

ROOTS

Glory!

I pray You, show me Your

Exod. 33:18

Roots

Prayers & Creeds

Patrick J. Griffiths

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◆ For Christ and His Church.

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The Call to Pray for Others

Job 1:1-5

¹ There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil. ² Seven sons and three daughters were born to him. ³ His possessions also were 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 female donkeys, and very many servants; and that man was the greatest of all the men of the east. ⁴ His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵ **When the days of feasting had completed their cycle, Job would send and consecrate them, rising up early in the morning and offering burnt offerings according to the number of them all; for Job said, "Perhaps my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually.**

1 Samuel 12:23

Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should **sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you**; but I will instruct you in the good and right way.

Acts 12:5

So Peter was kept in the prison, but **prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God.**

1 Thessalonians 1:2, 3

² We give thanks to God always for all of you, **making mention of you in our prayers**; ³ constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Pray without ceasing;

2 Thessalonians 1:11

To this end also **we pray for you always**, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power,

2 Timothy 1:3

I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as **I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day**,

Philemon 4

I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers,

Prologue: An Opening Word

I have been a Christian for several decades, and along the way I desired to have what many call personal devotions. The act of becoming a Christian is by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. In this simple act, I became a follower of Jesus Christ. As a follower (i.e. disciple) of Jesus Christ I have sought to develop and encourage my relationship (i.e. walk) with Him. The idea of having one's personal devotions is to acknowledge that the relationship I have with God is a priority in my life and to cultivate that relationship through personal devotions.

In my quest to promote this relationship, I have also recognized the need for assistance. I wanted to use the best tools/resources to accomplish my targeted goal. What have others found useful? I believe the answer is multi-faceted, but I also believe there are rudimentary elements consistent with all those who seek the face of God.

The disciples of our Lord asked Him to teach them how to pray (Luke 11:1).

⁹“Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us this day our daily bread. ¹²And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen” (Matt. 6:9-13).

The early church listened to this instruction. They are noted as a people of prayer and when gathered, a place of prayer.

“These all with one mind were **continually devoting themselves to prayer**, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers” (Acts 1:14).

“**They were continually devoting themselves to** the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to **prayer**” (Acts 2:42).

“**But we will devote ourselves to prayer** and to the ministry of the word” (Acts 6:4).

“So Peter was kept in the prison, **but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God**” (Acts 12:5).

“And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, **where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer**; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled” (Acts 16:13; see also Acts 16:16).

“rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, **devoted to prayer**” (Rom. 12:12).

“**With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit**, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints” (Eph. 6:18).

“**always offering prayer** with joy in my every prayer for you all” (Phil. 1:4).

“Be anxious for nothing, but **in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving** let your requests be made known to God” (Phil. 4:6).

“**Devote yourselves to prayer**, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving” (Col. 4:2).

“The end of all things is near; therefore, **be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer**” (1 Pet. 4:7).

At the core of this relationship are certain elements such as communication (i.e. prayer) and understanding (i.e. Bible study). Both need assistance and encouragement. The focus of this resource is to assist the Christian in those two areas.

First, as it relates to prayer, there are several provided from the New Testament. Seeing what others prayed gives guidance to the one who prays. Never make prayer anything other than communication. Living in the context of *Story* awareness is to pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17). **Second**, the creeds and confessions¹ provide a foundation as to what we believe about who God is, what He has done, and who His people now are. Of God, the saying rings true, “To know Him is to love Him.” This knowledge enables us to pray with understanding.

In Ephesians 3, Paul prays a lofty prayer. Because he knows who God is, he concludes with, “Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us” (v. 20).² **His affirmation recognizes that God’s resources far exceed his requests.**

One last thing; when you pray, pray with your mind and then your emotion. Before I leave off let me explain what might look like “fleshed” out in Matthew 6:9ff.

¹ **Creed** is Latin for “I believe.” The creeds of the Bible are those truths believed by the people of God. Along with them we **confess** our belief in these truths.

