
JENNIFER HOPE WEBSTER

CHAT WITH GOD
40 DAYS
PRAYER JOURNAL

...PRAY ONCE A WEEK OR PRAY EVERY DAY.



THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO:

JOURNAL WAS GIVEN TO ME BY:

DATE GIVEN TO ME ON:

JENNIFER HOPE WEBSTER

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40 DAYS
PRAYER JOURNAL

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DON'T FORGET!

PRAYER GOES HAND IN HAND WITH BIBLE READING.

JESUS IS...

JOHN 6:35 _____

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty."

JOHN 8:12 _____

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

JOHN 10:7,9 _____

Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep... I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture."

JOHN 10:11,14 _____

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep... I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me..."

JOHN 11:25 _____

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."

JOHN 14:6 _____

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

JOHN 15:1,5 _____

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener... I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

FOR GOD SO LOVED
THE WORLD THAT
HE GAVE HIS ONE AND
ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER
BELIEVES IN HIM
SHALL NOT PERISH BUT
HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.

—JOHN 3:16 NIV

NEW TESTAMENT

MATTHEW
MARK
LUKE
JOHN
ACTS
ROMANS
1 CORINTHIANS
2 CORINTHIANS
GALATIANS
EPHESIANS
PHILIPPIANS
COLOSSIANS
1 THESSALONIANS
2 THESSALONIANS
1 TIMOTHY
2 TIMOTHY
TITUS
PHILEMON
HEBREWS
JAMES
1 PETER
2 PETER
1 JOHN
2 JOHN
3 JOHN
JUDE
REVELATION

OLD TESTAMENT

GENESIS
EXODUS
LEVITICUS
NUMBERS
DEUTERONOMY
JOSHUA
JUDGES
RUTH
1 SAMUEL
2 SAMUEL
1 KINGS
2 KINGS
1 CHRONICLES
2 CHRONICLES
EZRA
NEHEMIAH
ESTHER
JOB
PSALMS
PROVERBS
ECCLESIASTES
SONG OF SONGS
ISAIAH
JEREMIAH
LAMENTATIONS
EZEKIEL
DANIEL
HOSEA
JOEL
AMOS
OBADIAH
JONAH
MICAH
NAHUM
HABAKKUK
ZEPHANIAH
HAGGAI
ZECHARIAH
MALACHI

WELCOME INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD

Pray, read your Bible, and fellowship with other Christians in a Bible believing church.

HOW TO USE THE BIBLE

THE BIBLE: There is no place God cannot touch in your life or in the world. He is the great creator of all things. Do you know that few Christians choose to read the Bible when all Scripture is “God-Breathed?”

- Begin by reading “John” and “Acts” in the New Testament part of the Bible. This will teach you of the life of Jesus and more. Pray.
- Second, finish reading the New Testament all the way to Revelation, the last book of the New Testament, one chapter or more each day. Pray.
- Highlight scriptures that are meaningful to you on your Bible journey. God speaks to me in this way. Pick a life verse and memorize it.
- Lastly, Begin reading the Old Testament to the New Testament as many times as one can in a lifetime. Pray.

Jesus is my Lord and best friend. May He be yours too!

ACCEPTING JESUS AS LORD AND SAVIOR

PRAY THIS PRAYER:

“Jesus I love you and have a need for you in my life.

I believe that what the Bible teaches is true.

I believe that you lived, died, and three days later rose again.

You have gone to heaven to prepare a place where there is no suffering or tears.

I accept you as the Lord of my life.

I ask that you forgive me of my bad behavior known as sin.

It is Your blood that cleanses me from all unrighteousness.

Thank you for loving me back and accepting me as your child.

Amen.”

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“I have strength and I have peace. As I fall, I see your face; I have taken your oath. And you preserve my life. You cover me!”

-Crystal Lewis, Christian Music Artist

INTRODUCTION

The world has sought long and hard regarding the secrecy of talking with God. With the Scriptures available to us, is this really a secret? In fact within the Holy Bible, prophets of the Old Testament and the disciples of the New Testament have provided a model for us. Jesus graciously teaches us how to pray through “The Lord’s Prayer” (Matthew 6:9-13); however, wise, young and old still seem to be challenged by this example. Studying the word of God, having a mentor, and participating daily with the Chat with God: 40 Days...Prayer Journal are significant avenues which can set a foundation to begin the challenge of prayer. Be vulnerable, pure and honest with each intention. I’m afraid there is no short cut.

As you walk the prayer path of this devotional journey, skim first through the entire pages of this journal. The Chat with God: 40 Days...Prayer Journal is self-explanatory and allows forty days of journaling entries. Let this opportunity be one of discovery and learning how prayer can better suit one’s unique character and style. Prayer changes things... and it will change you. If

your prayer life needs a boost, join in on a learning tool that has been around for decades... There must be something to it!

“LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. THIS IS THE FIRST AND GREATEST COMMANDMENT (MATTHEW 22:37-38).”

Building a relationship with God is essential for life... and developing a relationship takes time, transparency, and communication. This can only evolve by communing with the Lord through prayer. For years I have studied the Bible; however, developing an honest, two-sided prayer relationship with the Lord truly began when life became too difficult to cope with on my own.

Journaling “Adoration” phrases or praises, “Confession” of daily sins, “Thanksgiving” by appreciation, and “Supplication” prayers in support of oneself and others, significantly impact life. Believe it or not, these four areas of prayer will lead to a deeper and intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. Our Lord taught that it is the simple things that confound the wise (1 Corinthians 1:27). Write each inscription from a heart that is simple, honest and unedited.

Hearing the Word of God and prayer are the disciplines required by all men and women of faith:

“SO FAITH COMETH BY HEARING AND HEARING THE WORD OF GOD (ROMANS 10:17 KJV).” “THE EFFECTIVE PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN CAN ACCOMPLISH MUCH (JAMES 5:16C NAS).”

The Lord has sent me through an amazing Christian pilgrimage that I have only begun to travel. In this venture, I have tasted the fruit of what it means to be satisfied (Deuteronomy 8:10) in Christ. Prayer and studying the Word of God are only a part of the equation. Fellowship and accountability with other Christians, giving by tithes and offerings, to hearing the Word of God that reflects the Bible are some of many factors to consider in our Christian growth. Step out in faith. Dare to challenge what God has purposed in your heart. Don't forget the miracles that have been documented in Biblical History...We serve the same God. Pray big prayers!

In addition to what has been reported above, prayer journaling can be for the short term advancing to silent prayer or a continuous written habit of a lifetime. One's personal prayer journal library can provide a legacy of faith, perseverance, proven character, and hope (Romans 5:1-5) confirming that: "...all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28 NIV)."

Pass the torch forward regarding one of the most misunderstood and globally overlooked Christian disciplines: Prayer! Chat with God in the twenty-first century.

Purpose:

"TO PASS THE CHRISTIAN TRUTH OF THE HOLY BIBLE AND PRAYER TO THE NEXT GENERATION"

NOTES:

INTRODUCTION

1. The world has sought long and hard regarding the secrecy of talking with God. With the Scriptures available to us, is this really a _____ ?
2. Building a relationship with God is essential for _____.
3. Journaling “A _____” phrases or praises,
4. “C _____” of daily sins,
5. “T _____” by appreciation,
6. and “S _____” prayers in support of oneself and others, significantly impact life.

Begin entering “Answered Prayer” in log provided at the back of the book

7. Hearing the Word of God and prayer is the discipline required by all men and women of f_____:

“So faith cometh by hearing and hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17 KJV).”

“The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much (James 5:16c NAS).”

The Lord has sent me through an amazing Christian pilgrimage that I have only begun to travel .

8. One’s personal prayer journal library can provide a legacy of faith, perseverance, p_____, ch_____, and hope (Romans 5:1-5) confirming that : “...all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28 NIV).”

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS :

- 1) What is your effective way of communicating a prayer life with Jesus?
- 2) Are you satisfied with your relationship with our Lord ? Why or why not?
- 3) What are your pitfalls to consistent prayers?
- 4) If you could describe a short sentence or paragraph to someone who does not know of talking to God, how would you briefly explain “prayer”? (Evangelism)

The following is a brief description of each type of prayer to give more understanding and motivation to pray. A Bible scripture is added to assist you to know what to write. When it is your turn to write, don't forget to include the date. It's fun to see our spiritual growth and answered prayers.

You might want to know some of the benefits of prayer:

To know and love Jesus more deeply, to receive forgiveness of sins, to have hope and strength to keep going, to receive wisdom and direction for everyday life, to become more like Christ, and eternal life with the King. The benefits are numerous!

ADORATION

CONFESSION

THANKSGIVING

SUPPLICATION

"A.C.T.S" is freely used by Christians Globally.

ADORATION

“a worshipping or paying homage; great love or devotion.”

(Webster’s Dictionary)

PSALM 145:1-5

“I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever. Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works...”

(The New International Version of the Holy Bible)

OTHER REFERENCES:

PSALM 29:2; 95:6 DANIEL 4:2-3

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ACKNOWLEDGE HIM IN ADORATION

“THE REAL PROBLEM OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE COMES WHERE PEOPLE DO NOT USUALLY LOOK FOR IT. IT COMES THE VERY MOMENT YOU WAKE UP IN THE MORNING. ALL YOUR WISHES AND HOPES FOR THE DAY RUSH AT YOU LIKE WILD ANIMALS. AND THE FIRST JOB OF EACH MORNING CONSISTS SIMPLY IN SHOVING THEM ALL BACK; IN LISTENING TO THAT OTHER VOICE TAKING THAT OTHER POINT OF VIEW LETTING THAT LARGER, STRONGER, QUIETER LIFE COME FLOWING IN. AND SO ON, ALL DAY STANDING BACK FROM ALL YOUR NATURAL FUSSINGS AND FRETTINGS; COME IN OUT OF THE WIND.”

-C.S. LEWIS, *CHRISTIAN SCHOLAR & AUTHOR*

A larger, stronger, quieter life comes flowing through “Adoration”. Adoration is the “act of worship” and “profound love or regard” for God (www.dictionary.com). How do we enter into this phenomenon of such intimacy and love for God? The answer is easier than one can imagine. Love just happens especially since God has been pursuing us since the beginning of time. Below are some word pictures and thoughts as we prepare to transition and “enter in” worship of our Lord:

“Come celebrate God’s presence (Psalm 61:7) while acknowledging Christ’s rightful place over our lives. Quiet ourselves and allow His authority (Revelation 1:17-18), His last word, to lead us...Take ourselves off the throne (Genesis 41:40) give Jesus the seat of honor and the keys of our lives...Accept His love (John 3:16), His dominion and believe with Him all is possible (Matthew 19:26) and that all things work together for good (Romans 8:28). Worship Him with a pure heart (Psalm 24:4). No agenda, schedule, or past grievances to attend to. Our eyes connect with His in union. The world’s woes pass away. Let them all go. In this still (Psalm 46:10) moment, peace enters the room. We rest together with God. He is in His rightful place of honor...us at His feet (Revelation 1:17). Love is fully restored...

In 2 Chronicles, we get a clear picture of what it means to adore God. “When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the glory of the LORD above the temple, they knelt on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD, saying, ‘He is good; his love endures forever (2 Chronicles 7:3).’”

