



THE PRAYER CLOSET

*Transforming Lives Through Intercessory
Prayer And Fasting*

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE PRAYER CLOSET MINISTRIES, INC.

VOLUME III

NOVEMBER, 2000

ISSUE 10

COMMUNICATION WITH GOD

Communication with God is the privilege of every child of God. Every believer has the opportunity to spend time in the presence of the Father through prayer. Because of Jesus Christ, believers have an open door to the Father's presence, "For through Him, we both have access by one Spirit to the Father" (**Ephesians 2:18**). Because of this open door, believers have the opportunity to talk with God and listen to Him. The reason for spending time in His presence talking and listening to Him is so that we will develop an intimate relationship with Him. We communicate with God in order to deepen and strengthen our relationship to Him.

ISSUE 10 - HIGHLIGHTS

COMMUNICATION WITH GOD

GLORIFY HIS NAME

Praise

Thanks

OPEN YOUR HEART

To His Conviction

To His Correction

To His Counsel

DECLARE YOUR PETITIONS...

Using This Prayer Plan

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FATHER...

Philippians

THE INTERCESSOR'S CHECKLIST

NEW PRAYER PRODUCTS

Learning to communicate with God takes time and hard work. It is true that believers have a desire to pray from the first moments of their new life in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit who resides in believers is the Spirit of prayer. He empowers and enables believers to cry out to God, "And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!'" (**Galatians 4:6**). Charles Spurgeon once wrote that praying is as natural to the Christian as breathing is to a human!

Yet, this desire to pray has to be developed into a deep and intimate communication with God. When a person surrenders his or her life to Jesus Christ, that person becomes a "babe" in Christ, a child of God. He or she is a spiritual baby. In the natural realm, a baby does not come out of the womb communicating like an adult does. A baby has to learn how to speak and listen. A baby has to learn how to put words and sentences together. A baby has to learn how to communicate with others.

The same is true in the spiritual realm. A believer has to learn and grow in his or her communication with God. A believer does not automatically have a deep and intimate relationship to God. When a person surrenders to Christ, it is the beginning of learning how to communicate with God.

This issue of *The Prayer Closet* focuses on learning how to communicate with God. In this issue, I want to introduce a simple plan of how to

Dr. Kevin Meador, 595 Stratton Road, Decatur, MS 39327 (601) 635-2180

EMAIL: prayercloset_1998@yahoo.com WEB PAGE - www.prayerclosetministries.org

approach and relate to God. This plan is based on the name of God. Each letter in His name stands for a different aspect of our communication with Him. I simply offer this plan as a guide to help you grow in your ability to communicate with God. You might want to use this plan or you can glean some insights from it to help you. I have used this plan in my personal prayer life and in teaching others, especially new believers, how to communicate with God.

GLORIFY HIS NAME

The first part of this plan for prayer is to glorify the name of God. When I say that we are to “glorify” the name of God, it means to reveal the greatness and majesty of God. It is declaring how great and awesome God is. The way that we glorify the name of God is through praise and thanksgiving.

Praise and thanksgiving are closely related to each other. They are so closely related that it is hard to draw a distinction between them. Yet, it is important to see them as separate acts. The basic distinctions between praise and thanksgiving are:

- ◆ Praise focuses on the character of God; giving thanks focuses on the actions of God. When you praise God, you adore Him for who He is. When you thank God, you adore Him for what He does for you.
- ◆ Praise is selfless; giving thanks focuses on God and His blessings in your life. Praising God is looking only at God. When you give thanks, you are looking at how this great God has blessed you and relates to you.
- ◆ Praise finds its delight in God Himself; giving thanks finds in delight in what God does. When you praise God, the person and the perfections of God wholly consume you. When you give thanks, the blessings that flow out of His person and perfections consume you.

Though they are distinct, both praise and giving thanks are essential to glorifying God’s name.

In this plan for prayer, the believer is to approach God by glorifying His name. This means that he or she is to enter His presence with praise and thanksgiving for God, “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise, be thankful to Him, and bless His name” (**Psalm**

100:4). The Word of God also says in **Psalm 103:1-2**, “Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.”

