



# THE PRAYER CLOSET

Encouraging & Equipping Believers in Prayer

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE PRAYER CLOSET MINISTRIES, INC.

© Copyright 2001

VOLUME XI

MARCH/APRIL, 2008

ISSUE 2

## Pictures Of Your Father

Recently I got on a "cleaning spell". I have these spells occasionally. I feel the need to get everything organized in my life – to deal with the clutter that has "accumulated." I go through my office and home and throw away what's not needed (or at least, I don't think I will need it). During this most recent spell, I came across a box of pictures. I sat down, started going through this box, and went on a journey back through time.

Many of the pictures were of my father. There was a picture of him when he was in the military in Korea. There was also a picture of him when he played basketball at Stratton High School. Then, I saw one of my mother and him shortly after they were married. I also found pictures of my dad with me—when I was in Little League baseball, after our win in a bowl game when I was a senior, when I graduated from seminary, when I was ordained to preach. I could go on and on. It brought a flood of memories back to my mind and heart.

Those pictures were glimpses into the kind of father that he had been and is in my life. They reminded me of the sweetness and value of my relationship to him. These pictures renewed my appreciation of him and my love for him.

In the Bible, we have pictures of our Father. Just like the pictures in that old box, they remind us of what our heavenly Father is like. They teach us how our Father relates to us and how we are to respond to Him. They can renew our appreciation of our Father and our love and commitment to Him.

I realize that for some people the word "father" does not mean much. For some, it can even have a negative connotation. I taught at a Bible conference on the fatherhood of God. I dealt with how God is our Father through Jesus Christ. I was startled at how many people struggled with the concept of God as Father because of their relationship to their earthly father.

However, the Word of God is clear – God is a Father unlike any other father. He is holy and righteous. He is the loving and merciful Father. This issue of *The Prayer Closet* will focus on the pictures of your heavenly Father. We will look at what these pictures reveal about our Father. We will examine how this affects our relationship to Him. And, I pray that it will help move you toward healing and hope in your relationship toward God as your heavenly Father.

---

Dr. Kevin Meador, P. O. Box 278, Hickory, MS 39332 (601) 646-2295

EMAIL: [prayercloset1998@yahoo.com](mailto:prayercloset1998@yahoo.com)

WEB PAGES: [www.prayerclosetministries.org](http://www.prayerclosetministries.org) - [www.kingdompraying.com](http://www.kingdompraying.com)

The following are some of the pictures of God contained in the Word of God. This list is by no means exhaustive. Nevertheless, it will give you some idea of how great and multifaceted your Father is.

I would encourage you to ask God to teach you about the truth about Himself as your Father. As you work through this issue, read the Scripture and meditate on them. You might ask yourself, "What does this reveal to me about my Father? How does this aspect of my Father's character affect my life?" Along with the Scripture, I've included a short description of each picture and suggestions on how to implement the truth about your Father into your prayer life.

## Abba, Father

(Mark 14:36, Romans 8:15, Galatians 4:6)

The word "Abba" is a term of intimacy. The modern English equivalent corresponds to something like "daddy" or "dad." Your Father loves you and wants to have an intimate relationship with Him. He wants more than for you just to know about Him. He wants you to have a genuine, personal relationship with Him. He sent His Son to die for you so that you could have a right relationship with Him (**2 Corinthians 5:18**). He has sent the Holy Spirit to live in you and to enable you to cry out to Him as your Father (**Galatians 4:6**). He has given you His Word to teach you about Him and how to know and seek Him. Your Father wants you; He wants a loving, authentic relationship with you. The God of the universe is your Father; He desires for you to seek Him and know Him.

**Prayer Pointers:** Call on God to help you grow in your understanding of Him and your relationship to Him. Pray that He will remove anything that might hinder you from knowing and seeking Him as your Father.

## Architect

(Hebrews 11:10)

Your Father not only wants a relationship with you now; He desires to have one for all eternity

with you. He has designed heaven for you. Your Father is the Architect of your heavenly home. Your Father has prepared an earthly and a heavenly home and existence for you. You have a heavenly home waiting for you when you leave this world. You have an eternal hope and home; your Father designed this for you.

**Prayer Pointers:** Rejoice in your eternal hope and home in heaven. Thank God for having mercy on you, saving you, and designing a heavenly home for you. Ask God to prepare you for that heavenly home. Plead with Him to deliver you from the worldliness that blinds you from contemplating and longing for your heavenly hope and home.