THE LOVE OF GOD~

Opening ourselves with “Adoration” sets the stage for our human, finite minds to begin communication (prayer) with an all-knowing (omnipotent) and all-present (omnipresent) Lord. This first step allows us to acknowledge His holiness (Exodus 15:11), powerful nature, and place Him in his proper place of authority over life, world, and not to mention, but of course, our burdens. In Christ and in Christ alone will souls be satisfied (Psalm 17:15). No barriers can separate our relationship with the Father (Romans 8:37-39).

“NO, IN ALL THESE THINGS WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS THROUGH HIM WHO LOVED US. FOR I AM CONVINCED THAT NEITHER DEATH NOR LIFE, NEITHER ANGELS NOR DEMONS, NEITHER THE PRESENT NOR THE FUTURE, NOR ANY POWERS, NEITHER HEIGHT NOR DEPTH, NOR ANYTHING ELSE IN ALL CREATION, WILL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD THAT IS IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD (ROMANS 8:37-39).”

A LIFE STORY~

If you were wondering where I learned inspiration for prayer, I would have to say it was from observing my mom's faithfulness to Jesus. It was not upon one occasion that I studied her commitment to talking with God...but her very breath whispered love for God. Raising four children as a single parent with the ages of 5 ½, 4 ½, 3, and newborn, my mother was dependent on her Heavenly Father.

The fruit of many kinds hung seasonally on the trees on our rented land. We ate to our full pomegranates, peaches, and berries in an acre of Land. God saw to this. We roamed the neighboring fields and watched the clouds in the sky. My sister recalls carrying with me buckets of water to flush the toilet donated by the neighbors. I remember having lettuce sandwiches or a baked potato for dinner...or should I say I remember my mom's face that radiated with the joy of Jesus which prepared each meal. It was frugal times financially; but, I felt safe and loved. Praise God for the concern over His beloved children.

When the cupboards were empty, we consulted Jesus. We knelt on polished wood floors before the living room couch from oldest to youngest and talked to God. "God, will you bring us something to eat. We are hungry. We love You! Thank you!" Simple and direct prayers of a child were spoken from pure hearts. Our Lord did not disappoint. That same evening, a nearby church donated groceries from the congregation we attended (Acts 2:43-47). Pastor Phelps delivered an army of groceries we had never seen!

Upon leaving, our minister profoundly remembers my sister standing barefoot at the front door, double-fisted, with one hand securely holding a chicken leg and the other an ice cream while waving the feast in the air. Her face, stained with remnants of the banquet, was sporting an endless smile...I'm sure we all were that day. God is our provider (see: Deuteronomy 8:3; Nehemiah 9:15; Isaiah 49:10; Luke 6:21; Revelation 7:16).

At the age of 5, I came to know Christ as my Lord and Savior at Vacation Bible School in Los Angeles, CA., USA. After my conversion to Christianity, I had the privilege of being baptized (Matthew 28:17-20) in the bathtub as a small child by my mom. Baptism (typically before a church fellowship and not a bathtub) demonstrates our faith in God (Colossians 2:12); Christ asks this of all believers. Baptism is a practical illustration of worship. My mom also anointed covering my forehead with olive oil in the form of the cross (Exodus 28:41). "... You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever (Psalm 23:5-6).

Why all this zealousness? Is it really necessary? Yes! Part of adoration of our Lord comes through suffering. Spiritual warfare (Psalm 38:19; Psalm 56:2; Psalm 59:3) is seen through trials and are experienced by all people. Stress is the fertile soil that brings character and a dependent relationship with our God. "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered (Romans 8:36)."

In hours of trauma, I observed my mom as a small child take the bottle of olive oil (Exodus 3:25) anointing (Isaiah 61:3) over the top of every door in the house claiming the power of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Anointing in the name of God was used in dedicating one in the service of God, for protection, pleading over the sick for healing (James 5:13-15), and when the battlefields seemed overbearing (Psalm 23:5). Inviting the Lord to live with us brought a calming effect over our household. This was an example of my mom's spiritual service of worship. "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship (Romans 12:1)."

In my childhood, I saw my mom, Grace, fight battles on her knees. Her love for God was and is gentle (Proverbs 15:1) and refreshing...one that showed a heart fully devoted to God (1 Kings 15:3) as King David of the Old Testament. You would have never known she had any crosses to bear. She worshiped God and sweet tears (Psalm 6:6) would drop down her cheeks ~ releasing herself of the pressures of the world. Rocking back and forth in an olive-green, rocking chair with wooden arms,

praise and worship radiated from her lips. “O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. (Psalm 51:15).”

As I reflect upon another passage from Deuteronomy, I began to realize the example of my mom’s plight and purpose: “...Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates...Fear the LORD your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name... for the LORD your God, who is among you, is a jealous God...(Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 13,15).”

AWE-INSPIRING~

Simply Amazing! As I am writing, my teenage sons call to me to rush outside and witness an awe-inspiring site...A rainbow extends across the sky precisely over my family, home, and city...If this isn’t a sight to see. Many of you have experienced the sight of a rainbow but have you ever stopped in your tracks to adore God in the beauty He designed? Have you ever taken a few minutes to absorb God’s unconditional love and message of a promise never to flood the earth again? “I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth (Genesis 9:11).”
“Lord, the rainbow is an extension of Your beauty. Dazzling...Powerful...Full of expression...I remember Your promises. I feel safe under Thy mightiness, care and expression of agape love.”

“ENTER IN” HIS THRONE ROOM~

What must we say to our Lord? How do we begin? Adoration, praise and worship of God, is to seek and address our Lord as our first love (Revelations 3:15). (Most people confuse “Adoration” with prayers of “Thanksgiving”. Yes, this would be me; however, it is entirely different.) Let our words be few...Those words spoken, may they be holy and honorable to God. As I ponder with what I was planning to write to you on the topic of “Adoration” (since I’m supposed to be the expert),

I confess I am not the scholar or one who has this subject perfected. The books on this subject and ideas are too numerous! What tangible, simple skill can I offer you that would allow us to “enter in” His throne room?

THE BIBLE AS OUR GUIDE~

The book of Job (chapters 38-41) immediately entered my mind. (If you have ever endured hardship and difficulty, consider studying these specific chapters.) God speaks of Himself through these Biblical verses to a broken man named Job who is desperate for Godly wisdom...I am humbled and calmed by God’s words as I study these chapters time after time.

In worship, I like to copy, mirror, and reflect what the Bible says about God. This is an example of adoration. It’s like placing our tiny feet in the footprints of our Heavenly Father as we walk along the sand.

Open your Bible to Job starting in chapter 38 verse 4. God speaks out of the whirlwind (Job 38:1):

“WHERE WERE YOU WHEN I LAID THE EARTH’S FOUNDATION?
TELL ME, IF YOU UNDERSTAND,WHO MARKED OFF ITS DIMENSIONS?
(JOB 38:4).”

Adoration may respond, “Lord, it is You who cleverly positioned the earth’s groundwork and marked off its distance (Job 38:4).”

Below are bits and pieces personally and artistically selected from Job and Revelation that I have found to minister to me; yet, bring glory to our Lord. Remember, I am adding some creativity to what God has expressed to me...I am lovingly responding...echoing praises in return. I will begin with a few examples...Take a risk and try it on your own.

ADORATION: Lord, you have placed the constellations of the sky perfectly in its season (Job 32:38). Your creativity astounds me.

ADORATION: The lions hunger no more for you provide the prey for a feast (Job 38:39). I will trust in thee all the days of my life.

ADORATION: The strength of a horse was Thy gift. The mane around his neck was cleverly designed (Job 39:19). I am inspired as You pay attention to details.

ADORATION: Lord, I hear you knocking at my door. I hear your voice and open the door. Forevermore, I desire to dine with You and You with me (Revelation 3:20).

ADORATION: In the heavens, there are no more tears, death, or mourning (Revelation 21:4)! Father, I celebrate this good news of joy of Thy purpose and plan. With Thee, I long to be.

ADORATION: Lord, I come and freely drink of Thy water of life never to be thirsty again (Revelation 22:7). It is only Thee who quenches my thirst and satisfies my soul.

Reading and claiming the Psalms just as they are can be another simplistic form of worship:

“BUT YOU ARE A SHIELD AROUND ME, O LORD; YOU BESTOW GLORY ON ME AND LIFT UP MY HEAD. TO THE LORD I CRY ALOUD, AND HE ANSWERS ME FROM HIS HOLY HILL. I LIE DOWN AND SLEEP; I WAKE AGAIN, BECAUSE THE LORD SUSTAINS ME. I WILL NOT FEAR THE TENS OF THOUSANDS DRAWN UP AGAINST ME ON EVERY SIDE (PSALM 3:3-6).”

EXALTING GOD~

One of the renowned authors of prayer is Stormie Omartin. I have found her prayers to be profound, Biblical and have transformed my relationship with God to deeper levels. During this season, I have chosen to read her book on worship... How appropriate to quote from a selected favorite a paragraph from her book *The Prayer that Changes Everything: The Hidden Power of Praising God* (Harvest House Publishers, 2004, Eugene Oregon, Page 9):

“WORSHIP AND PRAISE IS THE PUREST FORM OF PRAYER BECAUSE IT FOCUSES OUR MINDS AND SOULS ENTIRELY AWAY FROM OURSELVES AND ON TO HIM. WHAT IT COMMUNICATES IS PURE LOVE, DEVOTION, REVERENCE, APPRECIATION, AND THANKFULNESS TO GOD. IT’S EXALTING GOD FOR WHO HE IS. IT’S COMMUNICATING OUR LONGING FOR HIM. IT’S DRAWING CLOSE TO HIM FOR THE SAKE OF BEING CLOSE. WHEN WE WORSHIP GOD, WE ARE THE CLOSEST TO HIM WE WILL EVER BE. THAT’S BECAUSE PRAISE WELCOMES HIS PRESENCE IN OUR MIDST (STORMIE OMARTIN).”

OUR GOD FORMED US FOR HIMSELF~

Below are more paragraphs that encapsulate God’s intention of his people in adoration. Highlighting three facets of His design, perspective, and jealousy, offers us direction in our prayers.

First, our Lord took delicate care in designing His creation, man and woman. Our God formed us for himself that we might worship and adore Him. “The people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise (Isaiah 43:21).” Studying the scriptures can educate our minds and change our hearts towards a proper perspective of God’s purpose.

“HEAVEN IS MY THRONE, AND THE EARTH IS MY FOOTSTOOL.
WHAT KIND OF HOUSE WILL YOU BUILD FOR ME? SAYS THE LORD.
OR WHERE WILL MY RESTING PLACE BE? HAS NOT MY HAND MADE
ALL THESE THINGS (ACTS 7:49-50).”

I find it difficult to imagine that the earth is God’s footstool. If I am to live as this is true, His position is to increase and be magnified and I am to decrease. He, as the creator (Isaiah 43:15), has artistically and meticulously designed all things as in a mosaic. Wow! This heavenly concept is not digestible in our finite minds...at least mine.

Lastly, our Lord is a jealous God as I mentioned above in Deuteronomy 6. He continues to clarify his negative stance on worshiping outside Himself. You heard right. God wants our full heart. Excessive power, financial worship, perfectionism, sexual and drug addictions to anything else that trips us up need to be confessed and laid at the feet of Christ. We can't worship God when other gods have our attention. We can only serve one God.

“YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME (EXODUS 20:3).”

“...CHOOSE FOR YOURSELVES THIS DAY WHOM YOU WILL SERVE...BUT AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSEHOLD, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD (JOSHUA 24:15).”