In both of these texts, praise and giving thanks are connected. In **Psalm 100:4**, the believer is taught to enter God’s presence by being thankful to Him and by blessing His name. This is praise and giving thanks to God. In **Psalm 103:2**, the believer is exhorted to bless God’s name and not to forget all His benefits. To bless the name of God is to praise Him. It is to adore and exclaim the glorious character of God. When a believer gives thanks to God, he or she is not forgetting the benefits of God. Giving thanks prevents the believer from forgetting God’s blessings.

When you enter the presence of God, you need to enter with praise and thanksgiving to God. I realize that there will be times when the believer does not do this. An example of this is what I call “arrow” prayers. These are short prayers that you pray throughout the day concerning people and situations. These prayers are short, sharp, and go straight into God’s presence. However, the believer needs to develop the practice of entering God’s presence with praise and thanksgiving. You need to develop your ability to praise and thank Him. This is essential to your communication with Him.

I also realize that there will be times when you will enter God’s presence only with praise or only with thanksgiving. There have been times when I prayed and all I did was praise God. I spent the whole time adoring His character and celebrating His greatness. At other times of prayer, I spent the whole time thanking God. The whole focus of these times was thanking God for the blessings that flowed out of His character. I was wholly consumed by His blessings and thanking Him for these blessings.

In this prayer plan, believers are taught to enter God’s presence first and foremost with praise and thanksgiving. I have used and taught other models of prayer that separate praise and thanksgiving. These other models are fine and can be helpful in guiding a believer in how to pray. Yet, since praise and thanksgiving are so closely related, I feel that it is best to have them connected, especially when you enter into God’s presence to communicate with Him.

Why should praise and thanksgiving be connected in your praying? There are some basic reasons for this:

- ◆ *God is worthy to be praised and thanked by you.* This is the most basic reason for this. God is worthy to be praised. He is the only true and living God. He alone is worthy of your praise (**Psalm 115:3; Romans 11:35-36**). He is also worthy to be thanked by you. He consistently blesses you with God and perfect gifts (**James 1:17**). The only proper response to His goodness is to thank Him.
- ◆ *Praise and giving thanks sets the tone for your praying.* God is worthy to receive praise and thanks from you. Yet, when you do this, it has a powerful and a positive impact on you. It gets you in the right frame of mind to pray. It causes you to focus on the fact that you are entering into God's presence. It slows you down and fixes your faith on God.
- ◆ *Praise and giving thanks build your faith.* Faith is essential to powerful and effective communication with God (**Hebrews 11:6**). Your faith is strengthened as you praise and thank God. When you praise Him, you see how great and powerful He is. You come to realize more profoundly what a glorious God He is. As you give thanks to Him, you see how He has exercised His power and goodness toward you. You come to realize that God has blessed you beyond measure. This strengthens your faith to trust Him and to intercede before Him. By entering His presence with praise and thanks, you are building your faith to communicate with Him.
- ◆ *Praise and giving thanks increase your intimacy with God.* As you adore God and give thanks to Him, you will be drawn closer to Him. You will grow in your understanding of His glorious character. You will see the depths of His goodness in fresh and new ways. You will realize His love and compassion for you in new depths. This will in turn move you to love Him and motivate you to know and serve Him in fresh and new ways.
- ◆ *Praise and giving thanks will deepen your humility before God.* When a believer praises and thanks God, it produces in him or her a deeper humility. By combining praise and

thanksgiving, one sees how glorious, almighty, and good that God is. As you praise and thank Him, it produces a sense of how great He is and how unworthy that you are. When this happens, you experience a deeper humility before Him and a willingness to submit to Him in all that He commands and leads you to do.