² “Superabundantly, quite beyond all measure, greatly exceeding all boundaries. The form is used as the highest form of comparison imaginable (BAGD).” (Rogers and Rogers, *The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament*, 440).

⁹“Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us this day our daily bread. ¹²And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen” (Matt. 6:9-13).

Most people are aware of **The Lord’s Prayer**. Few, however, will “pray” the prayer with understanding. This prayer provides for us two important pieces of information.

First, we should view this prayer as a confession of faith. This prayer tells us what the early church believed about God and their reliance on and relationship with Him. **Second**, we should view this prayer as providing us with distinct petitions we can also bring before the Father. For example,

1. “Our Father who is in heaven”

The God to whom we pray is a paternal God. He cares for us, thus we call him “Abba.” He is also pastoral (Ps. 23:1ff). Cf. Heb. 4:14-16; Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6

¹⁴ Therefore, since **we have a great high priest** who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Heb. 4:14-16)

¹⁵ For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but **you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “ Abba! Father!”** (Rom. 8:15)

⁶ **Because you are sons**, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “ **Abba! Father!**” (Gal. 4:6)

2. *“Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done”*

The God to whom we pray is a preeminent God. He has first place in our choices. It is always about His name, His kingdom, and His will and not my name, my kingdom, and my will. Cf. Luke 22:39-46

³⁹ And He came out and proceeded as was His custom to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples also followed Him. ⁴⁰ When He arrived at the place, He said to them, “ Pray that you may not enter into temptation.” ⁴¹ And He withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and He knelt down and began to pray, ⁴² saying, “**Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done.**” ⁴³ Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him. ⁴⁴ And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground. ⁴⁵ When He rose from prayer, He came to the disciples and found them sleeping from sorrow, ⁴⁶ and said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not enter into temptation.” (Luke 22:39-46)

3. *“On earth as it is in heaven.”*

The God to whom we pray is a promising God. He will exercise His rule on earth just as He does in the heavens. Cf. 1 Thess. 5:23, 24

²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ **Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.** (1 Thess. 5:23, 24)

4. *“Give us this day our daily bread.”*

The God to whom we pray is a providing God. He meets our daily needs. Cf. Phil 4:19; Ps. 23:1; Matt. 6:25-34

¹⁹ And **my God will supply all your needs** according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

The LORD is my shepherd, **I shall not want.** (Ps. 23:1)

²⁵ “For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? ²⁷ And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? ²⁸ And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, ²⁹ yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, **will He not much more clothe you?** You of little faith! ³¹ Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ ³² For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; **for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.** ³³ **But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.** ³⁴ “So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. (Matt. 6:25-34)

5. *“And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”*

The God to whom we pray is a pardoning God. He forgives us, thus we can forgive others. Cf. Eph. 1:7; 4:32; Col. 1:14; 2:13, 14

⁷ **In Him we have redemption** through His blood, **the forgiveness of our trespasses**, according to the riches of His grace (Eph. 1:7)

³² Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, **forgiving each other**, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. (Eph. 4:32)

¹⁴ in whom **we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins**. (Col. 1:14)

¹³ When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, **having forgiven us all our transgressions**, ¹⁴ having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. (Col. 2:13, 14)

6. *“And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”*

The God to whom we pray is a protecting God. God orders our lives in such a way as to bring Him glory and is for our good. (Cf. Gen. 50:20; Job 1:21; Luke 22:40; 1 Cor. 10:13)

²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, **but God meant it for good** in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. (Gen. 50:20)

²⁰ Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped. ²¹ He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked I shall return there. **The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away**. Blessed be the name of the LORD." ²² Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God. (Job 1:20-22)

⁴⁰ When He arrived at the place, He said to them, "**Pray that you may not enter into temptation**." (Luke 22:40)

¹³ No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, **who will not allow you to be tempted**

beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it. (1 Cor. 10:13)

7. *“For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”*

The God to whom we pray is a powerful God. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords before whom all things created will bow. Cf. Phil. 2:9-11

⁹ For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ **so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,** ¹¹ **and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,** to the glory of God the Father. (Phil. 2-11)

The God to whom we pray is not only transcendent (i.e. above us, vv. 9, 10), but He is imminent (i.e. with us, vv. 11-13).