THE FINAL WORD~

The word of God is so full of riches on “Adoration.” Let me step aside and give the book of Nehemiah the final word.

“EZRA PRAISED THE LORD, THE GREAT GOD; AND ALL THE PEOPLE LIFTED THEIR HANDS AND RESPONDED, ‘AMEN! AMEN!’ THEN THEY BOWED DOWN AND WORSHIPED THE LORD WITH THEIR FACES TO THE GROUND (NEHEMIAH 8:6).”

NOTES:

ACKNOWLEDGE HIM IN ADORATION

1. Adoration is the “act of _____” and “profound love or regard” for God.

2. God is our _____ (see: Deuteronomy 8:3; Nehemiah 9:15; Isaiah 49:10; Luke 6:21; Revelation 7:16).

3. Spiritual warfare: Psalm 38:19; Psalm 56:2; Psalm 59:3 “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be _____ (Romans 8:36).”

4. Anointing: Exodus 3:25; Isaiah 61:3; James 5:13-15; Psalm 23:5

5. The Bible as our _____

6. Exalting God

7. Our God Formed Us for _____

“You shall have no other gods before me (Exodus 20:3).”

8. “...choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my household, we will serve the _____ (Joshua 24:15).”

9. The Final Word-

The word of God is so full of riches on “Adoration.” Let me step aside and give the book of Nehemiah the final word. “Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, ‘Amen! Amen!’ Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their _____ (Nehemiah 8:6).”

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS :

1) What is your effective way of worshiping with Jesus? Singing, Silence, Nature walks?

2) Are you satisfied with your unique way of worship? Why or why not?

3) What are your pitfalls to achieving consistent adoration?

4) If you could describe a short sentence or paragraph to someone who does not know of worship, how would you briefly explain “Adoration”? (Evangelism)

C O N F E S S I O N

“admission of guilt or sin” (Webster’s Dictionary)

PSALM 51:1-4

“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions, wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight...” (The New International Version of the Holy Bible)

I JOHN 1:9

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (NIV)

OTHER REFERENCES:

PROVERBS 28:13; PSALM 86:15; EPHESIANS 2:8,9; JAMES 5:16; I PETER 2:4-5

C ONFESSION IS CRUCIAL

“CONFESSION WITHOUT CHANGE IS JUST A GAME.”

—The Daily Walk, *Walk Thru the Bible Ministries*, May 5, 1999

What specifically is confession? Confession is “a written or oral statement acknowledging guilt, made by one who has been accused or charged with an offense (www.dictionary.com).” Confession is crucial in our Christian lives as we build an honest relationship with our heavenly King! Truths...I remember rarely confessing sin throughout my young adult and university years. I didn’t quite understand confession and how I was to respond to it. I believe I was taught appropriately but my ears did not hear the Christian message.

To steal, kill or commit adultery were acts never on the forefront of my mind. The New Testament has a different stance on this (Matthew 5:27-28). Our thoughts can be perceived just as dangerous in the realm of God. However; through studying the scriptures and being faithful to continuous prayer on a daily basis, God began to educate me on the reality of my sin. I was willing to open up to His teachings. The only man who did not sin was my Lord

and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our Lord was tempted by the devil but He did not sin (Matthew chapter 4).

This opening statement is a mouthful...The truth is out! Jesus, the Son, of the living God alone is Holy. We cannot achieve such purity and righteousness on our own "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23)."

FREE INDEED~

Confessing my pride, lack of humble obedience to God, and thinking I lived without sin, was a critical step for me. Now educated with the truth of the Bible, I daily uncover a sin to confess. This boggles my mind; but, it is true. Some days my disobedience is obvious...other days I have to ask the Holy Spirit to search my heart and to convict me of my unrighteousness. "When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment (John 16:8)." I even ask forgiveness for days past...confessing sins unaware.

Here are some thoughts that prepare us into a heart of confession:

In the presence of God's purity and strength, I am drawn to tell the truth. My heart comes clean. Before my Lord, my soul is completely transparent before him. I am silenced for in His company all lies, darkness, and selfishness are exposed. I cannot hide this burden any longer. I confess...sin. For God sees all things. The load from my guilty soul is removed. The goodness of my Holy King discards...disbands this burden. It disappears. His Holiness consumes me. His eternal love is awe-inspiring. The heaviness occupying my life is released...I am set free.

"SO IF THE SON SETS YOU FREE, YOU WILL BE FREE INDEED (JOHN 8:36)."

"BLESSED ARE THEY WHOSE TRANSGRESSIONS ARE FORGIVEN, WHOSE SINS ARE COVERED. BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NEVER COUNT AGAINST HIM (ROMANS 4:7, 8)."

"THEREFORE, THERE IS NOW NO CONDEMNATION FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST JESUS, BECAUSE THROUGH CHRIST JESUS THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE SET ME FREE FROM THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH (ROMANS 8:1, 2)."

“WHAT SHALL WE SAY, THEN? SHALL WE GO ON SINNING SO THAT GRACE MAY INCREASE? BY NO MEANS! WE DIED TO SIN; HOW CAN WE LIVE IN IT ANY LONGER?... FOR SIN SHALL NOT BE YOUR MASTER, BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT UNDER LAW, BUT UNDER GRACE (ROMANS 6:1-2, 14).”

SIN IS THE HUMAN “BENT”

My burden was consumed by God’s unconditional love. No terms or conditions to negotiate. The ultimate sacrifice, Christ’s blood, has paid the price. The exchange has been made. This I have learned is confession:

“LET US APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE WITH CONFIDENCE,
SO THAT WE MAY RECEIVE MERCY AND FIND GRACE TO HELP US
IN OUR TIME OF NEED. (HEBREWS 4:16).”

The healing process of forgiveness began when I was willing to admit my sin of unbelief not only with my heavenly Father but also to accountable partners and to myself. I acknowledged the fact that “character” was choosing to live a life of righteousness mirrored with confession even when no one was looking. Sin was and is the human “bent” or error of all people that began with Adam and Eve in the “Garden” highlighted in Genesis chapter 3.

THE THIEF THAT COMES TO KILL, STEAL AND DESTROY~

Today as I was finalizing my notes on writing this piece for you, I came across scripture on how Satan actually came into this world:

“THE FIFTH ANGEL SOUNDED HIS TRUMPET, AND I SAW A STAR
THAT HAD FALLEN FROM THE SKY TO THE EARTH. THE STAR WAS
GIVEN THE KEY TO THE SHAFT OF THE ABYSS (REVELATION 9:1).”

Temptation began with Satan; however, God teaches us that in Christ, man is provided a way out if we are willing to seek Him. “God will not send us where He cannot sustain us (The Daily Walk, Walk Thru the Bible Ministries, January 3, 2002).” “Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. (Hebrews 2:18).”

The Holy Spirit wakes us up to our sin nature and convicts our soul through guilt. “When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment (John 16:8).” As we study, listen to sermons, hear the wisdom of our accountability groups and dear Christian friends, we become educated and awakened to the truth. The Bible is our daily guidebook teaching us to go in the way of the living which is a transparent life before God and each other. We can even learn via the hardships around us. The newspapers and media are full of unmerciful stories. Jesus declares, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep (John 10:10-11).”

GOD HEARS THE HUMBLE~

The Lord responds and connects with His people,

“BECAUSE YOUR HEART WAS RESPONSIVE AND YOU HUMBLING
YOURSELF BEFORE GOD WHEN YOU HEARD WHAT HE SPOKE
AGAINST THIS PLACE AND ITS PEOPLE, AND BECAUSE YOU HUMBLING
YOURSELF BEFORE ME AND TORE YOUR ROBES AND WEPT IN MY
PRESENCE, I HAVE HEARD YOU, DECLARES THE LORD. (2 CHRONICLES
34:27).”

TRIALS DRIVE US TO OBEDIENCE~

Are you ready to go deeper on the subject of “Sin” and dive into some biblical stories?

Ezra in the period of approximately 456-444 B.C. was a priest of the Old Testament. He received the opportunity to help rebuild the House of the Lord after seventy years of enslavement, hardship, and the death of many of God’s people. These broken people finally humbled themselves. (Trials do have a way of driving us to obedience.) In this case, many Israelites were driven to this particular imprisonment because of their neglect for God. They were the “chosen people” and exceedingly blessed; however, they chose to worship other gods and seek the lustful pleasure in the things of the world outside their convictions of their Biblical teachings (see: 2 Chronicles, Ezra, and Nehemiah).

Nevertheless, seventy years passed and now the people of God were free to travel home. Why such grace from God? The Lord had compassion upon His people and His dwelling place of worship (Ezra 3:3). Sacred temple articles and utensils made of gold and silver, equivalent to multi-millions in today's market, were sought after, collected and packed for the journey home ordered by the king. The priests, men who devoted themselves to the service and things of God, purified themselves and offered burnt offerings night and day upon the foundation of where the temple was to be built.

After this short celebration of freedom and building alters of worship before God, Ezra found massive corruption of God's people. The men were marrying women outside of their belief. In the midst of such jubilation, sin was roaming rapid. Ezra cried out the prayer quoted below in Ezra chapter 9. Ezra's joy in the midst of adversity was exchanged with guilt and fear. The Lord has given the Israelites so much favor and grace but in return they dishonor God with disobedience once again. (For a concise recap on the frightening history of brutality, murder and enslavement of God's people under King Nebuchadnezzar, see 2 Chronicles 36:11-23.)

THE PUREST CONFESSION FROM AN OLD TESTAMENT PRIEST-

Ezra, the priest who sought after God, responded to his people regarding their unfaithfulness. Confrontation was crucial. I admire this priest for his willingness to step out aligning his convictions with the command, decrees, and laws of God.

2 "They have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and their sons, and have mingled the holy race with the peoples around them. And the leaders and officials have led the way in this unfaithfulness."

3 When I heard this, I tore my tunic and cloak, pulled hair from my head and beard and sat down appalled. 4 Then everyone who trembled at the words of the God of Israel gathered around me because of this unfaithfulness of the exiles. And I sat there appalled until the evening sacrifice.

5 Then, at the evening sacrifice, I rose from my self-abasement, with my tunic and cloak torn, and fell on my knees with my hands spread out to the LORD my God

6 and prayed: "O my God, I am too ashamed and disgraced to lift up my face to you, my God, because our sins are higher than our heads and our guilt has reached to the heavens.

7 From the days of our forefathers until now, our guilt has been great. Because of our sins, we and our kings and our priests have been subjected to the sword and captivity, to pillage and humiliation at the hand of foreign kings, as it is today.

8 "But now, for a brief moment, the LORD our God has been gracious in leaving us a remnant and giving us a firm place in his sanctuary, and so our God gives light to our eyes and a little relief in our bondage (Ezra 9:2-8)."

There is a bit of stubbornness in all of us. The Lord extends Himself to us beyond what we deserve. There were 113 individuals who were unfaithful to the Lord in the Biblical life story featured above... priests, Levite's, and other men. Through shedding tears of pain and sorrow, Ezra set the example and held the people accountable of the excellence required by God. As a unified front, all the assembly agreed that Ezra was right and confession was a must. "We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses (Nehemiah 1:7)." I'm confident that God and His angels rejoiced in their right decision.

