



# THE PRAYER CLOSET

Encouraging & Equipping Believers in Prayer

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE PRAYER CLOSET MINISTRIES, INC.

© Copyright 2001

VOLUME XI

MAY/JUNE, 2008

ISSUE 3

## ADOPTED BY GOD

God has revealed Himself to us in a variety of ways. He has shown us that He is our Creator. God wisely and wonderfully made us. God is our Sustainer. He provides for us from the moment of our conception until this moment. He has taught us that He is our Savior. Through His Son Jesus, He has reconciled us to Himself.

One can go on and on concerning the number of ways that God has made Himself known to us. Yet, of all the ways that God has revealed Himself, the most powerful and richest way is that of a Father. God is the Father of all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

A person can have a deep and intimate relationship with the eternal God. You can become the child of the almighty God of heaven and earth. It's difficult to understand this. Yet, the Bible reveals that a person can become a child of God – loved, accepted, and secure.

I'm referring to the theological concept of adoption. God adopts a person who believes in Jesus Christ. God accepts that believer as His own child. Adoption is the free act of God's grace whereby a believer is received into the family of God and has all the privileges of being a child of God bestowed on him.

In this issue of *The Prayer Closet*, we will look at the truth of adoption. We will examine what the Word says about being adopted by God. We will also look at how this affects us practically in our daily life. In addition, we will see what difference it makes in our prayer lives.

### The Basics Of Adoption

As I stated earlier, adoption is the act of God's free grace whereby a believer is accepted as a child into the family of God. That believer receives all the privileges of being a child of God. The following are the basic facts of the biblical teaching about our adoption:

- (1) *Adoption flows out of God's free grace (Ephesians 1:5).* We have this blessing because of God's grace. We do not merit or earn adoption. It is not something that we attain by good works. It is something that God does out of His grace. Adoption is the gift of God. Your adoption flows out of God's sheer grace and goodness. It is rooted in His eternal purpose through Jesus Christ.

---

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

EMAIL: [prayercloset\\_1998@yahoo.com](mailto:prayercloset_1998@yahoo.com)

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

- (2) *We experience adoption through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.* The Bible is clear – we become children of God through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Word of God says in **Galatians 3:26**, “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Jesus Christ.” By faith in Jesus, a person comes to know God as a Father. When you trust in Christ, He declares that you are His child. There is no such thing as the universal Fatherhood of God. God is the Creator of all men, “And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation” (**Acts 17:26**). Yet, God is the Father only to those who trust in His Son Jesus Christ, “But as many as received him, to them gave he the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name” (**John 1:12**).
- (3) *Adoption takes place in a moment of time.* When a person believes in Jesus Christ, at that moment, God adopts that believer. As I said in our definition of adoption, it is the “act” of God. It is something that is done all at once. It is not a work of God that takes place over a long period. It is an act of God that takes place in the moment a person trusts in Christ. The moment that you savingly believe in Jesus Christ, you become a child of God.
- (4) *Adoption is something that we are made conscious of and experience personally.* God not only makes us His sons, but He also makes us aware that we are His sons. He proves to us that we belong to Him, “And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father” (**Galatians 4:6**). God bears witness that we belong to Him, “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God” (**Romans 8:16**). You can know in this life that you are accepted and adopted by God.
- (5) *Adoption provides you with a new relationship to God.* By faith in Jesus Christ, you now relate to God as your Father. You are His child; He is your Father. You are accepted and loved by God as your Father. You have a brand new

way of relating to and approaching God, “Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ” (**Galatians 4:7**).

- (6) *We must remember the difference between our sonship and that of the Lord Jesus Christ.* We must always remember that we are sons of God by adoption through faith in Jesus. Our adoption by God does not make us divine. Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God (**John 1:18**). Our Lord Jesus Christ is of the same substance with the Father and equal in power and glory. Moreover, this means that He is God. We don't share in this equality with the Father. We are –and ever shall be– nothing more than creatures of God. Does this take away from our adoption by God? No, it only increases the wonder of it. We, sinful creatures, are forgiven and adopted by God. God makes us a part of His family and blesses us richly. We, who were by our sinful nature, were the children of the devil, are now the sons and daughters of God. What amazing grace!
- (7) *Adoption by God is permanent.* Your Father will never forsake you or fail you. Adoption by your heavenly Father remains in effect permanently. When we become the children of God by faith, we are in God's hands. He will protect and guard us, “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand” (**John 10:28-29**). An earthly father may fail you, disappoint you, and even forsake you, but your heavenly Father never will. “When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up” (**Psalms 27:10**).