- ◆ *Praise and giving thanks makes you willing to listen to God.* Many times we come to God with our own agenda. We pray and ask God to adopt our plans and make them His own. Yet, powerful and effective praying is based on listening to God and following His leading in prayer. Praise and giving thanks will help you do this. These things will increase your ability to submit to God and His leadings. As you praise Him, you realize how wise and powerful He is. You recognize that He is right and true in all that He says and does. As you thank Him, you see how good He is. You realize how He has blessed you and answered your prayers. When you practice praise and giving thanks, your will is made pliable and willing to receive what God wants because He is so great, wise, and good.
- ◆ *Praise and giving thanks are the responsibility of the believer.* The Word of God says in **Hebrews 13:15**, "Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name." This is another verse that connects praise with thanksgiving. Because of Jesus Christ, we have entered into a personal relationship with God. It is our responsibility to praise and thank the God who has created us and saved us.

Praise

How can you develop your ability to praise God? *You must make a commitment to praise God.* The psalmist declares, "By You I have been upheld from birth; You are He who took me out of my mother's womb. My praise shall be continually of You" (**Psalm 71:6**). It is not enough to have a desire to praise God. You must move beyond this to a commitment to praise Him. This requires you to strive daily to learn about Him and praise Him with what you learn.

You must saturate your life with the Word of God. God has revealed Himself in His Word. You grow in your understanding of who God is by reading and studying the Word. This is crucial in learning to praise God. Your knowledge of God will determine the depth of your praise to Him. The more you know God, the deeper and more intense your praise will be for Him. Dig into God's Word and learn about who God is. As you learn about God, turn every truth that you learn about God into a point for praise.

Another way to grow in your ability to praise God is to ask God to teach you how to do this. God delights in praise. It is His desire for His people to praise Him. The Holy Spirit is your Teacher. Ask Him to teach you how to offer the sacrifice of praise. Plead with Him to grant you a deeper understanding of God. Call on Him to give you a heart for praise.

Doing "I" exams will help you grow in your ability to praise Him. When you pray, how much do you use the word "I"? Overusing the word "I" may mean that your prayers are more self-centered than God-centered. It might be helpful to write out "You" prayers. An example is, "You are righteous, O God" or "You are holy and wise, Father". By using the word "You", it enables you to focus more on God than on self.

A constructive way to grow in your ability to praise God is to build a vocabulary of praise. A vocabulary of praise consists of the names, characteristics, titles, and pictures of God. As you learn these things, you can then use them to praise God. God has revealed these things about Himself to help us know Him more intimately. Strive to gain an understanding of these things and use them as points of praise.

Giving Thanks

The following are some suggestions on how you can develop your giving of thanks to God. *First, ask God to create a spirit of thanksgiving in you.* Plead with the Holy Spirit to give you a heart for thanksgiving. The Word of God says in **1 Thessalonians 5:18**, "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." God's desire is that you offer thanks to Him on a continual basis. God's blessings in your life are unceasing (**James 1:17**). Giving of thanks to God

should flow continually from your heart and lips. This is God's will for you. Turn this command of God into a prayer request. Ask Him to enable you to give thanks in everything.

Next, seek the filling of the Holy Spirit. The filling of the Holy Spirit is intimately connected to thanksgiving (**Ephesians 5:18, 20**). It is only through the power of the Holy Spirit that a believer can be thankful to God. He empowers the believer to give thanks to the Father on a continual basis. In order to develop a spirit of thanksgiving, seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Another way to develop a heart for thanksgiving is to offer spontaneous and planned thanks to God. By spontaneous thanks, I mean thanking God throughout the day for His blessings. It is immediately offering to God thanks for particular things that He does for you. By planned thanksgiving, I mean having a time where you think about God's blessings in your life. You record these in a journal and give thanks to Him for these things. The key is to have a variety in this matter. You need both to develop a heart for thanksgiving.

You might want to keep a catalog of blessings. A catalog of blessings is a place where you record God's blessings in your life. You can do this in your journal or you might even have a special journal or notebook to put this in. It is simply keeping a record of God's various and rich blessings in your life. By doing this, it enables you to develop sensitivity to His blessings and the need to thank Him. It will also increase your faith in and intimacy with God as you look back and see how richly God has blessed you.