THE STORY OF FORGIVENESS~

The Old Testament is merciless: Obedience reaps blessings...Disobedience reaps punishment and damnation (Leviticus chapter 26). The thought of this makes me sad. Under the law of the Old Testament, there is no way out; however, there is hope for today recorded in the New Testament! We no longer live in the bondage (Romans 7:14-25) of the Old Testament. The men of the days of old, B.C. (Before Christ), had to offer living, animal sacrifices free of blemishes and defects to cover their sin. What an exhausting and miserable practice! God's intentions were simple and direct as seen in 2 Chronicles:

"IF MY PEOPLE, WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME, WILL HUMBLE THEMSELVES AND PRAY AND SEEK MY FACE AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS, THEN WILL I HEAR FROM HEAVEN AND WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN AND WILL HEAL THEIR LAND (2 CHRONICLES 7:14)."

SAY NO TO UNGODLINESS AND WORLDLY PASSIONS~

I recently read in the Bible about how angry God was with the constant sin of men before the flood of Noah also noted in the Old Testament. It grieved Him. "The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain (Genesis 6:5-6)." With the exception of Noah, his family and two of every kind of animal, an entire world drowned because of man's choice for sin over obedience to God. (For more on the story of the "Flood", read Genesis chapters 6-9.)

I don't know about you, but this passage disturbs me. I guess I'm always thinking about myself...I didn't realize that sin could cause my Lord this much pain. I pray that you would join the few that willingly walk a challenging road of integrity and constant repentance of sin. Living a life of such awareness isn't easy. Find healthy boundaries between legalism and grace. Writing in the prayer journal, disciplines me to write daily, short accounts of my sin while quickly asking for forgiveness. It feels good to be honest with God. "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age (Titus 2:11-12)."

GOD BRINGS GOOD NEWS~

Brothers and sisters, let us fast forward to the present time line of the New Testament. Jesus, God's only Son who came to the earth without sin or sinning, and became the ultimate sacrifice once and for all. I know it's complicated but Christ's blood has covered man's sin - past, present and future...forevermore! All of our good deeds can't save us. Yes, do keep living a life of generosity and kindness but accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior. "For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means (Romans 6:14-15)!"

Slaughtering of animals and the sprinkling of blood by priests are practices of the Old Testament during an exhausting period of time that no longer exists. Things have changed. God brings the “good news” through His one and only Son, Jesus. In this, we have hope.

“FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. FOR GOD DID NOT SEND HIS SON INTO THE WORLD TO CONDEMN THE WORLD, BUT TO SAVE THE WORLD THROUGH HIM. WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM IS NOT CONDEMNED, BUT WHOEVER DOES NOT BELIEVE STANDS CONDEMNED ALREADY BECAUSE HE HAS NOT BELIEVED IN THE NAME OF GOD’S ONE AND ONLY SON (JOHN 3:16-18).”

RETURN TO YOUR SHEPHERD AND GUARDIAN-

The Bible is complete in its message of confession. Caught in a trial of your own? I encourage you to confess...Jesus is there to catch you when you fall and lovingly embrace you back into His fold.

“FOR YOU WERE CONTINUALLY STRAYING LIKE SHEEP, BUT NOW YOU HAVE RETURNED TO THE SHEPHERD AND GUARDIAN OF YOUR SOULS. (I PETER 2:25).”

NOTES:

CONFESSION IS CRUCIAL

“CONFESSION WITHOUT CHANGE IS JUST A GAME.”

THE DAILY WALK, WALK THRU THE BIBLE MINISTRIES, MAY 5, 1999

1. What specifically is confession? Confession is “a written or oral statement acknowledging guilt, made by one who has been accused or charged with an _____.”
2. Sin is the Human “_____”
3. The Thief that Comes to Kill, Steal and _____”God will not send us where He can not sustain us (The Daily Walk, Walk Thru the Bible Ministries , January 3, 2002).” “Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. (Hebrews 2:18).”
4. God Hears the _____ ~ 2 Chronicles 34:27
5. Trials Drive Us to _____ (see: 2 Chronicles, Ezra, and Nehemiah).
6. Say No to _____ and Worldly Passions . “The LORD saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain (Genesis 6:5-6)
7. God Brings Good News “For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under _____ , but under _____. What then? SHALL WE SIN BECAUSE WE ARE NOT UNDER LAW BUT UNDER GRACE? BY NO MEANS (Romans 6:14-15)!”

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS :

- 1) What is your effective way of confessing your sins to Jesus?
- 2) Are you satisfied with your confession time ? Why or why not?
- 3) What are your pitfalls to being honest in confession? What can help? Accountability...?
- 4) How would you describe in a short sentence or paragraph to someone who is unaware of sin and God’s “good news” of forgiveness?

THANKSGIVING

“a giving of thanks” (Webster’s Dictionary)

I THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (NIV)

(The New International Version of the Holy Bible)

PSALM 95:1-2

“Come let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our Salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.” (NIV)

OTHER REFERENCES:

PSALM 118:1; COLOSSIANS 4:2

CHAT WITH GOD
40 DAYS
PRAYER JOURNAL

TAKE TIME TO BE THANKFUL

“NOW ON HIS WAY TO JERUSALEM, JESUS TRAVELED ALONG THE BORDER BETWEEN SAMARIA AND GALILEE. AS HE WAS GOING INTO A VILLAGE, TEN MEN WHO HAD LEPROSY MET HIM. THEY STOOD AT A DISTANCE AND CALLED OUT IN A LOUD VOICE, ‘JESUS, MASTER, HAVE PITY ON US!’ WHEN HE SAW THEM, HE SAID, ‘GO, SHOW YOURSELVES TO THE PRIESTS.’ AND AS THEY WENT, THEY WERE CLEANSED. ONE OF THEM, WHEN HE SAW HE WAS HEALED, CAME BACK, PRAISING GOD IN A LOUD VOICE. HE THREW HIMSELF AT JESUS’ FEET AND THANKED HIM—AND HE WAS A SAMARITAN. JESUS ASKED, ‘WERE NOT ALL TEN CLEANSED? WHERE ARE THE OTHER NINE? WAS NO ONE FOUND TO RETURN AND GIVE PRAISE TO GOD EXCEPT THIS FOREIGNER?’ THEN HE SAID TO HIM, ‘RISE AND GO; YOUR FAITH HAS MADE YOU WELL (LUKE 17:11-19).”

GRATITUDE TRANSFORMS OUR ATTITUDE~

From the simple to the seemingly impossible prayer requests, God answers prayers. We must return with thankful hearts. Thanksgiving is “an act of giving thanks; an expression of gratitude, especially to God (www.dictionary.com)” Easy enough, but this is not always done...Right? How often do we forget to thank God and others? We get so excited that God is at work and hears our prayers that we forget to stop

and thank the Lord for His kindness. Being thankful reforms our attitude.

As I speak of God's kindness, restoration (Leviticus 26:13b), and blessings, these thanksgivings show belief and acknowledgement of His authority; He is Lord of all. Health, tranquility, family, love, shelter to warm us, forgiveness...the list can go on. "Thank you, Lord!" Gratitude transforms our attitude. Living a life of a continuous, thankful heart is truly living!

ALL THINGS BELONG TO GOD-

As we study in the book of Genesis, we see God is the maker and creator of all things. We are merely passing through life...We enter with nothing and we leave the same way (Job 1:21). All things belong to God...our life, soul, material items, relationships, families, etc. God is loaning us all that we have. So when we get "puffed up" with a loaded checking account, a secure career, investments, a hot vehicle, achievements and educational honors, know that the things we own and gain don't define us. Our personal relationship with Jesus Christ is our highest calling. Remember, these blessings, if they do come to us, are just loaned to us by God. Since all these items are not ours, live with an attitude of humility, generosity, and thanksgiving. This way of living with gratitude puts our hearts in a proper perspective. All things belong to God (Job 41:11).

If these ideas are too difficult to swallow...I've had the pleasure of being reminded in the Sunday sermon of these truths from the Old Testament of the Bible; I'd like to share them with you.

"THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S, AND EVERYTHING IN IT, THE WORLD,
AND ALL WHO LIVE IN IT; FOR HE FOUNDED IT UPON THE SEAS
AND ESTABLISHED IT UPON THE WATERS (PSALM 24:1-2)."

"WHO HAS A CLAIM AGAINST ME THAT I MUST PAY? EVERYTHING
UNDER HEAVEN BELONGS TO ME (JOB 41:11)."

"...EVERY ANIMAL OF THE FOREST IS MINE, AND THE CATTLE ON

A THOUSAND HILLS. I KNOW EVERY BIRD IN THE MOUNTAINS,
AND THE CREATURES OF THE FIELD ARE MINE. IF I WERE
HUNGRY I WOULD NOT TELL YOU, FOR THE WORLD IS MINE,
AND ALL THAT IS IN IT (PSALM 50:10-12)".

A LIFE STORY~

There are some stories you'll never forget...like this one! It's about having a thankful heart before God...In this case, I lost my thankful heart...we'll just for a bit. While it's still fresh in my mind (July 2004 – June 2005), I shall release it to you. Upfront, I want to profusely apologize for my pessimistic attitude and severe negativity for several months as God began to reveal a trial that He wanted to bless and honor me. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11)."

I call this trial "The Flood". No...it was not as devastating as Noah's Ark (Genesis chapters 6-9). But to me it was pain and it "rocked" my world. In fact, the trial came when I completely did not expect it.

OUR COMFORTABLE COTTAGE~

There was one place I felt secure...in my home. Outside this comfortable cottage seemed to be loaded with chaos, confusion, and stress. But at home, our Lord resided. I've had many people remark of its peacefulness and tranquility...as though God was amongst us. It's a comfortable place to take your shoes off and draw off to sleep. I guess we break all normal statistics because we've been in our home since September of 1988...before our children were born. Even through the home was built in 1953, we have been able to pack in a life-time of memories with family celebrations to sleep-over's. I felt content with odd, household quirks of broken kitchen drawers, electrical shorts in the lighting, a lack of proper heating, to a small, twenty gallon water heater for a family of four with endless guests. Even though I never complained, our Lord believed it was time to make repairs and upgrades.

God's lessons are always drawn to the heart. They will only teach a lesson of faith, but if we allow Him, our character and maturity will bloom...for our Lord knows us and cares for us. He has counted every strand of hair upon our heads. He knows us intimately.

“FOR YOU CREATED MY INMOST BEING; YOU KNIT ME TOGETHER IN MY MOTHER’S WOMB. I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE I AM FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE; YOUR WORKS ARE WONDERFUL, I KNOW THAT FULL WELL. MY FRAME WAS NOT HIDDEN FROM YOU WHEN I WAS MADE IN THE SECRET PLACE. WHEN I WAS WOVEN TOGETHER IN THE DEPTHS OF THE EARTH, YOUR EYES SAW MY UNFORMED BODY. ALL THE DAYS ORDAINED FOR ME WERE WRITTEN IN YOUR BOOK BEFORE ONE OF THEM CAME TO BE. HOW PRECIOUS TO ME ARE YOUR THOUGHTS, O GOD! HOW VAST IS THE SUM OF THEM! WERE I TO COUNT THEM, THEY WOULD OUTNUMBER THE GRAINS OF SAND. WHEN I AWAKE, I AM STILL WITH YOU (PSALM 139:13-18).”

THE PROBLEM~

The flood started with small drips under the sink. After several evaluations from friends and experts, we diagnosed the problem as a broken, ice maker water-line. We began to see water spots under kitchen cupboards beyond the distance and damage a water line could make. In addition, we did not know there was a bathtub pipe break with the overflow valve. At the same period of time, yes, there were two different floods.