## The Benefits Of Adoption

When you trust in Jesus Christ, God adopts you as His own child. Because of this, you receive a variety of benefits. The Father grants you all the privileges that the child of God can receive. The following are some of

the main benefits you receive as an adopted child of God:

- *You receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 4:6).* Paul declares that we receive the Holy Spirit because we are sons of God. The Father sends the Holy Spirit to live inside of you. The Holy Spirit empowers you to fellowship with God and to live the Christian life. You experience the supernatural gift of the Spirit because of your adoption.
- *You receive the assurance of your salvation (Romans 8:15-16).* Your Father teaches you that you belong to Him. He grants you assurance through the witness of the Holy Spirit. Your Father desires that you know that you belong to Him – that you are accepted and adopted by Him (**1 John 5:13**).
- *You gain the confidence that you can approach God in prayer (Hebrews 4:16; Ephesians 3:12).* Prayer is your time alone with your Father. You can communicate with God as your merciful and loving Father. When you pray, you can know that your Father is listening. The God who has adopted you now receives you and wants to hear from you.
- *You are delivered from the bondage of fear (Romans 8:15).* You can now approach God as a loving, sovereign Father. You do not have to have a cowering fear of God as a tyrant. You can approach Him knowing that you are accepted and loved.
- *You have God's unflinching care in all that you face in this life (Psalm 103:13-14).* Through Christ, God is now your Father. He will care for you in all the circumstances of your life. He will have compassion and mercy for you. He is concerned about you and your life. He cares for you!
- *You have God's faithful protection over your life (Psalm 27:1-3, 34:7; Proverbs 14:26).* Because God is your Father, you have Someone who continually watches over your life. He guides you and protects you every day. You always have a place of refuge since God became your Father through Jesus Christ.

- *You receive God's discipline (Hebrews 12:6-12).* You may not see this as a benefit of your adoption. Our Father's discipline is not pleasant; it's painful and certain. However, as a loving Father, He seeks to teach us to hate sin and to love righteousness. He strives to correct us and change us. It might be painful and unpleasant but it is for our best.
- *You have become an heir of God and a joint-heir with Christ (Romans 8:17).* You have available to you all the resources of God. You have a right to receive from your Father for all your needs. He is more than able to supply all your needs.

## The Results Of Adoption

Adoption is not some abstract theological truth that has no result on your day-to-day life. This truth makes a profound difference in your life. The fact that God has adopted you has significant practical results in your life. Some of the following are the results of your adoption by God:

- ✓ *You have a Father that loves you unconditionally.* When God adopts you, He accepts you and loves you. You become His own special child. He does not love you because of who you are or what you do or don't do. He loves you because He has set His love on you. He loves you because you are now a part of His family through His Son Jesus Christ. In a world where people love you today and don't the next, this is good news. In a world where people love you because of what you are or what you do, this is amazing news. You have a Father who will love you no matter what. On your best day, your Father loves you. On your worst day, when you fail and make a mess of the day, He still loves you. Your Father loves you and accepts you as you are. He loves you right now as much as He ever has or will. He loves you completely. If you doubt His love for you, look to the Cross, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (**Romans 5:8**).