Finally, it will be helpful to remember three basic guidelines concerning your giving of thanks. First, give thanks **daily**. This can be either planned or spontaneous thanksgiving. It could be both. As God blesses you daily, remember to thank Him daily. Second, give thanks **specifically**. Beware of blanket statements like, "I thank You for all that You do for me." I realize that these can be sincere and can honor God. Yet, too many times, these types of statements are empty phrases that we use to go through the motions of giving thanks. Strive to be as specific as possible. At the same time, give thanks **intentionally**. Make it a point to thank God. This is not always easy. Yet, God's blessings continually flow into your life. He deserves your thanks. Purpose in your heart to thank Him daily. I realize that one can turn this into a dead routine. It

can quickly become a matter of “have-to” instead of “want-to”. Yet, there has to be a commitment and discipline in this matter if one is going to develop a heart for thanksgiving.

OPEN YOUR HEART

The second part of this plan for prayer is to open your heart to God. In this part, you combine listening and talking with God. It is helpful to have times of silence throughout your prayer times. It is good to have a time of silence before you begin to pray. This slows you down and enables you to focus more clearly and intently on God. It prepares you to enter the presence of God. It is also beneficial to have a time of silence before you end your time of prayer with God. This enables you to meditate on what God has spoken. It is a time to receive strength as you bask in God’s presence, power, and love. Be sensitive to the Spirit’s leading about these times of silence. They can make a tremendous difference in your time with God.

In this plan for prayer, I suggest that a believer have a period of silence and listening to the Lord after glorifying His name. When I say, “open your heart”, I am referring to a time of listening to God. During this time, you listen to God concerning three basic areas.

Open Your Heart To His Conviction

Once you have praised and thanked God, you need to listen to the Holy Spirit as He convicts you about your sin. Praise and giving thanks prepares you to confess your sin. When you see God’s greatness and goodness, it humbles you. It enables you to see your sin in the proper perspective. How can you sin against such a good and great good? It also impresses on you the enormity of your sin. You have sinned against such a loving and gracious God. Praise and thanksgiving break the pride and self-righteousness that often hinders the believer from confessing his or her sin.

It is God’s desire that believers confess their sins, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). The Holy Spirit has been sent to convict of sin (John 16:7). Every believer must have the conviction of the Holy Spirit in order to see his or her sin and then confess and

repent. He is the One who reveals our sin to us. He leads us to confession and repentance. Because of these things, believer must be open to the Spirit’s conviction so that one can confess his or her sin to God (Psalm 51).

It is easy to become blinded to your sin. It is not hard to justify one’s sin. And one can readily fall into the trap of going through the motions of confessing sin with empty words. The believer needs to have times when he or she is open to the Spirit’s conviction in the presence of God. It is essential to have times when the Holy Spirit searches you and convicts you, “Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalm 139:23-24). After a time of praise and thanksgiving, the believer is prepared to receive this conviction.

During this time of listening, you might simply pray, “Holy Spirit, show me my sin” or “Holy Spirit, reveal those things in my life that are displeasing to the Father”. Ask Him to reveal those things that you need to confess and repent of. Then listen to His voice and open your heart to His conviction. As He reveals your sin to you, confess it to your Father. Claim your responsibility for sinful thoughts, words, and actions. Do not make excuses but acknowledge your guilt. At this time, you might also ask for wisdom and power to deal with those sins. Be open to His leading on how to deal with the sins that you commit.

Your confession of sin should not be limited to this time. Whenever the Holy Spirit convicts you of sin, you should confess it to the Father and repent. Waiting to deal with sin creates a multitude of dangers (Ephesians 4:27; Psalm 66:18). The Spirit’s conviction should lead you to immediate confession and repentance.

However, this part of the prayer plan helps you deal with those things that you are blinded to or have buried under a hectic schedule and a busy life. It is a time for the Holy Spirit to touch you concerning those things about which you have hardened your heart. This is an opportunity for the Spirit to reveal your sin to you in a clear and powerful way. Praise and thanksgiving have prepared you to listen to the Spirit and receive the conviction that you need. Once this happens, you open your heart to that conviction and respond by confessing and repenting of sin.