“No! Please Lord! This is not possible!” I begged in desperation.

During an evaluation with home insurance, five rooms were extensively damaged. An evaluator filled the bathtub $\frac{3}{4}$ full to test the validity of our case. Needless to say he was young...When he pulled the bath plug, the water did not exit as he had thought through pipes and drains but via walls and floor boards. It was like trying to catch an open dam with a paper cup. No amount of towels and yelling for help could prevent this stream from flowing. I'm certain this young adult achieved manhood that day due to the stress. He was remarkably repentant.

I stood frozen, fragile, and helpless. My heart was rent. It occurred to me that this problem was not going to go away. I had never faced a problem of this kind. But isn't that trials for you; they catch you on our weak side.

After a few months of negotiating to political environmentalists and home insurance, our family began to have breathing problems...The walls, flooring and cabinets soon turned to mold; we had to move out immediately. In my mind I was bargaining with how could I escape the reality of this situation.

GRUMBLING AND GRIEVING~

God revealed the devastation to me one step at a time. I didn't know that the restoration process would total a year. Why? I wasn't ready. Honestly, I was having a meltdown over moving out so quickly with my husband, two teenage sons, and a dog. I could handle no more.

I wanted to go home and not temporarily move away! I was angry. And well, I let the Lord know this. It wasn't fair. Complain! Complain! Complain!

My haven was taken away. I consulted the Lord in His mistake of bad timing. THANKSGIVING, CHRISTMAS, AND BIRTHDAY'S IN A HOTEL? "Good going God!" I aggressively complained. No thankful heart here. Ready or not, I had entered into a temporary period called "grieving." It is entirely normal. The Lord is quite clear on His stance upon stubborn hearts. "Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered (John 6:43).

Despite the fact that I did not deserve it, the Lord laid the red carpet treatment in addition to a positive resolution with our home insurance. Yes, it did take three months to resolve with my home insurance. We did settle part of the financial burden three days before Christmas. A contractor was found and demolition began in January 2005. Faith in God was not easy. His Holy Spirit never left me. His love was evident.

“Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,” says the LORD, who has compassion on you (Isaiah 54:10)

“Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David (Isaiah 55:3)

Our Lord’s timing was absolutely flawless. (I have to swallow my pride and agree this trial was the right time.) God delivered Christians to teach me of His unconditional love (“Agape” in Greek).

LIVING IN A GRAVEYARD~

While dining at the hotel where we were staying in the first month, a food manager approached the table. She radiated with joy. Her elegance and confidence noted stability and peace. A beautiful cross necklace hung upon her neck. Catching a glance at the open Bible I had set before me, she opened with friendly conversation. Kindness was upon her tongue. Before I knew it, she shared with me her conversion story to Christianity.

My jaw dropped as she revealed an amazing story of God’s healing, grace and transformation. Are you ready to hear a story that is unthinkable? This woman lived over eight years in a graveyard surviving in a drunken, drug addictive stupor with a boyfriend who lived the same way. My thoughts of the cold nights living on the streets and physical neglect were powerful. She gave up the right to raising her two children. I wondered what drove her to this state of mind (Isaiah 65:1-4).

Unsure of the timing and miraculous process, this lost soul came to know Christ, His forgiveness and mercy. Christ remembered her in her tribulation and restored her relationship with the children (now adults). This godly woman would lead a life of thankfulness. She now attends a local church in Orange County, California, USA, sings in the choir, has an apartment, and holds a great job. The consequence of neglect may still cost her in terms of dollars to repay the government and lost moments with her boys, but Jesus has forgiven all.

“LET THE PEACE OF CHRIST RULE IN YOUR HEARTS, SINCE AS MEMBERS OF ONE BODY YOU WERE CALLED TO PEACE. AND BE THANKFUL (COLOSSIANS 3:15).”

“DEVOTE YOURSELVES TO PRAYER, BEING WATCHFUL AND THANKFUL (COLOSSIANS 4:2).”

“THEREFORE, SINCE WE ARE RECEIVING A KINGDOM THAT CANNOT BE SHAKEN, LET US BE THANKFUL, AND SO WORSHIP GOD ACCEPTABLY WITH REVERENCE AND AWE (HEBREWS 12:28).”

GENTLE HANDS ON MY SHOULDERS~

As I was heading back to my hotel room exhausted from the long day, I met a couple in the hallway while I fumbled for my door key. They were soaking wet from a swim on the pool deck. We began to chat. Before I knew it, they were gently laying their hands on my shoulders and that of my son. They prayed and cried over our circumstances. Their concern for our family touched me deeply. I wept as my broken spirit began to receive Christ's unconditional love. My anger prevented me from fellowship with God. God used this man and woman to love the unlovely. I could no longer live selfish and thankless.

I went to bed that night confessing my negativity and grumbling. I began to speak out of my deep appreciation for God. I started that night a habit that led me to sleep. What was this secret? Having a heart of thankfulness gave me great strength of resilience I can't explain. I began to list in increments of ten every night, things that I was thankful: my sons, family, dog, my eyes, the Bible, Christian friendship, dinner, a warm bed, and even maid service...My heart began to turn to joy! Was I blind not to acknowledge God in his goodness? The next morning, the Lord lifted my soul with a scripture I shall never forget, Leviticus 26:1-13... I begged the Lord to speak to me through his word. He did!

REWARD FOR OBEDIENCE~

1 “DO NOT MAKE IDOLS OR SET UP AN IMAGE OR A SACRED STONE FOR YOURSELVES, AND DO NOT PLACE A CARVED STONE IN YOUR LAND TO BOW DOWN BEFORE IT. I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD. 2 “OBSERVE MY SABBATHS AND

HAVE REVERENCE FOR MY SANCTUARY. I AM THE LORD. 3 'IF YOU FOLLOW MY DECREES AND ARE CAREFUL TO OBEY MY COMMANDS, 4 I WILL SEND YOU RAIN IN ITS SEASON, AND THE GROUND WILL YIELD ITS CROPS AND THE TREES OF THE FIELD THEIR FRUIT. 5 YOUR THRESHING WILL CONTINUE UNTIL GRAPE HARVEST AND THE GRAPE HARVEST WILL CONTINUE UNTIL PLANTING, AND YOU WILL EAT ALL THE FOOD YOU WANT AND LIVE IN SAFETY IN YOUR LAND. 6 'I WILL GRANT PEACE IN THE LAND, AND YOU WILL LIE DOWN AND NO ONE WILL MAKE YOU AFRAID. I WILL REMOVE SAVAGE BEASTS FROM THE LAND, AND THE SWORD WILL NOT PASS THROUGH YOUR COUNTRY. 7 YOU WILL PURSUE YOUR ENEMIES, AND THEY WILL FALL BY THE SWORD BEFORE YOU. 8 FIVE OF YOU WILL CHASE A HUNDRED, AND A HUNDRED OF YOU WILL CHASE TEN THOUSAND, AND YOUR ENEMIES WILL FALL BY THE SWORD BEFORE YOU. 9 " 'I WILL LOOK ON YOU WITH FAVOR AND MAKE YOU FRUITFUL AND INCREASE YOUR NUMBERS, AND I WILL KEEP MY COVENANT WITH YOU. 10 YOU WILL STILL BE EATING LAST YEAR'S HARVEST WHEN YOU WILL HAVE TO MOVE IT OUT TO MAKE ROOM FOR THE NEW. 11 I WILL PUT MY DWELLING PLACE AMONG YOU, AND I WILL NOT ABHOR YOU. 12 I WILL WALK AMONG YOU AND BE YOUR GOD, AND YOU WILL BE MY PEOPLE. 13 I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD, WHO BROUGHT YOU OUT OF EGYPT SO THAT YOU WOULD NO LONGER BE SLAVES TO THE EGYPTIANS; I BROKE THE BARS OF YOUR YOKE AND ENABLED YOU TO WALK WITH HEADS HELD HIGH (LEVITICUS 26:1-13)."

A THANKFUL HEART~

Let us just say...God revealed more devastation on our home. The entire 50 year old property became suspect, but I was ready for the battle this time. I asked the Lord to show me more damage or needed repair. My Lord exceedingly abundantly provided more than I could think or imagine. The demolition and destruction was restored. The entire house was a complete concern to God. An acquaintance flipped through some photos to be submitted to our insurance after the recovery and repair. He graciously stated that it looked like a model home. It's amazing what fresh paint and creativity can do. Our Lord designed it all.

Above our front doorway, we nailed a plaque to remind us of our devotion,

love, and appreciation for God. "...choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD (Joshua 24:15)." The year of moving five times was over...We held hands as a family, bowed our heads, and loved God back with words that left the angels rejoicing. And I have a thankful heart!

"WITH PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING THEY SANG TO THE LORD: 'HE IS GOOD; HIS LOVE TO ISRAEL ENDURES FOREVER.' AND ALL THE PEOPLE GAVE A GREAT SHOUT OF PRAISE TO THE LORD, BECAUSE THE FOUNDATION OF THE HOUSE OF THE LORD WAS LAID. BUT MANY OF THE OLDER PRIESTS AND LEVITES AND FAMILY HEADS, WHO HAD SEEN THE FORMER TEMPLE, WEPT ALOUD WHEN THEY SAW THE FOUNDATION OF THIS TEMPLE BEING LAID, WHILE MANY OTHERS SHOUTED FOR JOY. NO ONE COULD DISTINGUISH THE SOUND OF THE SHOUTS OF JOY FROM THE SOUND OF WEEPING, BECAUSE THE PEOPLE MADE SO MUCH NOISE. AND THE SOUND WAS HEARD FAR AWAY (EZRA 3:11-13)."

NOTES:

TAKE TIME TO BE THANKFUL

1. Gratitude Transforms our _____~

From the simple to the seemingly impossible prayer requests, God answers prayers. We must return with thankful hearts. Thanksgiving is “an act of giving thanks; an expression of gratitude, especially to God (www.dictionary.com).”

2. All Things Belong to God-

“The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters (Psalm 24:1 -2).”

“Who has a claim against me that I must pay? Everything under _____ belongs to me (Job 41:11).”

3. “Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting c_____ with you, my faithful love promised to David (Isaiah 55:3).”

4. Reward for O _____~ (Leviticus 26:1-13)

“ No one could distinguish the sound of the shouts of joy from the sound of weeping, because the people made so much noise. And the sound was heard far away (Ezra 3:11-13).”

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS :

- 1) What is your effective way of demonstrating a thankful heart?
- 2) Are you satisfied with your heart of gratitude?
- 3) What are your pitfalls to living a thankless life?
- 4) Describe a short sentence or paragraph to someone living in negativity and “how to begin a thankful relationship with Jesus” and those around them? (Evangelism)

S U P P L I C A T I O N

“to ask for humbly, as in prayer” (Webster’s Dictionary)

PSALM 142:1-3

“I cry aloud to the Lord; I lift up my voice to the Lord for mercy. I pour out my complaint before him; before him I tell my trouble. When my spirit grows faint within me, it is you who know my way...” (NIV)

(The New International Version of the Holy Bible)

PSALM 143:1-2

“O Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy; in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief. Do not bring your servant into judgment for no one living is righteous before you.” (NIV)

OTHER REFERENCES:

PSALM 5:1; JAMES 5:13-18

JENNIFER HOPE WEBSTER

CHAT WITH GOD
40 DAYS
PRAYER JOURNAL

SUPPLICATION TAKEN SERIOUSLY

“YOU HEAR, O LORD, THE DESIRE OF THE AFFLICTED; YOU ENCOURAGE THEM, AND YOU LISTEN TO THEIR CRY (PSALM 10:17).”