- ✓ *You have a Father who will provide for you.* You now have a Father who is concerned about every area of your life – physically, spiritually, emotionally, and financially. He desires to meet your needs and will do this by His power and wisdom. Your Father's promise to you is, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (**Philippians 4:19**). He promises that He "shall supply" all your needs. You can depend on Him and call on Him for every need in your life.
- ✓ *You have a Father who listens to you and answers you.* You now have a Father who longs to hear from you and to speak to you. You have the amazing privilege to approach the living God of all time and eternity as your Father. Your Father promises to hear you, "I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications" (**Psalms 115:1**). Your Father promises to answer you, "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive" (**Matthew 21:22**). You can be bold in prayer. Why? Because God is your Father. You approach Him as a child in need. He promises to hear you and answer you. Why doubt Him? Why pray timidly? Your Father invites you to come and to call on Him. He will hear and respond. You know God as your Father; you are permitted to address Him in the same way that His unique and beloved Son did (**Mark 14:36; Galatians 4:6**).
- ✓ *You have a Father who wants to change you.* As I said earlier, your Father loves you as you are. He accepts you and His love for you does not waver. Yet, He loves you too much to let you stay the way you are. He wants to shape and mold your life into the image of His Son (**Ephesians 1:5**). He wants to deal with the sin and corruption in your life. He longs to create godly character in your life. For this reason, He works to make you different. He disciplines you when you sin (**Hebrews 12:6-10**). He also daily works in your life to enable you to grow spiritually, "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure" (**Philippians 2:13**).
- ✓ *You have a Father who works in and through the adversity of your life.* Your life isn't governed by chance or fate. Your life is in the hands of your heavenly Father. He is in charge of your life, guiding you in the path that He has ordained for you, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way" (**Psalms 37:23**). God is in charge of your steps and your stops! Your Father is working through all that you face – the good, the bad, and the ugly. You can have the confidence that nothing takes place in your life by chance or coincidence. Your Father filters all the things that come your way. They enter your life because He has some purpose in allowing into your life. As God's child, you can know with certainty that all things work for your good, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose" (**Romans 8:28**). Not everything that happens in your life is good. In fact, many rotten things can take place in your life. Yet, God is at work in every single event to accomplish His good pleasure in your life.
- ✓ *You have a holy Father.* You are now in a relationship with a holy Father, "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all" (**1 John 1:5**). This means that Your Father is pure without any taint or stain of sin. Because of this, your Father hates sin. He loves you as His child. However, He loathes the sin in your life. As His children, we must be diligent to confess our 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**). Sin hinders and damages our fellowship with God. We cannot have deep and powerful fellowship with Him if we tolerate that which is evil in His sight. This should drive us as His children to confess our sins. We must be diligent to deal with sin that our fellowship with Him might not be hindered.
- ✓ *You have a Father you can trust.* You may not be able to trust anyone else, but you can trust your Father. He is faithful to His

children no matter what, "It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness" (**Lamentations 3:22-23**). Your Father stays eternally the same. His character never varies or changes, "For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed" (**Malachi 3:6**). You can count on your Father. As He has been, He is now, and He will be forever. He is the unchanging Rock of your life. He is worthy of your trust in Him. Each day, you can trust your Father. He will not fail you or forsake you.

## Enhancing Your Relationship To Your Father

When you trusted in Jesus Christ, God adopted you. The moment you came to Christ in faith, God made you His own child. You have a unique and special relationship to God Almighty.

Yet, this was just the beginning of your relationship to your Father. You now have the responsibility of growing in your relationship to Him. The following prayer guide is designed to help you develop and grow your relationship to your Father.

### Loving Your Father

Father, I pray that I will love You with all my heart, soul, strength, and mind. Increase my love for you. Deliver me from the love of the world that hinders my love for You. It's so easy for my heart to be drawn to many other things – relationships, possessions, and positions. O God, teach me and empower me to love You with an undivided heart. I want to love You above everything and everybody else (**Matthew 22:37; 1 John 2:15**).

### Obedying Your Father

Father, I ask that I would grow in my obedience to You. Teach me the Word and I will commit myself to obeying it. Father, I pray that my life will conform to Your Word (**James 1:22**).

### Worship Your Father

Father, I ask You to teach me how to worship You. You are the only true and living God. I long to adore You and glorify You above all. Grant me the grace and power to worship You with all my being (**Matthew 4:10**).

### Submitting To Your Father

Father, I confess to You that I am full of myself. I desire to live the way I want to. I acknowledge that I'm stubborn in wanting my way in my daily life. Yet, I surrender myself to You. I want to do Your will. Subdue my stubborn heart and will. Lead me in the path of righteousness; enable me to do what You have purposed for my life (**Psalms 23:3**).