Open Your Heart To His Correction

During this part of the prayer plan, the believer should open his or her heart to the Spirit's correction. Just as God wants believers to confess their sins, He also wants believers who correct their thinking, speaking, and acting. Confession and repentance are only one side of holiness. The other side is seeking to live a life pleasing to God. It is conforming your thinking, speaking, and acting to the Word of God.

A basic example is lying. It is a sin to lie. God is a God of truth. He desires that His people love truth, live the truth, and speak the truth. When a believer lies, he or she has sinned against God. This believer needs to confess this and turn from it. Yet, at the same time, this believer should strive to grow in telling the truth. He or she should seek to replace the lies with the truth.

Opening your heart to the Spirit's correction is listening to the Holy Spirit about what you need to change in your life. It is receiving His leadership about what changes you should make and how you should make them. As you listen to Him, He will teach you how to please God in your thinking, speaking, and acting.

I struggle with impatience. It is a sin that is deeply rooted in my life. During this part of the prayer plan, there have been so many times when the Spirit has convicted me about particular acts of impatience toward others and even toward God Himself. Yet, not only has He convicted me about this sin, He has shown me ways to deal with the sin. He has brought Scripture passages to mind that can help me root this sin out. He has helped me devise certain steps to take in dealing with this sin. He has burdened me to cultivate His fruit in my life (**Galatians 5:22-23**).

Opening your heart to the Spirit's correction is also pleading for the power and wisdom to implement these changes in your life. It is asking God to enable you to change. It is confessing that you cannot change on your own; you must have His power and His help to do so. During this time, you can share with God your desire to change and plead with Him to bring this about as you depend on Him and seek to make changes in your life.

A helpful way to open your heart to the Holy Spirit's correction is to ask Him questions. You can ask Him questions like: "Holy Spirit, what

should I change about my speech, my thinking, or my acting? Holy Spirit, what changes do I need to make in my walk with God? Holy Spirit, what changes should I make in my relationship to others?" These questions give you the opportunity to open yourself to the Holy Spirit's leadings in these areas. These questions prepare you to hear from God and help you make the changes that you need to make in order to please God.

Open Your Heart To His Counsel

During this part of the prayer plan, you should open your heart to God's counsel. By this, I mean that you should seek God's direction concerning your praying. Too many times, believers enter God's presence with their own agenda. They feel that it is their responsibility to convince God to adopt their agenda and carry it out. There is a need and a place for persistence in prayer. Yet, it is crucial to ask God to guide you in your praying.

Praise and giving thanks prepares you for this time in your prayer. When you praise and thank God, you realize what a great and good God that He is. As you praise and thank Him, you come to a greater understanding and experience of His wisdom and power. This prepares you to listen to Him concerning your praying. You are made pliable and willing to follow His leadership.

DECLARE YOUR PETITIONS

The final part of this prayer plan is to declare your petitions to God. During this part of the plan, you bring your concerns to Him. This is the time when you bring your needs and the needs of others to God.

Glorifying His name and opening your heart get you ready to declare your petitions to Him. It is important to see that the previous parts of the plan prepare you for declaring your requests to God. Praising and thanking God helps you to focus on God. These things lift your eyes off of your needs and your circumstances and to God. You realize the greatness and power of God. This strengthens and encourages your faith. It also creates a sense of

humility and submission in you. As you praise and thank God, you develop a longing for God's good, holy, and perfect will. It makes you willing to listen to God and receive His leadership as you pray.

When you open your heart to Him, He convicts you of your sin. This moves you to confess and forsake your sin. The blood of Christ cleanses you. You have fresh confidence to pray because of the confession. It gives you boldness to ask of your Father. As you open your heart to His counsel, He gives you guidance to pray. He teaches you what to pray about and how to seek Him concerning the person or the need. You are now prepared to interced. with boldness and faith,

There are a variety of ways that you can declare your petitions to God. I suggest that believers combine both planned and spontaneous asking. Planned asking is preparing and entering God's presence with particular requests. It might be helpful to divide these requests under the following headings:

- ◆ Family
- ◆ Church
- ◆ Work or Business
- ◆ Others
- ◆ Personal

This could help you manage these requests. You might also consider dividing your requests up with the days of the week. You would assign a particular request to a day of the week. For instance, on Monday, you would pray for your family concerns.