## Creator

(Deuteronomy 32:6, Matthew 19:4; Romans 1:25)

Your Father is the Creator of all things. He is the Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. Creation testifies to the wisdom, power, and goodness of God. Only a wise God could have created such a beautiful and diverse creation. Only a powerful God could have brought all things into being. Only a good God could have made such an amazing world. Creation reveals that Your Father is wise, powerful, and good.

**Prayer Pointers:** Adore God for His creation. Exalt Him for His wisdom, power, and goodness that brought such a glorious creation into being. What do you need God to create in your life – a new attitude, a new opportunity, a new way of escape from temptation? Your Father is wise, powerful, and good. He will exercise these characteristics on your behalf!

## Dew

(Hosea 14:5)

In this text, God refers to Himself as "dew." Dew is especially precious in the summer. It renews and refreshes. It will give vitality and strength in hot and dry times. Your Father is like dew to you. He can renew your faith when you are hard pressed. He can refresh your

commitment to Him. When you go through dry, hard times in your walk with Him, He can grant you fresh strength and renewed vitality. Your Father will sustain your faith in all the difficulties of your life.

**Prayer Pointers:** *Do you feel like your faith is wilting? Do you feel as if your commitment to Him is weakening under the strain of your life? You Father can renew and refresh your faith. He can sustain you and encourage you. Call on Him now to act like dew – to renew your faith during this difficult and dry time in your life.*

### **Ever-present Help (Psalm 46:1)**

Your Father is your ever-present help. He's not just your "Help," but also your "ever-present Help." Your Father is always present. He's not just present, but involved. He's always watching and ready to help you. You never go for a second without His watchful eye on you; you are only one cry away from His help. Your Father longs to help you in all the circumstances of your life. You can call on Him to help you anywhere, at anytime, and for any reason. This should drive fear from our hearts. After referring to God as the ever-present Help, the psalmist writes, "Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof; Selah" (**Psalm 46:2-3**). This is the confidence that you can have when your Father is your ever-present Help.

**Prayer Pointers:** *Rejoice and rest in the fact that God is your ever-present Helper. Ask Him to teach you to turn to Him daily for help in all the circumstances of your life.*

### **The Father Of Mercies And God Of All Comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)**

Your Father is full of compassion and comfort for His children. He has compassion for the

sins and failures of His children. He has comfort for the wounds and afflictions of His children. Whether we sin or suffer, we have a Father who will receive us, minister to us, and change us. God is the Source of all compassion and comfort. No matter how many times you come to confess sin, He will be merciful. No matter how much you hurt and have called on Him, He always stands ready to comfort you. There is no end to His compassion and comfort for you. Your Father's compassion and comfort is like a river that doesn't have any banks or any bottom.

**Prayer Pointers:** *Adore your Father for His mercy and His comfort. Praise Him for His willingness to forgive and to heal and encourage you. Pray that He will make you make you like Him. After preaching one Sunday morning, a man walked up to me and said, "When you took your glasses off this morning, you looked just like your father at that age." I am my father's son; I bear his resemblance. As children of our Father, we need to bear His resemblance. Pray that you will have compassion for the sins and failures of others and comfort for their sufferings.*

### **The Father Of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 15:6; Ephesians 1:3, Colossians 1:3, 1 Peter 1:3)**

God is the Creator of all people. He relates to all people as their Creator. Yet, He is a Father only to those who believe in Jesus Christ. The only way that a person can come to know God as his/her Father is through faith in Jesus Christ, "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus" (**Galatians 3:26**). Jesus Christ is the way to knowing and trusting in God as Father, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me" (**John 14:6**). Apart from faith in Jesus Christ, a person cannot know God as his/her personal Father. The path to the Father is through the Lord Jesus Christ. The Father sent the Son to reveal Himself and to bring people to Himself.

**Prayer Pointers:** *Pray that the people in your area will come to Christ in faith and will know God as their heavenly Father. Plead that people will not be deceived about the way of salvation. Ask Him to demolish any ideas that one can know God personally apart from genuine faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Call on God to draw people to Jesus and to a relationship with Himself.*

## Father Of The Heavenly Lights (James 1:17)

In **James 1:17**, God refers to Himself as the "Father of lights." In this text, God contrasts Himself with the heavenly lights – the stars and the moon. These heavenly lights change. We see shooting stars. We see the different phases of the moon. These lights don't stay the same. Yet, God does stay the same. God, the Creator of these lights, is not like them. They change and vary. He does not. He eternally stays the same. There is no change or variation in God. As He has been, He is now, and He always will be. In a world where everything changes, you can count on your Father to stay the same. His character, His Word, and His promises won't change; they stay the same.