### Glorify Your Father

Father, You are the true and glorious God. I plead that my life will reflect Your greatness. I ask that my life will show just how great and amazing You are. Let my whole life – my thoughts, my words, my actions – manifest Your glory. I want others to know just how unique and valuable that You are. In all things, whatever I am doing, help me to do it all for Your glory and honor (**1 Corinthians 10:31**).

### Thirst For Your Father

Father, I plead that I will crave for Your Word and You above anything else. I ask that the great desire of my life will be You. I find myself battling with so many passions and desires. I pray that my desire for You will grow and supplant all the other desires and passions in my life. As the deer thirsts for the streams, I pray that I will thirst for You (**Psalms 42:1-2**).

### Holy Before The Father

Father, I thank You that You have forgiven me, accepted me, and adopted me. I know that You have put my sins away and Your wrath does not burn against me because of them. You have declared me righteous through my faith in Jesus. Yet, Father, I long to live a holy life before You. I desire to walk in the way that is pleasing to You. O righteous Father, make me holy. Sanctify me wholly – body, intellect, emotions, will. Change my whole life. Don't let me stay the way I am. Shape me and mold me

by Your wisdom and power (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

### **Growing Up Before Your Father**

Father, thank You for adopting and making me Your own child through Jesus Christ. I know that this is the gift of Your grace to me. I rejoice to be Your child. Yet, I pray that I will grow and mature spiritually. I want to become a godly, mature saint before You. My heart's desire is to have a deep, abiding relationship with You. Grant me this by Your grace and power (1 John 2:12-14).

### **Becoming Your Father's Servant**

Father, I want to serve You. My great longing is to be a faithful servant of Yours. Transform me into a servant that You can use in mighty ways. Make me useable and then use me in unique and amazing ways (Matthew 25:23).

### **Removing The Idols**

Father, You tell me that I am to have no other gods before You. You are the jealous God. You will tolerate no rivals in my heart. You will not yield Your place in my life. I ask You to show me the idols that have been erected in my heart. Help me to rip from my heart anything that I have placed above You. Teach me to hate idolatry. Deeply convict me when I begin to put something ahead of You (Exodus 20:3; 1 John 5:21).

### **Trusting Your Father**

Father, Your Word says that You do not change. You declare that there is no change in Your character or Your ways. I believe Your Word and confess these things are true. Teach me how to trust You. Help me to grow in my ability to rest in You. Deliver me from unbelief. I'm sorry that my heart is so quickly filled with worry, anxiety, and even unbelief at times. It grieves my heart when I yield to these things. I know that You are faithful. Father, I believe; help my unbelief. I want to walk by faith and not by sight. I long for my life to manifest genuine trust in You in all the circumstances of my life (Malachi 3:6; James 1:17).

## **Praying For Your New Family**

When you trust in Jesus Christ, God adopts you as His child. You have a new relationship to God. Yet, at the same time, you have a new family! You enter into the family of God. You now have countless brothers and sisters.

Becoming God's child means joining His family. This means that you now have a responsibility to your new family. One of the great responsibilities that you have is to pray for your new family. God desires that you intercede for the new family to which you belong.

The following is a prayer guide to help you fulfill your responsibility to your new family. These prayer pointers are designed to assist you in praying for the family of God. You can use these pointers to pray for individual believers or the family of God in your church. The key issue is to remember that these people are your brothers and sisters and you are to pray for them

### *Spiritual maturity*

Father, I pray that \_\_\_\_\_ will grow and mature spiritually. I ask that \_\_\_\_\_ will become a mature, useable child of Yours (Hebrews 5:12-14).

### *Thirst for God*

Father, create with \_\_\_\_\_ a deep and abiding thirst for Your Word and You. I pray that \_\_\_\_\_ will crave for You above all things (Psalm 42:1-2).

### *Filled With The Spirit*

Father, I pray that \_\_\_\_\_ will be filled with Your Spirit. I ask that \_\_\_\_\_ will walk in the power of Your Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).