There should be times of spontaneous praying. Spontaneous praying is when you push aside your prayer requests and simply ask God what He wants you to pray about. Of course, this should be done with all your petitions. Plead with Him to show you how to pray for your particular requests. Yet, you need times when you get alone with God and ask Him, "Father, what is on Your heart? What do You want me to pray about today?" This is why opening your heart to His counsel is so important. It prepares you to pray according to what is on His heart. It enables you to pray according to His will.

Using This Prayer Plan

This prayer plan is suggested as a way that you can develop your communication with God. It

is a model to teach you how to enter God's presence and have fellowship with Him. It can help new believers develop an intimate relationship with God. It can be a reminder to mature believers of the basics of communication with God. As with all prayer models, you need to remember some basic truths:

- ◆ *Don't allow the model to become a burden to you.* I do suggest that believers strive to glorify His name, open their hearts, and declare their petitions on a regular basis. Yet, a believer should not feel that he or she has to follow the model daily. There will be some times when you only praise and thank God. There will be times when you only open your heart to Him. There can be times when you only make requests of God.
- ◆ *Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leadership as you pray.* The Holy Spirit is the Author of prayer. Don't be so caught up in following the prayer model that you are not open to His guidance as you pray. This will help you from getting into a rut in your prayer life and will keep the model from being a burden to you.
- ◆ *Strive consistently put these principles into practice.* You should protect your time with God. You must labor to keep it from becoming a dull routine. Yet, you also need to practice these concepts. You must exercise discipline in

glorifying His name, opening your heart to Him, and declaring your petitions to Him. These are things that every believer must practice in his or her relationship with God. Strive to grow in your ability to glorify His name, open your heart to Him, and declare your petitions to Him. These are essential in your communication with God. The worksheet on page 11 is offered to help you do this. It is a guide that you can use to assist you in developing your communication with God. You can use these sheets to assist you in growing in these basic areas of communicating with God.

Act as though everything depended on you. But pray as though everything depended on God.
St. Ignatius

Getting To Know Your Father . . . Philippians

*love You, and praise You as never before in my life.
Amen."*

The book of **Philippians** teaches you the following truths about your Father:

In this issue of *The Prayer Closet*, I am beginning a series of articles called "Getting To Know Your Father". These articles will provide you with praise and prayer pointers about your Father. These praise and prayer pointers will be based on the truth of Scripture. Each article will focus on what a particular book teaches about your heavenly Father. My hope and prayer is that these articles will have two effects in your life. First, I hope you will develop a better understanding of and deeper love for your heavenly Father. Second, I pray that it will help you deepen your ability to intercede before Him.

You can use these pointers in two ways. First, you can use these things to deepen your praise for the Father. An example is **Philippians 1:2**. The text declares that your Father is the Father of all who believe in Christ. You can use this to praise God, "Father, You are the Father of all who believe in Jesus. Through Your grace and power, You bring all those who trust in Your Son into Your family. You are a great and gracious God who is the loving Father of all who trust in Christ." You can thank God for being not only Your Father, but also the Father of all other believers. You can thank Him for the bond that you share with other believers because you are the children of God.

You can also use these pointers as ways to pray for yourself or for others. **Philippians 1:6** declares that God has begun a good work in believers and will perform or perfect it until the day of Jesus. You can use this as a request for God to help you deal with a problem area or a sinful habit. Ask Him to continue His good work by helping you deal with the area or the sin. Call on Him to work powerfully in your life because of His commitment to make you holy. You can also use this for other believers, especially those who are struggling with deeply rooted sins.

Your Father loves you. He wants you to know Him and develop an intimate relationship with Him. Will you ask Him to do this in your life?