**Prayer Pointers:** *Thank God for His unchanging faithfulness. Ask Him to create within you a deeper trust. Pray that You will depend on and rest in your unchanging Father. Plead that you will be like your Father – that unchanging faithfulness will characterize your life.*

## Gardner (John 15:1)

The Lord Jesus Christ teaches us that our Father is a Gardner. God saved you for the purpose of bearing fruit. He has planted you in Christ and given you the Holy Spirit that you might bear fruit for His glory, "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit, so shall ye be my disciples" (**John 15:8**). A necessary part of gardening is pruning. Those things that hinder growth have to be cut away.

The same is true in your relationship to your Father, the Gardner. He will have to prune you; He will have to cut away those things from your life that will hinder fruitfulness. It may be painful but it is worth it. The benefit of bearing much fruit is worth the cost of your Father's pruning.

**Prayer Pointers:** *Thank God for the opportunity to glorify God by bearing fruit for Him. Call on God to prune anything in your life that might hinder your fruitfulness. Pray that He will bring forth "much" fruit from your life.*

## Great King Above All Gods (Psalm 95:3)

This refers to the absolute uniqueness of our Father. He is God alone. No one is like Him. Nothing is like Him. No one and nothing can compare to Him. He alone is the true God. All other "gods" are the work of man's mind and hands. God reigns as King over all peoples and things, including the false gods devised by man.

**Prayer Pointers:** *Recommit yourself to the worship of the true and only God. Confess His uniqueness in prayer. Pray that all the idols of your heart will be torn down and that you will love and pursue the only true God above all else.*

## Great King Over All The Earth (Psalm 47:2)

This text reminds us that our Father reigns over the earth. The rulers of the earth have a King greater than them – the true and living God. God controls the affairs of nations – their rise and their fall. He directs this world according to His own purpose. He will not fail in accomplishing His purpose for this world, even working in and through those who do not believe in Him.

**Prayer Pointers:** *Rejoice that your Father is the great King over all the earth. Praise Him with all your being as the true Ruler of this world. Confess your conviction concerning this truth. Plead today that God will send His*

*gospel into every nation of the world. Pray that every person in this world will hear the good news of Jesus Christ. Ask your Father, the great King over all the earth, to remove any obstacles to the gospel over all the earth.*

## **Guide** (Psalm 48:14)

This text reveals that your Father desires to guide your life. You are not alone in this world. You don't have to face the decisions and circumstances of life in your own wisdom and strength. You have a Father who desires to lead you. He wants to guide you even more than you want His guidance. He even leads you when you don't realize it. He will guide your life until you reach heaven. Your life is not in the hands of chance or fickle fate. Your life is in the hands of a loving Father who desires to guide you all the days of your life into eternal glory.

**Prayer Pointers:** *Express your thanks to the Father for His desire to guide you. Thank Him for doing this, especially in those times when you didn't even realize it. Pray that He will give you the grace and wisdom to walk in obedience to Him. Confess your need of His help to walk in His will. Ask Him to help you find His way each day.*

## **Heavenly Father** (Matthew 6:9)

In the Model Prayer, Jesus teaches us to call on our Father who is in heaven. Jesus emphasizes that our Father is in heaven. In the midst of His teaching on prayer, Jesus wants to drive this truth home to our hearts and minds. Our Father reigns in heaven. He is God over all. The God to whom we pray is the sovereign God. He has all power in heaven and earth. He sees all and knows all. Because of this, we must forsake hypocritical praying (**Matthew 6:5**) and empty, ritualistic praying (**Matthew 6:7**). At the same time, we must make time to get alone and get with Him (**Matthew 6:6**). Your heavenly Father wants you to call on Him. He longs for you to praise

Him, confess your sins to Him, give thanks to Him, and bring all your requests and burdens to Him. Moreover, you can come boldly because He is the heavenly Father. He can do exceedingly above all that you can ask or think. God can top anything that you desire. Put away your unbelief and doubt! Come boldly to your Father who reigns in heaven!

**Prayer Pointers:** *Adore God as your "heavenly" Father. Thank Him that He can do exceedingly above all that you can ask or think. Ask God to grant you a spirit of boldness in your praying. Confess to God, "I believe; help my unbelief."*

## **Judge of the Earth** (Genesis 18:25; Psalm 94:2)

In both these verses, we see that God deals with injustice. As the Judge of the earth, He will see to it that justice is carried out. He will not allow wickedness to go unchecked. In His time and way, God will deal with all injustice. He will do what is right. God's people can call on Him to deal with injustice. We can also trust in Him to act. He may act now or it may be at the final judgment. Yet, we have the calm assurance that the Judge of the earth will do what is right and will make sure that justice is carried out. Your Father is the Judge; He will make sure that all evil is conquered in His time and way.