Supplication needs to be taken seriously. Let us consider the subject of “Supplication” which is: “to ask for humbly or earnestly, as by praying; make a humble entreaty to; beseech (www.dictionary.com).” The book of James declares insightful teachings on the subject of prayer requests. I have included several because all the passages chosen, speak truthful wisdom. Unpack your bags and stay awhile. I believe that God wants to teach us how to pray “BIG” prayers of supplication not only for ourselves but for others!

“BUT WHEN HE ASKS, HE MUST BELIEVE AND NOT DOUBT, BECAUSE HE WHO DOUBTS IS LIKE A WAVE OF THE SEA, BLOWN AND TOSSED BY THE WIND (JAMES 1:6).”

“YOU WANT SOMETHING BUT DON’T GET IT. YOU KILL AND COVET, BUT YOU CANNOT HAVE WHAT YOU WANT. YOU QUARREL AND FIGHT. YOU DO NOT HAVE, BECAUSE YOU DO NOT ASK GOD (JAMES 4:2).”

“WHEN YOU ASK, YOU DO NOT RECEIVE, BECAUSE YOU ASK WITH WRONG MOTIVES, THAT YOU MAY SPEND WHAT YOU GET ON YOUR PLEASURES (JAMES 4:3).”

The above scriptures from the New Testament book of the Bible, James, teach us basic principles on supplication: (1) ask believing; yet, not doubting, (2) dare to ask God, and (3) ask with the proper motives. These teachings seem easy enough... however, we doubt our requests. It has simply occurred to me that we plainly just don't present our requests to God! Let us hold each other accountable to bring all requests, simple to the profound, to our Lord. He hears the prayers of His people.

As we transition into the awesome concept of giving God our hearts, difficulties, and burdens, I wanted to demonstrate an example of one stepping forward “into” a supplication prayer time. Let us prepare to talk with God.

The stack of woes for me and the world have become too heavy to hold. The palms of my hands sweat because I have clung too tight...I have tried hard to fix the problem myself with my genius. I am forced due to exhaustion to release the pile of worries to my Lord. Placing not just one but each piece before our God...asking Him to intervene. I have felt very hopeless. I ask for His perfect will to be done. Knowing that our heavenly Father loves us and in His character, He desires to hear his children speak what is consuming our hearts and minds. At this time, I must trust. For the work of Christ has been completed on the cross for all mankind.

“ON THIS MOUNTAIN HE WILL DESTROY THE SHROUD THAT ENFOLDS ALL PEOPLES, THE SHEET THAT COVERS ALL NATIONS; HE WILL SWALLOW UP DEATH FOREVER. THE SOVEREIGN LORD WILL WIPE AWAY THE TEARS FROM ALL FACES; HE WILL REMOVE THE DISGRACE OF HIS PEOPLE FROM ALL THE EARTH. THE LORD HAS SPOKEN (ISAIAH 25:7-8).”

...”LORD, THERE IS NO ONE LIKE YOU TO HELP THE POWERLESS AGAINST THE MIGHTY. HELP US, O LORD OUR GOD, FOR WE RELY ON YOU, AND IN YOUR NAME WE HAVE COME AGAINST THIS VAST ARMY. O LORD, YOU ARE OUR GOD; DO NOT LET MAN PREVAIL AGAINST YOU (2 CHRONICLES 14:11).”

A PURE PRAYER~

I have written a “Pure Prayer” that I prefer to use as a guideline to teach others to talk to God. I want to emphasize asking “BIG” prayers. For instance, if you are going to pray for a missionary, orphan, homeless, politician, widow or a sick friend, pray for the entire world of missionaries, orphans, homeless, politicians, widows, and sick too! The Lord does not want careless, repetitive prayers. He wants a broken and contrite heart (Psalms 51:17), honest, holding nothing back. Below is written a wonderful prayer that is quite inclusive. If you are wondering, “How do I start a supplication prayer?”...the example below may offer one a beginning start.

May we come into Your Presence O'Lord? We sense Your unconditional love and love others with this same kind of gift (John 3:16). We touch the hem of Your garment and receive a feast from Your table (Psalm 23). May our globe be evangelized in Christ and receive hope for today and eternal salvation (Mark 13:10). Keep evil from us. Come soon for your people. Forgive our unrighteousness. Go forth and make clear your path and will. We pray for wisdom and understanding in a timely manner. May we be filled with the Fruit of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22).

We pray for excellent health and mental stability in Christ. Heal our sick. We pray for financial blessings, living under budget, soundness, blessed savings and investments while offering generous tithes and offerings as never before. May we do Your work. Praise God for our salvation in Jesus Christ, our Lord. We rejoice in our eternal salvation by serving our world in Christ with our gifts and talents as the Bible declares. MAY NO MAN PERISH (2 Peter 3:9) from your love, grace and mercy. May God and man's favor be with us. Extend our boundaries and area of influence. To Jesus only whom we serve, may You be glorified and worshiped eternally. Amen.

A LIFE STORY~

I pray that the above heart felt prayer will only begin to aid you in your spiritual growth. I wanted to share with you a time that I dared to pray a “BIG” prayer of supplication. It was one of those times that everything seemed to go wrong...The year was 1992.

Unexpectedly, my husband lost a fruitful job position and we experienced financial hardship as never before in our young married years now having two children to care for. My dad suffered a heart attack resulting in my parents losing their home. My grandparents were dying several states away with diabetes and breast cancer...and I could not tend to their needs because of the distance several states away with the obligation of my children and lack of finances. The church I was attending split in its leadership and it was quite painful. Our church home was a respite of care and concern. What else can I share with you? My mother-in-law began a slow death of terminal, stomach cancer which lasted 6 months. My best friend moved away who was my companion to whom I shared tea, conversation and tending to our children together. Each of my precious siblings had entered huge crises of their own that I could not save them from. You get the picture; life was exceedingly turbulent. I prefer to forget about the past...This is what I dare to remember. I guess that is why God and prayer took front seat in my life.

In addition to the above emotional distress, my mental mind suffered from another trial of its own. Anxiety and panic clung to me in which I had been admitted to a facility for depression. I was a young parent of 27 years and had never experienced such exhaustion from mental unrest. What was happening to me? I was certain that evil was trying to separate me from God (Romans 8:31-39). Unable to eat or sleep, I saw death creeping near me. I lost my ability to thrive and my weight began to flush away. I found comfort in nothing. I was truly ashamed and confused. I wept unceasingly. I begged God to be merciful...to rescue me from this pit.

I was separated from my infant son, a toddler of 3 years, and husband during the 14 days of hospitalization...Moments away from them felt like eternity. I clung onto the scriptures that my mother had taught me in my childhood. The scriptures I memorized from Bible studies I wrote on paper and pasted them to the wall. I learned this act of placing the scriptures ever before me from Moses as he sent the people into the Promised Land without his leadership (See Deuteronomy). These words of God became my daily bread as I fed from their sentences for motivation...desiring to live.

I now understand that in those days of being institutionalized I was tortured from a demonic realm that is spoken of in Ephesians. “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 6:10-12).” Jesus too was tempted by the devil; however reciting scripture would save him. (Please see the “Temptation of the Son of Man” in Luke 4:1-13.)

Although I left the hospital of mental wellness and counseling, the depression lasted for eight, l-o-n-g months. In addition, I was recovering from a bed-ridden and physically debilitating back injury causing a pain down my right leg called sciatica. This was only the surface of many deep wounds. Just say that my tears had cleaned me out; I was called Job (of the Bible) by several acquaintances. I really wanted “heaven”. I’m considered an optimist by many of my dear friends... to hunger solely for eternity was entirely unique to me.

If the throbbing I faced wasn’t painful enough, I was told by a Christian leader that I must be hiding some great sin. (Yes, we all sin...but I was exceedingly transparent with God.) I suppose Job of the Old Testament felt the same way. “According to Your knowledge I am indeed not guilty, Yet there is no deliverance from Your hand (Job 10:7 NAS).”

Suffering is truly misunderstood. For my own sanity, studying the Bible has clarified the truths of hardship in sincerity, purity, and humility.

“IN FACT, EVERYONE WHO WANTS TO LIVE A GODLY LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS WILL BE PERSECUTED (2 TIMOTHY 3:12).”

“COME NOW, LET US REASON TOGETHER,” SAYS THE LORD. “THOUGH YOUR SINS ARE LIKE SCARLET, THEY SHALL BE AS WHITE AS SNOW; THOUGH THEY ARE RED AS CRIMSON, THEY SHALL BE LIKE WOOL (ISAIAH 1:18).”

“...SHALL WE ACCEPT GOOD FROM GOD, AND NOT TROUBLE? (JOB 2:10).”

“DO NOT BE ANXIOUS ABOUT ANYTHING, BUT IN EVERYTHING, BY PRAYER AND PETITION, WITH THANKSGIVING, PRESENT YOUR REQUESTS TO GOD (PHILIPPIANS 4:6).”

However, in my hours of despair, God met me there! I met God daily because I loved Him and I have a need for Him in my life. I had to connect with God...I was dying inside. The Lord gave me a beautiful scripture that I kept tucked in my memory. “The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged (Deuteronomy 31:8). This is my life verse. I take it wherever I go! These trials are building me into a mature Christian. I depended on Him even when things appeared to get worse.

SATAN DECEIVES A WHOLE WORLD~

Challenges bring forth faith and deepen our dependence on a relationship with a living, loving God. I wouldn't do anyone service if I didn't share that there was and is an enemy that fights against God's plan and purpose for our lives. He trips us up and confuses us. He tries to loosen our grip which holds onto God, prayer and the Holy Bible.

“BE SELF-CONTROLLED AND ALERT. YOUR ENEMY THE DEVIL PROWLs AROUND LIKE A ROARING LION LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO DEVOUR (I PETER 5:8).”

“THE GREAT DRAGON WAS HURLED DOWN THAT ANCIENT SERPENT CALLED THE DEVIL, OR SATAN, WHO LEADS THE WHOLE WORLD ASTRAY. HE WAS HURLED TO THE EARTH, AND HIS ANGELS WITH HIM (REVELATION 12:9).”

Fear not my Christian friend. God has control over everything. Satan even has to seek permission to taunt us (Job 1). I don't want to go into the complexities of this; however, I do want to provide for you a peace offering for all the battles that will teach you to fight and endure. Let us look at the ever famous “Full Armor of God”. Yes, every day we have to suit up...and prepare for battle.

“PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD SO THAT YOU CAN TAKE YOUR STAND AGAINST THE DEVIL’S SCHEMES. FOR OUR STRUGGLE IS NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST THE RULERS, AGAINST THE AUTHORITIES, AGAINST THE POWERS OF THIS DARK WORLD AND AGAINST THE SPIRITUAL FORCES OF EVIL IN THE HEAVENLY REALMS. THEREFORE PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD, SO THAT WHEN THE DAY OF EVIL COMES, YOU MAY BE ABLE TO STAND YOUR GROUND, AND AFTER YOU HAVE DONE EVERYTHING, TO STAND. STAND FIRM THEN, WITH THE BELT OF TRUTH BUCKLED AROUND YOUR WAIST, WITH THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IN PLACE, AND WITH YOUR FEET FITTED WITH THE READINESS THAT COMES FROM THE GOSPEL OF PEACE. IN ADDITION TO ALL THIS, TAKE UP THE SHIELD OF FAITH, WITH WHICH YOU CAN EXTINGUISH ALL THE FLAMING ARROWS OF THE EVIL ONE. TAKE THE HELMET OF SALVATION AND THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD (EPHESIANS 6:11-17).”