"Father, I love You. I want to know You. I pray that You would reveal Yourself to me in new and profound ways. Teach me about Yourself. Show me Your ways, O righteous Father. I long to know You,

- ◆ Your Father is the Father of all who trust in His Son, Jesus Christ (1:2).
- ◆ Your Father grants grace and peace (1:2).
- ◆ Your Father should be thanked for other believers (1:3).
- ◆ Your Father has begun a good work in you and will perfect it until the day of Jesus Christ (1:6). He does not and will not give up on you.
- ◆ Your Father knows your heart (1:8).
- ◆ Your Father should be praised and glorified through your growth as a Christian (1:9-11).
- ◆ Your Father can use your circumstances for His glory and for the advancement of the gospel (1:12-18).
- ◆ Your Father wants you to speak His Word without fear (1:14).
- ◆ Your Father grants salvation (1:28).
- ◆ Your Father has given you the privilege to believe in Christ and to suffer for His name (1:29).
- ◆ Your Father has honored and exalted Jesus Christ because of His obedience to the Father's will (2:5-9). You can depend on Him to honor and exalt you for your obedience.
- ◆ Your Father is glorified when you confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (2:10-11).
- ◆ Your Father works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure (2:13).
- ◆ Your Father wants you to prove that you are a blameless and innocent child of His, a child above reproach in the midst of this crooked and perverse generation (2:15). He will supply you with the power, the strength, and courage to do this as you call on Him.
- ◆ Your Father has mercy on the sick and heals them (2:27).
- ◆ Your Father grants righteousness to those who have faith in His Son (3:9).
- ◆ Your Father calls you to strive for Christlikeness (3:10-16).
- ◆ Your Father reveals truth to you (3:15-16).
- ◆ Your Father does not want you to worry (4:6).

- ◆ Your Father wants you to make your requests known to Him along with supplication and thanksgiving (4:6).
- ◆ Your Father gives peace that passes understanding. This peace will guard your heart and mind (4:7).
- ◆ Your Father is the God of peace (4:9).
- ◆ Your giving is an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing, to God (4:18).
- ◆ Your Father can supply all your needs according to His glorious riches (4:19).
- ◆ Your Father should be glorified forever and forever (4:20).

O the pure delight of a single hour that
before Thy throne I spend. When I
kneel in prayer, and with Thee, my
God, I commune as friend with friend!

Fanny Crosby

The Intercessor's Checklist

One of the chief characteristics of an intercessor is a heart for the needs and burdens of others. This characteristic drives a believer to pray fervently and faithfully for others. The intercessor focuses on bringing the person and his or her needs or burdens to God.

Yet, in the midst of all your intercession for others, you cannot forget yourself. When you intercede for others, you can forget about the need to examine yourself. A powerful hindrance to intercession is the failure to examine yourself and your praying. Carelessness in this area is dangerous. It can drain your praying of faith and power. Powerful and effective praying flows out of a life that has been examined and touched by the Holy Spirit.

The following are some questions that you can use to examine yourself. Plead with the Holy Spirit to enable you to see and receive the truth. Ask Him to help you make the changes that you need to make.

Am I confessing all the known sin in my life?
(Psalm 66:18; 1 John 1:9).

Sin cuts off your communication with God. Be diligent to deal with your sin. Ask the Holy Spirit

to bring deep conviction in your life, especially concerning problem areas.

Am I asking God to fill me with His Holy Spirit so that He will direct my prayers? (Ephesians 5:18; Romans 8:26).

The Holy Spirit is the Author of prayer. He knows the will of God. As you yield to Him and His power, He can guide you in your praying for others.

Am I willing to die to my own desires, imaginations, and prayer burdens? (Proverbs 3:5-7; Isaiah 55:6)

Self-denial is a needed characteristic in praying for others. You must be willing to die to your prayer requests for others. What you want to see done in a person's life may be different from what God has purposed to do in a person's life. There has to be a readiness to die to your prayer requests in order to follow God's directions for your praying.

Are you praising God in faith for what you are going to experience in your prayer times? (Psalm 100:4).