When we reflect on the Lord’s Prayer we find a rich resource that can guide our own time with God. Each of these ideas is worthy of our asking and affirmation.

It is equally important to remember how our simple acts are to be expressions of our worship of God. I’ve included a short read on biblical worship. Never lose sight of this singular idea, “God designed you for worship and your greatest joy in time and eternity will be found in the worship of God alone and only (Matt. 4:10).”

So, I wish to encourage you in your pursuit of God. This little booklet is a small resource to enable that journey. It is not a resource to be read then set aside. It is a companion in a journey that is to last a lifetime only to be set aside when faith gives way to sight. There are light comments throughout.

The intent, however, is to let the Holy Spirit speak through the text of Scripture and do His work in His people. May you feel the washing work of the Spirit bathe your body, soul, and spirit as you are plunged into its cleansing power (John 17:17). May you find your time *with Him* so empowering as to pull you closer and closer *to Him* until the day you *see Him* face-to-face (1 John 3:1-3).

'Tis Thee I Long for Only³

Broken now, O Bread of Life,
Poured out Precious Cup
Your manna now returns to you
And lifts the chalice up.
And lifts the chalice up.

With every morsel I should eat
Each sip I take to me
Every joy I call out for
'Tis longing Lord for Thee.
'Tis longing Lord for Thee.

The thoughts of happy springtime
The summer sun and strong
The autumn glow and winter snow
'Tis just for Thee I long.
'Tis just for Thee I long.

When all my lesser loves abound
And whisper, "Thou art lonely",
The ache restores my senses, Lord,
'Tis Thee I long for only.
'Tis Thee I long for only.

³ **From:** "Kermit Kapp" kermitjkapp@hotmail.com, **Sent:** Wednesday, February 05, 2014 6:03 PM, **To:** "Pat Griffiths" <pastorpat@waukeshabile.org>

Why We Worship God

Read Revelation 4; 5 (pp. 67-69)

Worship is only fitting and proper for God. Corporate worship is the gathering of His people for the express purpose of affirming His right to rule over them.

Individual worshippers make corporate worship possible.

“Worship is an active response to the character, words and actions of God, initiated by His revelation and enabled by His redemption, whereby the mind is transformed (e.g. belief, repentance), the heart is renewed (e.g. love, trust), and actions are surrendered (e.g. obedience, service), all in accordance with His will and in order to declare His infinite worthiness.”

<http://www.theopedia.com/Worship>

We often associate worship with a feeling or emotion or response. I would like to qualify the nature of worship by quickly noting a simple idea. **First**, worship must start in our intellect by thinking correctly about who God is, what He has done and who we are in Christ. This right thinking is formed almost exclusively through special revelation. This inspired record is found exclusively in the Bible. **Second**, from an informed intellect and wise choices there is an emotional response of passion for God during our worship. Although emotion is not to drive the ship, it is a part of who we are and does find expression in our worship of God.

The Bible tells us we were made for worship. Worship is not just something we do when we corporately gather, but should

be directly related to every aspect of our lives, whether it is through school, work, at home or in distant lands.

Worship is not about us; it is always about God as Trinity. When God is the centerpiece of a Christ-Exalting worship service we are the beneficiaries. When we consider what worship is it helps us in our own act of worship.

What is Worship?

- In worship, we . . .
 - Recognize God as the Creator of all things from whom, through whom and for whom they exist (Cf. Rom. 11:36; Col. 1:16).
 - Recognize God as having the intrinsic right to do what He desires with all that is His and when He acts, it is right (Cf. Ps. 135; Isa. 40; Dan. 4:35).