**Prayer Pointers:** *Adore God as the Judge of the earth. Praise Him for His justice. What injustices do you need to commit to Him? Perhaps you have personal injustices that you need to give to Him. It may be something in your area or in the nation. As His children, we can cry out to Him about the injustice around us, whether it is in our own lives, those around us, or in society in general. Make time in your prayer life for laying before the Judge of the earth the injustices that you see.*

## **Eternal King** (Jeremiah 10:10; 1 Timothy 1:17)

Your Father is the eternal King. He is not bound by time; He is timeless. He works in

and through time. He unfolds His purpose for you in His time. God never gets in a hurry. He wisely and patiently accomplishes His purpose. We are time-bound. Our lives are wrapped up in time and schedules. Sometimes it's easy to forget that God is not bound by time. He has His timing for everything, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven" (**Ecclesiastes 3:1**). Your Father always works out His purpose for you in His time. He will never fail you; He will always respond to you in His perfect and wise time.

**Prayer Pointers:** *Thank God for being the eternal King. Pray that you will have the grace to wait for Him and His timing. Ask Him to deliver you from impatience with Him and His timing.*

## Lawgiver

(**Isaiah 33:22; James 4:12**)

Your Father has given you His Law. Your Father's character and will has been made known in the moral law (**Exodus 20:12**). The moral law is the seed; the commands, exhortations, and prohibitions of the New Testament are the tree. The moral law lays the foundation; the New Testament is the expansion and outworking of what has already been made known in the moral law. Your Father has given you His law to guide you and protect you. He calls on you and expects you to obey Him. This obedience is not a forced, legalistic obedience. However, it is the loving response of a child of God out of gratitude for His salvation.

**Prayer Pointers:** *Call on your Father to grant you fresh reverence for His law. Plead with Him to grant you fresh power to walk in obedience to Him. Commit yourself to a more careful obedience to God's Word.*

## Potter

(**Isaiah 64:8, Jeremiah 18:1-6, Romans 9:21**)

Your Father is the sovereign Potter of your life. He works to shape you and mold you into the image of His Son. God uses the circumstances of your life to make you into

what He desires you to be. Your Father carefully and lovingly molds you according to His purpose. Your life has great meaning because the Potter is shaping your life.

**Prayer Pointers:** *Adore your Father as your Potter. Plead with Him to make you like His Son Jesus Christ. Confess your willingness to submit to Him and all that he desires to do in your life.*

## Refuge

(**2 Samuel 22:3, Psalm 14:6; Nahum 1:7**)

Your Father is your personal Refuge. A refuge is a place of safety and security. You can run to Him when you are afraid or frustrated. Your Father is the One you can run to and find in Him all that you need – calm, safety, security, and encouragement. You don't have to face anything alone and on your own. You always have a steady and certain refuge in your Father. He will receive you and shelter you.

**Prayer Pointers:** *What makes you afraid? What frustrates you? Take time to make a list of the things that make you afraid and frustrate you. Run to your Refuge with these things. Commit each one to Him, asking Him to give you safety and security in the face of these things.*

## Rock

(**Psalm 62:6; 92:15**)

When I read that God is a Rock to His people, I think of a huge granite boulder. This boulder is rugged, unyielding, and has stood the test of time. That's how our Father is. He is not shaken by the storms of life. He's unyielding in the face of the pressures of life. In addition, He has stood the test of time. He has never failed to be faithful. Your Father will never forsake you or abandon you. He will stand with you no matter what you face. Others may fail you or leave you, but your heavenly Father never will.

**Prayer Pointers:** *Praise God for His continual faithfulness. Thank your Father that He will stand the test of time. Pray that you will grow*

*in your friendship with Him and dependence on Him.*

## **Savior**

**2 Samuel 22:3; Luke 1:47; 1 Timothy 1:1; Jude 25)**

Your Father is your Savior. The Father did send His Son Jesus Christ as the Savior of sinners (**John 3:16**). Yet, when the Bible speaks of your Father as the Savior, it refers to the truth that salvation is your Father's plan. Your Father has determined to seek out and save lost people. He has planned to secure and sanctify His people (**Jude 25**). In love and mercy, the Father determined the plan of salvation through Christ. Your Father desires to save sinners and to glorify them in His presence!

