. Churches have been bulldozed. Anyone found owning a Bible can go to jail for fifteen years. Any person who confesses Christ is seen as a threat to the government and the welfare of the nation. How could such a radical turnabout take place?

From 1910 until the end of World War II in 1945, Japan controlled Korea. After World War II, due to Russian insistence, the country was divided with the Soviet Union controlling the northern region. In 1948, the Korean peninsula north of the 38th parallel became North Korea and the southern part became South Korea. At this time in North Korea, the Communist dictator Kim Il Sung took control of the nation.

Kim Il Sung, who ruled North Korea for over 40 years, lead the government in destroying churches and in killing and persecuting Christians. He considered Christianity as "superstition" and "a hindrance to the socialist revolution." Kim used the secret police to begin an intense effort against the Christian faith. All church buildings were closed or bulldozed. All Bibles were destroyed. Preachers and religious leaders were either executed or sent to concentration camps.

In place of Christianity and other religions, Kim imposed an alternative religion-a personality cult, built around himself and his son, Kim Jong Il. From the time they are young children, North Koreans are taught to look on the "Great Leader," Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il as infallible, god-like beings. They are taught that these two men are the protectors and the sustainers of the Korean race. This practice continues even to this day.

Freedom of belief has no place in North Korea. The government depends on relentless propaganda and a comprehensive surveillance system to control every thought, act, and desire of its citizens. North Koreans are prohibited from making even the slightest deviation from Communist beliefs and practices. Kim Jong Il, the son of Kim Il Sung and the present Communist dictator, is dedicated to continuing the Communist way of life. There is absolutely no tolerance of the Christian faith. The government of North Korea is one of the harshest and most repressive regimes in all of the world. Christianity is seen as a threat to the Communist way of life and will not be allowed in North Korea.

It is difficult to know how many Christians are in North Korea. This is due to the fact that it is one of the most closed societies in the world. Yet, according to recent reports of Western missionaries and North Koreans who have managed to defect, there are thousands of believers who cling to their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Small groups of Christians continue to meet secretly in homes, rarely in numbers larger than six. These "underground Christians" have no access to Bibles, religious literature, or teaching materials. However, they are surviving and the number of Christians is growing.

North Korean officials insist that their constitution allows for religious freedom. The Communist government operates three religious organizations: The Buddhist Federation, The Korean Christian Federation, and The Korean Catholic Association. These churches have received widespread international publicity. However, it appears that these are only propaganda "show" churches. Some visitors allege that the churches are only opened when foreign visitors request to attend services. Others claim that the same church members appear to attend both the Protestant and Catholic churches. There are reports of individuals who have talked with the pastors and priests of these churches. In these interviews, the priests and pastors of the Communist-sponsored churches cannot even answer basic Bible questions that most children who have been to Vacation Bible school can answer.

The situation in North Korea is desperate and demands the constant and fervent prayers of American believers. You need to plead with God to bless and strengthen your brothers and sisters in Christ in North Korea. Please use these prayer requests found in the June issue of *The Prayer Closet* to intercede for these suffering believers. There are other concerns that you need to pray about for these believers and this nation. Please pray over the following concerns of North Korea and the advance of Christ's kingdom there:

- (1) Pray that North Korean dictator Kim Jong Il and other top-ranking Communist leaders would be genuinely saved (**Proverbs 21:1**);
- (2) Pray that God would open the doors for the gospel of Jesus Christ in North Korea. **THE GREAT MAJORITY OF NORTH KOREANS HAVE NEVER EVEN HEARD THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST!!** The knowledge of God has almost been wiped out in this country by the Communists. Plead that God would grant open doors for the gospel in this country;
- (3) Pray that God would bless and strengthen the underground church. Very little is known about how many believers are in North Korea. They have been completely isolated from the rest of the world by the Communists. Yet, they have survived and are struggling to live for the Lord Jesus Christ;
- (4) Pray that God would blind the eyes of the authorities to the transport of Bibles and Christian activities. Plead that God would blind and confuse the Communist government concerning the activities of the underground churches. Call on God to bless the efforts to get Bibles and Christian literature into the nation. Some of the efforts that are being attempted are floating literature ashore from the sea, balloon deliveries, and smuggling.

**FAITH IS LOOKING TO GOD WITH TRUST; PRAISE IS
LOOKING TO GOD WITH ADMIRATION. THE SECRET OF BOTH
FAITH AND PRAISE IS A GROWING KNOWLEDGE OF GOD.
MEDITATING DAY AFTER DAY ON HIS PERFECT CHARACTER
AND GREATNESS INSPIRES US TO TRUST HIM.**

The Beloved Unbeliever Network is a network of intercessors who pray for believers who have spouses that are not Christians. This network of intercessors pray daily for believers who are in this situation. These intercessors have been trained and are committed to praying for believers who find themselves in this type of marriage. If you would like to be added to this prayer list or if you know of someone who is in the situation and would like to place them on this prayer list, please contact Dr. Kevin Meador. Please provide the following information:

Name of the family members
Church affiliation
Any special requests

Any information that is submitted will be kept in strict confidence and the privacy of the individuals will be protected.



THE PRAYER CLOSET
Dr. Kevin Meador
595 Stratton Road
Decatur, MS 39327