- In worship, we . . .
 - Recognize His right over all **we** possess since from Him, through Him and for Him **we** have received it.
 - Recognize His right to receive all of **our** affection and energy both now and forevermore, Amen (Cf. Rev. 4; 5).

Remembering what worship is enables us to answer the question as to why we worship God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Why Worship?

1. We worship because God is at the center of everything outside Himself.
2. We worship because He created everything in order to display the richness of His person and work.

3. We worship because He created everything in order to be worshipped through their joy in Him.

God created us so that we might know and experience the joy He has within Himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Because of our rebellion against Him, this joy is only knowable and experienced in the plan of God through the provision of His Son and by the power of the Holy Spirit. The joy we have in “shadow” can never do for us what can only be done by Him. When we find our joy in Him, we are worshipping Him. Thus, there is joy through worship.

When we worship God we tell the *Story* of Scripture.

Biblical Worship tells the *Story*

1. There is only one God eternally existing in three undivided persons.
2. This God created all things outside Himself for His glory and their joy.
3. The created rejected God and rebelled against His *Story* of condescending mercy and grace.
4. God only and alone secured the means whereby those who rejected Him would have their sins cancelled, be adopted as His sons and daughters and their joy would be full.
5. All this was done for His glory and their joy. Worship tells this *Story*.

Thus, as you journey with God through the prayer and creed booklet use this as an opportunity to worship Him. Affirm the simple truths about who God is and who you are in light of this. May your mind be opened and may your heart overflow with joy and affection for Him.

The *Story* in Six Acts

1. **God** - "In the Beginning **God**" (Gen. 1:1)
2. **Creation** - "In the Beginning God **created**" (Gen. 1:1; Col. 1:15-17; 1 Cor. 8:6)
3. **Rejection** - "You shall not eat . . . She took and ate and He ate" (Gen. 2:15-17; 3:6)
4. **Redemption** - "The LORD God made garments of skin and clothed them" (Gen. 3:15-21)
5. **Re-Creation** - "You Must Be Born Again" (John 3:1-21; 2 Cor. 5:17; Rev. 21:1)
6. **Joy through Worship** - "Stop weeping, the Lion . . . has overcome" (Rev. 4; 5)

The biblical *Story* in which all of life exists begins with God.

The Names of God

Praying the Names of God

"Let them **praise the name of the LORD: for His name alone is exalted**; His glory is above earth and heaven." Psalm 148:13

In the great journey of the Seed Promise it is marked by those who call on the name of the LORD. Genesis 4:25 marks the first occurrence of the phrase "the name of the LORD."

²⁵ Adam had relations with his wife again; and she gave birth to a son, and named him Seth, for, she said, "God has appointed me another offspring in place of Abel, for Cain killed him. ²⁶ To Seth, to him also a son was born; and he called his name Enosh. **Then men began to call upon the name of the LORD.** (Gen. 4:25, 26)

It is the name of God in Christ Jesus that all of history hinges on. Consider the following thought.

¹¹ He is the **STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED** by you, **THE BUILDERS**, but **WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER** stone. ¹² **and there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.** (Acts 4:11, 12)

⁹ For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and **bestowed on Him the name which is above every name**, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus **EVERY KNEE WILL BOW**, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil. 2:9-11)

⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For **there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus**, ⁶ who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time. (1 Tim. 2:4-6)

⁴ having become as much better than the angels, as **He has inherited a more excellent name than they.** ⁵For to which of the angels did He ever say, "**YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU**"? And again, "**I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME**"? (Heb. 1:4, 5)

Let us bow before such a name. In the Old Testament times, a name was **not only identification, but an identity.** Many times a special meaning was attached to the name. Names had, among other purposes, an explanatory purpose (e.g., Nabal, whose name means "fool," is the target of Abigail's explanation to David: "For as his name is, so is he; Nabal is his name, and folly is with him:" - 1 Sam. 25:25). Throughout Scripture God reveals Himself to us through His names. The meanings behind God's names reveal the central personality and nature of the One who bears them.