I am deeply convicted about my failure to do this. I have often rushed into God's presence without praising and thanking Him for the opportunity and experience that I am going to have. God is teaching me to praise and thank Him in faith for the experience that I am going to have with Him. This enables me to enter His presence with expectancy. I am able to enter His presence rejoicing over the answers that I am going to receive from Him.

Are you dealing aggressively with the enemy?
(James 4:7).

As an intercessor, you are going to be a target for the enemy. He will attack you with every scheme that He can devise. You must pray for protection and strength from the Holy Spirit. In faith, you must rebuke every attack against you. In faith, you must rebuke every attack against the individuals for whom you are praying. The enemy will not leave without being forced to do so. Through your authority in Christ, deal aggressively with the enemy and his attacks. Intercession is intense spiritual warfare. It is a battle for the souls and lives of people. You have to be aggressive in dealing with the enemy who has come to steal and kill (John 10:10). He is a roaring lion; you have to be a resisting intercessor.

Am I expecting to hear from God? (John 10:27).

Faith is crucial in hearing from God. You must enter His presence with the expectancy that He is going to speak to you. You need to anticipate His guidance in your praying. Unbelief can hinder you from hearing His voice. God has convicted me that I do not hear from Him like I want to is because of my unbelief. I have not entered His presence with a childlike expectancy. When you enter the Father's presence, enter with a childlike expectancy. Expect your Father to speak to you and guide. Put away your unbelief and trust Him.

Am I basing my prayers on God's Word? (Psalm 119:105).

You must ever be striving to pray the truths and the principles of Scripture. The Word of God is the revealed will of God. As you pray His will, God hears and answers (1 John 5:14). You should connect your prayer requests with the corresponding truths and principles of the Word of God.

Am I praising God for His amazing work in my life? (Romans 11:36).

God is doing a powerful and amazing work in your life. He is molding you and shaping you as intercessor. Praise Him for this gracious and powerful work. Plead with Him to continue this work. Call on Him to mold you into an intercessor that He can use for His glory and His purpose.

You will never be closer to the heart of God than when you intercede for others. God loves intercession; He has chained His purposes to the prayers of His people.

Dr. Kevin Meador

New Prayer Products

The Prayer Closet Ministries, Inc. is offering the following new prayer products:

The Praying Parent Planner

This is a manual that will help you devise a system of intercession for your child. It is designed to assist you in covering your child's life with intercession. Grandparents and concerned people can use the planner to intercede for children and young adults.

Praying For Your Marriage: Before And After You Say "I Do"

This manual is designed to help you intercede for your marriage. It offers Scripture prayers and prayer pointers that you can use to pray for your marriage. You can also use this to intercede for other marriages. This manual will be ready in mid-November.

Communicating With God: Developing Your Prayer Life With God

This manual is based on the teachings in this newsletter. It is a more in-depth study of the material presented in the newsletter. It also contains Scripture memory cards and the Names of God memory card. It can be used to help new believers to begin their life of prayer.

NOTE OF APOLOGY: In last month's issue, Louisiana and Delaware were left out of the prayer plan of praying through the states. This was a mistake on my part. It was not intentional. I apologize for this mistake. Please add these states to your prayer plan and intercede for them.

Communicating With God

Date _____

Glorify His Name: *“I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth” (Psalm 34:1).*

Open Your Heart: *“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow me” (John 10:27).*

Declare Your Petitions: *“Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7).*

SHARING YOUR HEART WITH YOUR FATHER

Psalm 142:1-2-"I cry out to the LORD with my voice; with my voice to the Lord I make my supplication. I pour out my complaint before Him; I declare before Him my trouble."

Because God is a Person, He feels that which we feel. After all, we are made in His image, so it is to be expected that we would be able to communicate our deepest feelings to God

--Billy Graham

Thank your Father that you can share your deepest feelings with Him. Share now with your Father how you are feeling.



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

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Hickory, MS
Permit #2

Steve & Ann Mayes
1111 Pleasant Valley Road
Decatur, MS 39327