**Prayer Pointers:** Adore God for His plan of salvation through Jesus Christ. Praise Him for the gracious offer of salvation through faith in Jesus. Pray that others in your area will come to know Him as their Savior through Jesus Christ. What do you need to be saved from? What sins have become entrenched in your life? Call on your Father, the Savior, to deepen His work of sanctification in you.

## **Strength**

**(Exodus 15:28; Psalm 18:1; Psalm 59:9; Isaiah 33:2)**

Your Father is the almighty God. He has all power in heaven and earth. When you become a child of God, your Father becomes your strength. You have available to you all the power of God. You have an unending, unceasing source of strength from God. You are never without strength. You have all His power available to you to strengthen you. No matter how weary you become, you have the inexhaustible riches of God's power to strengthen you.

**Prayer Pointers:** Rejoice in the truth that God is your Strength. Praise Him for His almighty power. What do you need strength for you in your life? Call on God to grant you His power for these needs. What areas of your walk with

God do you need to strengthen? Ask God to unleash His power into your life for these needs.

## **The Upright One** **(Psalm 25:8)**

Your Father is the upright One. He is always truthful. He cannot lie. He is the Source of truth. For this reason, His children can depend on Him to teach us in the right way. Your Father desires to teach you the truth. If you will seek Him, He will guide you in the truth and transform you through the truth.

**Prayer Pointers:** Adore God for His truthfulness. Plead with Him to teach you the truth of His Word. Ask Him to deepen your understanding of His truth. Confess your willingness to learn from Him. Pray that He will transform your life through the truth. Ask Him to remove any doubts you have about His Word.

## **Warrior**

**(Exodus 15:3; Psalm 24:8; Isaiah 42:13)**

The Bible reveals that God is a Warrior. That may seem to be an odd picture of God. Yet, your Father is a Warrior who will fight for you. He will defend you. Your Father is mighty in battle and will stand with you in the struggles of your life. God loves His children and will fight for His own. When you find yourself in the battles of life, you can call on your Father who is a warrior. He will help you and will fight against your enemies. He will especially help you in your battles with the world, the devil, and the flesh.

**Prayer Pointers:** Exalt God as the Warrior who is mighty in battle. Praise Him for His love for His people. What battles are you facing? Commit these battles into His hands. Call on your Father, the Warrior, to help you in the battles of your life.

## **My Portion** **(Psalm 73:26)**

The psalmist cries out that God is his "portion" forever. Before this the psalmist says, "Whom

have I in heaven but thee? And there is none upon the earth that I desire beside thee" (**Psalm 73:25**). The psalmist declares that God is sufficient. He may not have anything else but His relationship to God, yet that is enough. As I have walked with the Lord and grown older, I am experiencing more and more of this truth. Knowing God is the greatest blessing of my life. Loving Him and serving Him are the greatest privileges of my life. Nothing can substitute for this. No earthly possession or position can compare to this. When God is all you have, you have all you could ever need or desire. Your Father is your portion; He is sufficient.

**Prayer Pointers:** *Adore God for His sufficiency. Praise Him for the fact that He is the greatest blessing of your life. Thank Him for the privilege of knowing and loving Him. Pray that you will know Him and love Him more. Plead that you can confess, "The Lord is my portion and I am content."*

If you are a believer, this is your Father. You

have a unique and sovereign Father who loves you and is at work for His glory and good in your life. Won't you pray to Him right now thanking Him that He is your Father?

If you're reading this and you have never trusted in Christ as your Savior, God is not your Father. He is your Creator, your Sustainer, and your Judge. Yet, God is full of mercy and love. If you will turn to Christ in true faith, you can know the eternal God as your Father. You can experience His salvation. You can finally have a Father who loves you unconditionally and will bless and secure your life. Won't you seek Him right now? Won't you cry out to Him right now?

*God, I know that You are my Creator, my Sustainer, and my Judge. Yet, I want to know You as my Father. I am a sinner. Yet, I trust in Jesus Christ, Your Son. You sent Him to save sinners and to reveal You. I now turn from my sin to Him in faith. I ask You to save me from my sin and to receive me as Your own child. Amen.*



**The Prayer Closet Ministries, Inc.**  
**Dr. Kevin Meador**  
**P.O. Box 278**  
**Hickory, MS 39332**

**Non Profit Org.**  
**U.S. Postage Paid**  
**Hickory, MS**  
**Permit #2**

Rev. & Mrs. Steve Mayes  
226 Jones Street  
Jacksonville, AL 36265