What follows are various names assigned to God and declared by God. They reveal for us who God is and what He does. Use the names as reminders of His immeasurable nature and your relationship to Him.

ElohimGenesis 1:1; Psalm 19:1

The word *Elohim* is the plural of *El*. It is the first name for God given in the Old Testament (Gen. 1:1). The name *Elohim* is unique to Hebraic thinking: it occurs only in Hebrew and in no other ancient Semitic language.

In the beginning **God created** the heavens and the earth. (Gen. 1:1)

The heavens are telling of **the glory of God**; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. (Ps. 19:1)

AdonaiDeut. 10:17; Psalm 8:1

Adonai is the plural of *Adon*, meaning “Lord, master, or owner.” Psalm 8:1 mentions God as “YHVH our Lord.”

For the LORD your God is the God of gods and **the Lord of lords**, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe. (Deut. 10:17)

O LORD, **our Lord**, How majestic is Your name in all the earth, Who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens! (Ps. 8:1)

The Masoretes (Jewish scribes) ensured that the sacred Name of the LORD YHVH would not be taken in vain by putting the vowel marks for *Adonai* under the letters יהוה in the running text.

YHVH (Jehovah/LORD) Exod. 3:14

God said to Moses, ‘**I AM WHO I AM**’; and He said, ‘Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, **I AM** has sent me to you.’ (Exod. 3:14)

In the Old Testament, YHVH is the personal name of God and his most frequent designation, occurring over 6,800 times.

YHVH (Jehovah/LORD) Compounds

The reader is encouraged to read the context in which the title/name is used in order to understand the significance of the name to the situation in which it is used.

The LORD God *Jehovah/LORD Elohim*

Our covenant keeping God is personable and the creator of all things.

This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the **LORD God** made earth and heaven. (Gen. 2:4)

The LORD Most High..... *Jehovah/LORD Elyon*

Our covenant keeping God is far above all He creates yet near to all He creates. He is the **LORD most High**.

I will give thanks to the LORD according to His righteousness And will sing praise to the name of **the LORD Most High**. (Ps. 7:17)

For **the LORD Most High** is to be feared, a great King over all the earth. (Ps. 47:2)

For You are **the LORD Most High** over all the earth; You are exalted far above all gods. (Ps. 97:9)

The LORD who Provides*Jehovah/LORD Yir'eh*

Our covenant keeping God is the source of all we possess. Everything in our lives is from Him, sustained by Him, and for Him.

¹³Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "**You are a God who sees**"; for she said, "Have I even remained alive here after seeing Him?" ¹⁴Therefore the well was called **Beer-lahai-roi**; behold, it is between Kadesh and Bered. (Gen. 16:13, 14 [cf. Gen. 31:49, 50])

⁸ Abraham said, 'God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.' So the two of them walked on together. . . ¹⁴ Abraham called the name of that place **the LORD Will Provide**, as it is said to this day, '**In the mount of the LORD it will be provided.**' (Gen. 22:8, 14)

See also Numbers 11:23.

²³ The LORD said to Moses, "Is the LORD'S power limited? Now you shall see whether My word will come true for you or not."

The LORD your Sanctifier *Jehovah/LORD Mekaddishkhem*

Our covenant keeping God is the sole means whereby His people are set apart and made clean (i.e. holy).

But as for you, speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'You shall surely observe My Sabbaths; for this is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that **I am the LORD who sanctifies you.** (Exod. 31:13)

You shall keep My statutes and practice them; **I am the LORD who sanctifies you.** (Lev. 20:8; See also Lev. 2:15, 23; 22:9, 16, 32)

Also I gave them My Sabbaths to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know **that I am the LORD who sanctifies them.** (Ezek. 20:12; See also Ezek. 37:28)

The LORD is my Banner *Jehovah/LORD Nissi*

Our covenant keeping God is the standard around which His people gather and under which they find their identity.