We are preparing all the days of our life against the schemes of the devil. One prayer can't cover us our entire life. Reciting a single scripture isn't enough. Isolating ourselves without fellowship in Christ with other believers for support and counsel is simply brutality. “FOR LACK OF GUIDANCE A NATION FALLS, BUT MANY ADVISERS MAKE VICTORY SURE (PROVERBS 11:14). “PLANS FAIL FOR LACK OF COUNSEL, BUT WITH MANY ADVISERS THEY SUCCEED (PROVERBS 15:22).”

Our purpose is about a building a relationship in Christ. Suit up daily! If you can imagine, I cling to the Bible...I'm desperate for Jesus. I beg that God would allow me to warn others around the world of the evil around us; yet, inspire them with the hope and power through prayer and consistent Bible reading on a daily basis. I have a sweet, sincere fear of God.

DARE TO PRAY A “BIG” PRAYER-

I have more to share with you...that will move even the stubborn, non-believer in his seat. Returning to the year 1991, God gave us the blessings of a 2nd son...YES! Austin was his name...designated after the famous car, Aston Martin. (My other son's name is Morgan and my husband's initials are B.M.W. We do love cars!) Breezing forward to the personal trial that I mentioned above in 1992...the trials

kept coming. For my sanity and survival, I by choice put on the full armor of God stated in Ephesians 6:11-17...all day...every day. I had to. I was only twenty-seven years old at the time...though my legs trembled and my heart beat a bit faster, I wasn't going to give up!

“FOR GOD DID NOT GIVE US A SPIRIT OF TIMIDITY, BUT A SPIRIT OF POWER, OF LOVE AND OF SELF-DISCIPLINE (2 TIMOTHY 1:7).” God calls us not to be timid but confident in Him even when all appears to be lost.

In the current adversity, I recalled Biblical history of the Old and New Testament and the stories told of our forefathers. I became a student of the Bible. This gave me faith. These Biblical accounts were not fairy tales...but truths of my brothers and sisters of old.

“YOU SAW THE SUFFERING OF OUR FOREFATHERS IN EGYPT; YOU HEARD THEIR CRY AT THE RED SEA. YOU SENT MIRACULOUS SIGNS AND WONDERS AGAINST PHARAOH, AGAINST ALL HIS OFFICIALS AND ALL THE PEOPLE OF HIS LAND, FOR YOU KNEW HOW ARROGANTLY THE EGYPTIANS TREATED THEM. YOU MADE A NAME FOR YOURSELF, WHICH REMAINS TO THIS DAY (NEHEMIAH 9:9-10).”

“BECAUSE OF YOUR GREAT COMPASSION YOU DID NOT ABANDON THEM IN THE DESERT. BY DAY THE PILLAR OF CLOUD DID NOT CEASE TO GUIDE THEM ON THEIR PATH, NOR THE PILLAR OF FIRE BY NIGHT TO SHINE ON THE WAY THEY WERE TO TAKE. YOU GAVE YOUR GOOD SPIRIT TO INSTRUCT THEM. YOU DID NOT WITHHOLD YOUR MANNA FROM THEIR MOUTHS, AND YOU GAVE THEM WATER FOR THEIR THIRST. FOR FORTY YEARS YOU SUSTAINED THEM IN THE DESERT; THEY LACKED NOTHING, THEIR CLOTHES DID NOT WEAR OUT NOR DID THEIR FEET BECOME SWOLLEN (NEHEMIAH 9:19-21).”

In February 1992, I confess to the world that my son, three months old, was blind due to glaucoma...unable to be reversed by surgeries administered by doctors. White covered his eyes. The eye pressures reached their highest at fifty (normal range 9-15), damaging the nerves and eyes permanently. Blindness was the result.

I had one of two options to make at this time of being informed, depend on my weak and hopeless flesh or hold the right hand of a mighty God.

While sitting in the hospital waiting room, my family was informed by the finest Glaucoma Specialist in the Nation along with the top ophthalmologist within our health system of this heavy burden. My family, husband, and I mourned the loss of sight for our child. These surgeons instructed us that there were fine support systems and blind institutes. They assured us Austin would adapt and so would his family. I don't remember much more. My throat got choked up. I shed the only tear I had left. I'm sure there were prayers, support, and lots of hugs...The people around me left... My mind went limp.

That evening I joined Austin in the hospital room. Even in my utter despair, I was certain that God was in this. I comforted myself, "My Lord would not leave me alone." There was a purpose. I was confident of the unknown. Where did this peace come from? The Holy Spirit! "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-25)."

A LAST PLEA TO GOD~

I don't remember going to sleep that night at the hospital. I just remember tucking our three month old baby that slept so peacefully in the metal, hospital crib. (I so desperately wanted to crawl over the metal bars that separated us.) This was my child. I was his only advocate...I fought for Austin with a last plea to God begging Him to help us fight against the enemy and heal my son.

A thought came across my mind. I remembered Jesus walking the earth, healing the sick, lame and the blind (Mark 8:22-26). Our Lord said that He leaves for us these same tools through the Holy Spirit. (See Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and the book of Acts on the Life of Jesus and more.) If the Word of God is true (and it is! See: John 1:1) and I believed in the power coming from an Almighty source, I would have to say a prayer...for a little guy, Austin, who couldn't speak for himself.

I murmured a simple prayer, "Lord, if this child will invest his life to unhealthy, unfruitful entertainments such as pornography or sin that will affect negatively the kingdom of God, take his sight. But if the child is to merely be blind for no cause, I ask that he would be anointed and healed." I formed the symbol of the cross on Austin's forehead and kissed him tenderly on the cheek.

"...THEY WILL LAY HANDS ON THE SICK, AND THEY WILL RECOVER (MARK 16:18)."

The morning came so quickly...I felt so rested in the midst of the trauma of life. The doctor entered the room swiftly making his rounds visiting the patients under his care. I slept all night on a nearby chair which expanded into a bed...Responding to the specialists call, I leapt to the side of the crib. The doctor and I found ourselves peering over the bed rails fixing our eyes intently onto the child who slept so peacefully. It was a tranquil moment...like my Lord's presence hovering all around us.

The ophthalmologist whispered delicately, "*Austin, wake up.*"

Austin's little body stretched with ease waking up from a good night's sleep. With the power and might that only a living, loving God could, our Lord brought sight to this child. Austin glanced deliberately and slowly throughout the room...turning his head towards mine. He gazed into my eyes and smiled. To my amazement, my son's beautiful hazel eyes glistened. The white haze, which formed over his eyes, was gone.

The pain from the exposure to light left him! His helpless body with I.V. attachments faded out of sight against his porcelain skin. I had seen the miracle of God upon our fleshly existence.

Austin's sight began a restoration process. I shall treasure that moment forever. No earthly terms could have expressed my exhilaration. Jesus is alive! This one act of supplication has begun to change my thoughts on prayer: (1) ask believing; yet, not doubting, (2) dare to ask God, and (3) ask with the proper motives. This was to form a paradigm shift of my prayer life. I was moved to a Biblical truth.

“...YOUR FAITH HAS HEALED YOU. GO IN PEACE AND BE FREED FROM YOUR SUFFERING (MARK 5:34).”

Profoundly, God continues as I pray to heal my son’s vision year by year. Austin was fitted with hard contact lenses in May of 2005. For the first time, he was able to see 20/20. With new health insurances, brings up the questions and evaluations. The ophthalmologists see no damage with their 21st century equipment even with the nerves. It’s as though nothing ever happened. I remain shocked at God’s generosity. We deserve nothing!

We can’t leave the story here. God has kept me challenged on this subject of supplication. Recently, our family was changing health insurance. The medical doctor reviewing Austin’s case was concerned about the fairly, large medical portfolio outlining infantile glaucoma, hip dysplasia (involving body casting from pelvis to the ankle for a year), pneumonia, to a hole in Austin’s heart. Documentation to x-rays involved pediatricians, orthopedics, cardiologists, and ophthalmologists from a half dozen hospitals from San Diego, Riverside, Orange County to Los Angeles. What was this medical doctor getting himself into? He questioned to himself this “God healing” story.

With joy, I told this specialist that the current medical file was obsolete...zero...trash. My teenage son was healed. This medical examiner appeared to look through me. In silence, he starred at me. I was afraid he was going to cancel our medical insurance. Creatively, this wise gentleman designed a plan that would allow an expensive process to be approved. He said that Austin had a syndrome that he had read in a recent medical journal; something that involved the symptoms of the hips, heart, and eyes.

Next, the doctor required a complete body scan which would highlight any defect in one’s body. I too was curious of this outcome. The first 10 years of my son’s life kept me studying medical journals and asking infinite questions. This body exam would solidify all doubt. This technique skimmed across Austin’s youthful frame from head to his toe... able to catch pictures in multi-dimensional slices (in layman terms). Images would highlight dysfunctions and defects compared to a

medically, perfect, and healthy body. The examination came back spotless...clean... anointed by the purity of Jesus. Undeserved, my emotions were relieved. This stress is finally over! Whether it was scheduled in or not, this medical doctor took two weeks leave from his position. Was he questioning the power of a mighty God?

PLANS TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE~

While studying the Bible with discipline, I have come across interesting scriptures. As I began my faith walk reading the Old Testament to the New Testament, I discovered treasured scriptures I had never heard. It was if God had handed me a tiny box wrapped, intended only for me

Exodus 4:11 amplifies, "THE LORD SAID TO HIM, 'WHO GAVE MAN HIS MOUTH? WHO MAKES HIM DEAF OR MUTE? WHO GIVES HIM SIGHT OR MAKES HIM BLIND? IS IT NOT I, THE LORD?'"

I love this personal story...and the hope of it I pass to others...to encourage those in need of hope and inspiration. "But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds (Psalm 73:28)." Please, friends, dare to pray "BIG" prayers. Supplication prayers don't always get answered the way we want but they do get answered. God sees the bigger picture. His ways are not our ways.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11)."

We enter into this world with nothing...We will exit the same way... "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised (Job 1:21)."

Is there a "Big Prayer" needing to be asked of God? (1) Ask believing; yet, not doubting, (2) dare to ask God, and (3) ask with the proper motives. It's called a

paradigm shift of prayer. Not all prayers will be answered as we think limiting God. Spend time with Him and pray His will be done.

“HEAR MY PRAYER, O LORD; LET MY CRY FOR HELP COME TO YOU. DO NOT HIDE YOUR FACE FROM ME WHEN I AM IN DISTRESS. TURN YOUR EAR TO ME; WHEN I CALL, ANSWER ME QUICKLY (PSALM 102:1-2).”

SUPPLICATION TAKEN SERIOUSLY

You hear, O LORD, the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry (Psalm 10:17).”

1. Supplication needs to be taken seriously. Let us consider the subject of “Supplication” which is: “to ask for humbly or earnestly, as by praying; make a humble entreaty..

2. “But when he _____, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind (James 1:6).”

3. “You want something but don’t get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not _____ God (James 4:2).”

“When you ask, you do not receive, because you _____ with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures (James 4:3).”