### *Provision Of Needs*

Father, I pray that You will meet all of \_\_\_\_\_'s needs by Your wisdom and power (Philippians 4:19).

### *Personal Witness Of Jesus*

Father, I ask that \_\_\_\_\_ will declare the good news of Jesus to unbelievers. Empower

\_\_\_\_\_ to proclaim the truth both with his/her lips and lives (**Acts 1:8**).

### *Strength And Peace*

Father, You say that You give strength to Your people. Grant \_\_\_\_\_ strength for everything that he/she faces. You declare that You give peace. Fill \_\_\_\_\_ with Your peace that passes understanding (**Psalm 29:11**).

### *Protection From The Enemy*

Father, I ask You to protect \_\_\_\_\_ from all the snares and traps of the enemy. I plead that \_\_\_\_\_ will wear the armor of God and will resist the enemy and all his temptations through faith in Jesus (**1 Peter 5:8-9**).

### *Prayer*

Father, I ask You to teach \_\_\_\_\_ how to pray. Empower him/her to live a lifestyle of prayer (**Luke 11:1**).

## **Overcoming The Spirit Of Rejection**

Knowing God as your Father can enable you to overcome a spirit of rejection. When God adopts you into His family, You become His precious and beloved child. Even though others may have rejected you, He will never do this. He is your Father and has brought you into His family. You are accepted and loved. This will never change.

The following prayers can help you deal with rejection. These are not only prayers but they are truth statements that you can use when you begin to feel rejected and all its scarring effects.

Father, I praise You for adopting me into Your family. I ask that I will grow in my conviction that I belong to Your family and You.

*Father, deliver me from doubts about my belonging to You. I ask in Jesus' name that You would grant me the assurance of my salvation.*

Father, I adore You for accepting me as I am through Your Son Jesus Christ.  
*Father, set me free from all feelings of worthlessness and uselessness.*

Father, I praise You that You have forgiven me of my sin.

*Father, deliver me from guilt and shame because of Your forgiveness through Jesus Christ.*

Father, I glorify You for making me a part of Your family. Teach me how to love and minister to my brothers and sisters in Christ.

*Father, set me free from a sense of alienation and loneliness.*

Father, thank You for loving me as Your own child. Grant me a greater sense of that love in my life.

*Father, I plead in Jesus' name that You will deliver me from ever feeling unloved. Set me free from any feelings that I have no value and that I cannot be loved.*

## **New Prayer Product**

At The Prayer Closet, we have developed a new prayerwalking key ring. This new key ring is "**Prayerwalking People To Jesus.**" This key ring will provide you with evangelistic prayers to aid you as you prayerwalk. The focus of this prayer ring is seeing people come to true faith in Jesus Christ. This key ring is \$2.00. Order yours today!

## **Is God Your Father?**

The only way that you can know God as your Father is through Jesus Christ. The Bible says, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me (**John 14:6**)." God has sent Jesus Christ as the Savior to bring sinful people to Him.

Outside of Christ, you are a sinner and lost. You are without God. Your case is even worse in the sense that you belong to Satan, "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince

of the power of the air (Satan), the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience (**Ephesians 2:2**). You may protest that you are not a Satanist. You may not feel as if you belong to Satan. Yet, the truth is that outside of Jesus, you are separated from God and under Satan's control. You are in bondage to your sin and to Satan.

Nevertheless, the good news is that you can come to know God. You can become a child of God by faith in Jesus, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (**John 1:12**).

If you will turn to Jesus Christ in faith, God will forgive, set you free from Satan's

**power**, and adopt you as His own child. You **must** acknowledge that Christ is the Son of **God**, the only Savior. You must trust in Him as **your** personal Savior and Lord. If you will do **this**, God will accept you and forgive you.

If you want to do this, pray that following prayer from your heart:

*God, I am a sinner. I'm lost. I'm a mess. Yet, I want to be saved. I want to be Your child. I now believe in Jesus Christ. I confess that He is Your Son and my Savior. I ask You to forgive me of my sin. I call on to You accept me into Your family. Please change me; do Your work of grace my life. I give my whole life to You at this moment. 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