Moses built an altar and named it **the LORD is My Banner.** (Exod. 17:15)

The LORD our Maker *Jehovah/LORD Osenu*

Our covenant keeping God is the creator, maker and master of all things outside Himself. Everything and everyone are His servants.

Come, let us worship and bow down, Let us kneel before the **LORD our Maker.** (Ps. 95:6)

The LORD our Righteousness.....*Jehovah/LORD Tzidkenu*

Our covenant keeping God is the One in whom His people are declared and made righteous.

In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely; And this is His name by which He will be called, '**The LORD our righteousness.**' (Jer. 23:6)

In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell in safety; and this is the name by which she will be called: '**the LORD is our righteousness.**' (Jer. 33:16).

The LORD of hosts*Jehovah/LORD Tseva'ot*

The first occurrence of the word is in 1 Samuel 1:3. Our covenant keeping God is the creator and captain of all thrones and dominions and rulers and authorities (cf. Col. 1:16).

Now this man would go up from his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice to **the LORD of hosts** in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests to the LORD there. (1 Sam. 1:3)

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel And his Redeemer, **the LORD of hosts**: 'I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me.' (Isa. 44:6)

Our Redeemer, **the LORD of hosts is His name**, The Holy One of Israel. (Isa. 47:4)

For I am the LORD your God, who stirs up the sea and its waves roar (**the LORD of hosts is His name**). (Isa. 51:15)

For your husband is your Maker, Whose name is **the LORD of hosts**; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, Who is called the God of all the earth. (Isa. 54:5)

The LORD my Shepherd.....*Jehovah/LORD Ro'i*

Our covenant keeping God is pastoral, tender and attentive to the needs of His people/sheep.

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. (Ps. 23:1)

The LORD who heals you *Jehovah/LORD Roph'ekha*

Our covenant keeping God is the fullest and final healer of His people's physical, spiritual and emotional pain.

And He said, "If you will give earnest heed to the voice of the LORD your God, and do what is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, **the LORD, am your healer.**' (Exod. 15:26)

The LORD of peace *Jehovah/LORD Shalom*

Our covenant keeping God is the means and source of all integrity, harmony and rest.

²³ The LORD said to him, 'Peace to you, do not fear; you shall not die.'

²⁴ Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and named it **the LORD is Peace**. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites. (Judges 6:23, 24)

The LORD my Rock and Redeemer *Jehovah/LORD Tsurì v'goali*

Our covenant keeping God is the constant and immutable foundation on which life's turbulent existence finds stability and security.

The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; **My shield** and the horn of **my salvation, my stronghold.** (Ps. 18:2)

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, **my rock and my Redeemer**. (Ps. 19:14)

For You are **my rock and my fortress**; For Your name's sake You will lead me and guide me. (Ps. 31:3)

²He only is **my rock and my salvation, My stronghold**; I shall not be greatly shaken. . . ⁶ He only is **my rock and my salvation, My stronghold**; I shall not be shaken. (Ps. 62:2, 6)

Blessed be **the LORD, my rock**, Who trains my hands for war, And my fingers for battle. (Ps. 144:1)

"I Am" in John's Gospel

John's intent is to present the Lord Jesus Christ as God. In the Bible such a truth is singular. There is only one God and YHVH is His name (cf. Josh. 22:22; Ps. 50:1; 1 Cor. 8:6; Eph. 4:6; 1 Tim. 2:5).

²² **"The Mighty One, God, the LORD, the Mighty One, God, the LORD!** He knows, and may Israel itself know. If it was in rebellion, or if in an unfaithful act against the LORD do not save us this day! (Josh. 22:22)

¹ **The Mighty One, God, the LORD,** has spoken, And summoned the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. (Psalm 50:1)

⁶ **yet for us there is but one God, the Father,** from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and **one Lord, Jesus Christ,** by whom are all things, and we exist through Him. (1 Cor. 8:6)

⁴ There is one body and **one Spirit,** just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵**one Lord,** one faith, one baptism, ⁶**one God** and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. (Eph. 4:4-6)

⁵For there is **one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,** (1 Tim. 2:5)

Jesus Christ is God and all that is entailed in that singular person. Jesus Christ in John's Gospel is the God-man. The "I AM" statements made by Jesus Christ place Him as the fulfillment of the Seed Promise (Gen. 3:15). For example, by identifying Himself as "the bread of life" He fulfills the shadow of showbread and meets the base needs of His people. Read the following "I AM" statements and wrap yourself in the richness of their warmth. See Him as the fulfillment of promise and the completion of picture.