4. A Pure Prayer-

I have written a “Pure Prayer” that I prefer to use as a guideline to teach others to talk to God. I want to emphasize asking “BIG” prayers. For instance, if you are going to pray for a missionary, orphan, homeless, politician, widow or a sick friend, pray for _____ of missionaries, orphans, homeless, politicians, widows, and sick too! The Lord does not want careless, repetitive prayers. He wants a broken and contrite heart (Psalms 51:17), honest, holding nothing back.

5. _____ Deceives a Whole World-

6. “Put on the full _____ so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (Ephesians 6:11-17).”

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS :

- 1) What are your effective ways of praying for yourself and others?
- 2) Are you satisfied with your “supplication” prayer life? Why or why not?
- 3) What are your pitfalls to praying over your needs and that of others?
- 4) If you could describe a short sentence or paragraph to someone who does not know how to intervene and pray on behalf of another, how would you briefly explain “Supplication”? (Evangelism)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

JESUS SAID:

IN THIS MANNER, THEREFORE PRAY:

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME.
YOUR KINGDOM COME YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH
AS IT IS IN HEAVEN. GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD
AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS.
LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM
THE EVIL ONE. FOR YOURS IS THE KINGDOM AND THE
POWER AND THE GLORY FOREVER.



JOURNAL PAGES



DATE: _____

CIRCLE DAY OF THE WEEK: MON TUES WED THUR FRI SAT SUN

ADORATION I love you Jesus. I praise you for being...

CONFESSION I'm sorry Lord. Forgive me for...

THANKSGIVING I am grateful to you Father. Thank you for...

SUPPLICATION Jesus, you provide all my needs. I ask in prayer...



“...OBEY EVERYTHING I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. AND SURELY I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE VERY END OF THE AGE...(MATTHEW 28:20).”

DAY 1

EXTRA STUFF TO TALK TO GOD ABOUT...SELF REFLECTION...WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

LORD, YOUR WILL BE DONE. AMEN

ACCOUNTABILITY: WHAT BOOK AND CHAPTER(S) OF THE BIBLE DID YOU READ TODAY?

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“IN MY FATHER’S HOUSE ARE MANY ROOMS; IF IT WERE NOT SO, I WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU. I AM GOING THERE TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU... (JOHN 14:2).”

DAY2

EXTRA STUFF TO TALK TO GOD ABOUT...SELF REFLECTION...WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

LORD, YOUR WILL BE DONE. AMEN

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SUPPLICATION Jesus, you provide all my needs. I ask in prayer...



“BUT SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND ALL THESE THINGS WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU AS WELL...(MATTHEW 6:33).”

DAY 6

EXTRA STUFF TO TALK TO GOD ABOUT...SELF REFLECTION...WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

LORD, YOUR WILL BE DONE. AMEN

ACCOUNTABILITY: WHAT BOOK AND CHAPTER(S) OF THE BIBLE DID YOU READ TODAY?

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CONFESSION I'm sorry Lord. Forgive me for...

THANKSGIVING I am grateful to you Father. Thank you for...

SUPPLICATION Jesus, you provide all my needs. I ask in prayer...



"YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.
A CITY ON A HILL CANNOT BE HIDDEN...(MATTHEW 5:14)."

DAY 7

EXTRA STUFF TO TALK TO GOD ABOUT...SELF REFLECTION...WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

LORD, YOUR WILL BE DONE. AMEN

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SUPPLICATION Jesus, you provide all my needs. I ask in prayer...



“THEREFORE, IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST, HE IS A NEW CREATION;
THE OLD HAS GONE, THE NEW HAS COME ... (2 CORINTHIANS 5:17)!”

DAY9

EXTRA STUFF TO TALK TO GOD ABOUT...SELF REFLECTION...WHAT IS GOD
SAYING TO YOU?

LORD, YOUR WILL BE DONE. AMEN

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SUPPLICATION Jesus, you provide all my needs. I ask in prayer...



“MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE AS YOU
TRUST IN HIM, SO THAT YOU MAY OVERFLOW WITH HOPE BY
THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (ROMANS 15:13).”

DAY10

EXTRA STUFF TO TALK TO GOD ABOUT...SELF REFLECTION...WHAT IS GOD
SAYING TO YOU?

LORD, YOUR WILL BE DONE. AMEN

ACCOUNTABILITY: WHAT BOOK AND CHAPTER(S) OF THE BIBLE DID YOU READ TODAY?



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THANKSGIVING I am grateful to you Father. Thank you for...

SUPPLICATION Jesus, you provide all my needs. I ask in prayer...



"COME TO ME, ALL YOU WHO ARE WEARY AND BURDENED,
AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST... (MATTHEW 11:28)."

DAY II

EXTRA STUFF TO TALK TO GOD ABOUT...SELF REFLECTION...WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

LORD, YOUR WILL BE DONE. AMEN

ACCOUNTABILITY: WHAT BOOK AND CHAPTER(S) OF THE BIBLE DID YOU READ TODAY?

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SUPPLICATION Jesus, you provide all my needs. I ask in prayer...



“I HAVE TOLD YOU THESE THINGS, SO THAT IN ME YOU MAY HAVE PEACE.

IN THIS WORLD YOU WILL HAVE TROUBLE. BUT TAKE HEART!

I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD (JOHN 16:33).”

DAY12

EXTRA STUFF TO TALK TO GOD ABOUT...SELF REFLECTION...WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

LORD, YOUR WILL BE DONE. AMEN

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SUPPLICATION Jesus, you provide all my needs. I ask in prayer...



“THEREFORE CONFESS YOUR SINS TO EACH OTHER AND PRAY FOR EACH OTHER SO THAT YOU MAY BE HEALED. THE PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN IS POWERFUL AND EFFECTIVE ... (JAMES 5:16).”

DAY 13

EXTRA STUFF TO TALK TO GOD ABOUT...SELF REFLECTION...WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

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“WHOEVER SERVES ME MUST FOLLOW ME; AND WHERE I AM, MY SERVANT ALSO WILL BE. MY FATHER WILL HONOR THE ONE WHO SERVES ME...(JOHN 12:26).”

DAY 17

EXTRA STUFF TO TALK TO GOD ABOUT...SELF REFLECTION...WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

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“GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, CALL ON HIS NAME; MAKE KNOWN AMONG THE NATIONS WHAT HE HAS DONE. SING TO HIM, SING PRAISE TO HIM; TELL OF ALL HIS WONDERFUL ACTS. (PSALM 105:1-2).”

DAY 22

EXTRA STUFF TO TALK TO GOD ABOUT...SELF REFLECTION...WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

LORD, YOUR WILL BE DONE. AMEN

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SUPPLICATION Jesus, you provide all my needs. I ask in prayer...



“BUT HE WAS PIERCED FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS, HE WAS CRUSHED FOR OUR INIQUITIES; THE PUNISHMENT THAT BROUGHT US PEACE WAS UPON HIM, AND BY HIS WOUNDS WE ARE HEALED (ISAIAH 53:5).”

DAY 24

EXTRA STUFF TO TALK TO GOD ABOUT...SELF REFLECTION...WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

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“BUT YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES ON YOU; AND YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES IN JERUSALEM, AND IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH ... (ACTS 1:8).”

DAY 26

EXTRA STUFF TO TALK TO GOD ABOUT...SELF REFLECTION...WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

LORD, YOUR WILL BE DONE. AMEN

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“PRAISE THE LORD. BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO FEARS THE LORD,
WHO FINDS GREAT DELIGHT IN HIS COMMANDS ... (PSALMS 112:1).”

DAY 30

EXTRA STUFF TO TALK TO GOD ABOUT...SELF REFLECTION...WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

LORD, YOUR WILL BE DONE. AMEN

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“REPENT, THEN, AND TURN TO GOD, SO THAT YOUR SINS MAY BE WIPED OUT,
THAT TIMES OF REFRESHING MAY COME FROM THE LORD (ACTS 3:19).”

DAY 31

EXTRA STUFF TO TALK TO GOD ABOUT...SELF REFLECTION...WHAT IS GOD
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LORD, YOUR WILL BE DONE. AMEN

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“ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING AND HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE; GIVE THANKS TO HIM AND PRAISE HIS NAME ... (PSALMS 100:4).”

DAY 32

EXTRA STUFF TO TALK TO GOD ABOUT...SELF REFLECTION...WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

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“NOW THERE IS IN STORE FOR ME THE CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, WHICH THE LORD, THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE, WILL AWARD TO ME ON THAT DAY—AND NOT ONLY TO ME, BUT ALSO TO ALL WHO HAVE LONGED FOR HIS APPEARING (2 TIMOTHY 4:8).”

DAY 33

EXTRA STUFF TO TALK TO GOD ABOUT...SELF REFLECTION...WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

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“THE LORD HIMSELF GOES BEFORE YOU AND WILL BE WITH YOU; HE WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU. DO NOT BE AFRAID; DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED (DEUTERONOMY 31:8).”

DAY 38

EXTRA STUFF TO TALK TO GOD ABOUT...SELF REFLECTION...WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

LORD, YOUR WILL BE DONE. AMEN

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“HOW PRECIOUS TO ME ARE YOUR THOUGHTS, O GOD!
HOW VAST IS THE SUM OF THEM (PSALMS 139:17)!”

DAY₄₀

EXTRA STUFF TO TALK TO GOD ABOUT...SELF REFLECTION...WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

Multiple horizontal lines for writing reflections.

LORD, YOUR WILL BE DONE. AMEN

ACCOUNTABILITY: WHAT BOOK AND CHAPTER(S) OF THE BIBLE DID YOU READ TODAY?

A single horizontal line for writing the Bible reference.

SIGNATURE



ANSWERED PRAYERS



ANSWERED PRAYERS

THANK YOU FOR...

DATE:

THANK YOU FOR...

DATE:

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EXTRA STUFF TO TALK TO GOD ABOUT:

~DEDICATION~

As I close this project with much heart and passion, I dedicate this beloved, instrumental journey to my dearest family, devoted friends, hardworking “Chat with God” partners, contributors, and to you – my faithful readers.

WHAT PART AM I?

By Grace Ann Fogarty...
aka my “mama” (1943-2007)

“I am His arms and hands as I stretch forth to help mankind.
I am His eyes as I see the needs and hurts in my neighbors.
I am his mouth when I speak forth the scriptures.
I am His feet as I walk that extra mile and travel to distant places to spread His word.
I am His heart when I say, “Lord, Here am I. Use Me.”

“People get ready. Jesus is coming. Soon we’ll be going home.”

-Crystal Lewis, Christian Music Artist

<http://www.chatwithGod.org>

ANSWER KEY

Introduction:

- 1) secret 2) life 3) Adoration 4) Confession
- 5) Thanksgiving 6) Supplication
- 7) faith 8) proven character

Adoration: Acknowledge Him in Adoration

- 1) worship 2) provider 3) slaughtered 4) guide
- 5) Himself 6) Exalting God 7) Himself
- 8) Lord 9) face to the ground

Confession: Confession is Crucial

- 1) offense 2) Bent 3) Destroy 4) Humble
- 5) Obedience 6) Ungodliness 7) law, grace

Thanksgiving: Take Time to Be Thankful

- 1) attitude 2) heaven 3) covenant
- 4) obedience

Supplication: Supplication Taken Seriously

- 1) Supplication needs to be taken seriously
- 2) ask 3) ask, ask 4) the entire world
- 5) Satan 6) armor of God