John 6:35

Jesus said to them, "**I am the bread of life**; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst."

John 6:41

Therefore the Jews were grumbling about Him, because He said, "**I am the bread that came down out of heaven.**"

John 6:48

I am the bread of life.

John 6:51

I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.

John 8:12

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "**I am the Light of the world**; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

John 8:24

Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that **I am He**, you will die in your sins.

John 8:28

So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that **I am He**, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me."

John 8:58

Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **before Abraham was born, I am.**"

John 9:5

While I am in the world, **I am the Light of the world.**

John 9:9

Others were saying, "This is he," still others were saying, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "**I am the one.**"

John 10:7

So Jesus said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **I am the door of the sheep.**"

John 10:9

I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

John 10:11

I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

John 10:14

I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me,

John 10:36

do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, '**I am the Son of God**'?

John 11:25

Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection and the life**; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,"

John 13:13

You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so **I am**.

John 13:19

From now on I am telling you before it comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that **I am He**.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "**I am the way, and the truth, and the life**; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

John 15:1

I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

John 15:5

I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

John 18:5

They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene." He said to them, "**I am He**." And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them.

John 18:6

So when He said to them, "**I am He**," they drew back and fell to the ground.

John 18:8

Jesus answered, "I told you that **I am He**; so if you seek Me, let these go their way,"

John 18:37

Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say correctly that **I am a king**. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." Notice the following passages as they relate to God's kingship over creation.

See further the following passages.

1 Timothy 6:15

which He will bring about at the proper time--He **who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords**,

Revelation 17:14

These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because **He is Lord of lords and King of kings**, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful.

Revelation 19:16

And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "**KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.**"

Isaiah 45:22-25

²² Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; **For I am God, and there is no other.** ²³ I have sworn by Myself, The word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness And

will not turn back, **That to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance.** ²⁴ They will say of Me, 'Only in the LORD are righteousness and strength.' Men will come to Him, And all who were angry at Him will be put to shame. ²⁵ In the LORD all the offspring of Israel will be justified and will glory.

Romans 14:11

For it is written, "AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD."

Philippians 2:10, 11

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that **Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.

The Attributes of God

Praying the Attributes of God

As one studies the Scripture, it becomes clear there is no God like the God of the Bible. Although the list is lengthy, consider the following verses:

Exodus 8:10

Then he said, 'Tomorrow.' So he said, '*May it be according to your word, that you may know that **there is no one like the LORD our God.***'

Exodus 9:14

For this time I will send all My plagues on you and your servants and your people, so that you may know that **there is no one like Me in all the earth.**

Exodus 15:11

Who is like You among the gods, O LORD? **Who is like You**, majestic in holiness, awesome in praises, working wonders?

Deuteronomy 32:31

Indeed their rock is not like our Rock, Even our enemies themselves judge this.

Deuteronomy 33:26

There is none like the God of Jeshurun, Who rides the heavens to your help, and through the skies in His majesty.

1 Chronicles 17:20

O LORD, **there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You**, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

Psalm 86:8

There is no one like You among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like Yours.

Psalm 89:6-8

⁶For who in the skies is comparable to the LORD? Who among the sons of the mighty is like the LORD, ⁷A God greatly feared in the council of the holy ones, And awesome above all those who are around Him? ⁸O LORD God of hosts, who is like You, O mighty LORD? Your faithfulness also surrounds You.

Isaiah 40:25

To whom then will you liken Me that I would be his equal?" says the Holy One.

Isaiah 46:9

Remember the former things long past, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me.

Jeremiah 10:6, 7

⁶There is none like You, O LORD; You are great, and great is Your name in might. ⁷Who would not fear You, O King of the nations? Indeed it is Your due! For among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, **there is none like You.**

Zechariah 14:9

And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day **the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one.**

When confronted by the question “what is God like,” how would we go about describing Him? God reveals Himself in the expression of His attributes. These expressions are the means by which we come to know Him. Use the following list of His attributes to guide your time with Him. His attributes are often separated into two groupings. The first are identified as those not present in creation. These are called the incommunicable attributes of God. They speak to His greatness. The second grouping is called the communicable attributes of God. They speak to His goodness. These are those qualities He has in relation to His creation. Read the description about God and the accompanying passage. Worship God, focus on Him and His qualities.

The Greatness of God⁴

- *First, God is Self-Existing.*

There is nothing God needs for the perpetuation of His being.

Exodus 3:14, 15

¹⁴God said to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM**"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, '**I AM** has sent me to you.'"

¹⁵God, furthermore, said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'The **LORD**, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations.

⁴ For further study on the Attributes of God see Patrick J. Griffiths, *Jesus is Enough*, Torn Veil Ministries, 2010.

John 8:24

Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that **I am He**, you will die in your sins.

John 8:28

So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that **I am He**, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.

John 5:58, 59

⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, **I am**." ⁵⁹ Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.

John 13:19

From now on I am telling you before it comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that **I am He**.

John 18:6

So when He said to them, "**I am He**," they drew back and fell to the ground.

Dear God, are hearts are filled with gratitude that you need nothing outside yourself for the perpetuation of your being.

- *Second, God is Eternal.*

God is without origin or end.

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 21:33

Abraham planted a tamarisk tree at Beersheba, and there he called on the name of the LORD, **the Everlasting God.**

John 1:1-3

¹ **In the beginning was the Word**, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² **He was in the beginning with God.** ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

Psalms 90:1, 2

¹ Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. ² Before the mountains were born or You gave birth to the earth and the world, **Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.**

Revelation 1:8

I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Revelation 21:6

Then He said to me, "It is done. **I am the Alpha and the Omega**, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.

Revelation 22:13

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

Isaiah 43:10-13

¹⁰ "You are My witnesses," declares the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, So that you may know and

believe Me And understand that I am He. **Before Me there was no God formed, And there will be none after Me.** ¹¹ I, even I, am the LORD, And there is no savior besides Me. ¹² It is I who have declared and saved and proclaimed, And there was no strange god among you; So you are My witnesses," declares the LORD, "And I am God. ¹³ **Even from eternity I am He, And there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?"**

Isaiah 41:4, 5

⁴ Who has performed and accomplished it, Calling forth the generations from the beginning? **'I, the LORD, am the first, and with the last. I am He.'** ⁵ The coastlands have seen and are afraid; The ends of the earth tremble; They have drawn near and have come.

Dear God, our hearts overflow with thanksgiving that you have neither origin nor ending.

- *Third, God is unchanging.*

God is always the same without the slightest fluctuation in His perfection.

Malachi 3:6

For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.

Hebrews 6:13-18

¹³ For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, ¹⁴ saying, "I WILL SURELY BLESS YOU AND I WILL SURELY MULTIPLY YOU." ¹⁵ And so, having patiently waited, he

obtained the promise. ¹⁶ For men swear by one greater than themselves, and with them an oath given as confirmation is an end of every dispute. ¹⁷ In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise **the unchangeableness of His purpose**, interposed with an oath, ¹⁸ **so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie**, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.

James 1:17

Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, **with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow**.

Dear God, we find great security knowing you never change in your perfection.

- *Fourth, God is perfect.*

God is fully all He should and can be.

1 John 1:5

This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that **God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all**.

Deuteronomy 32:4

The Rock! **His work is perfect**, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.

Psalm 19:7

The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

Isaiah 25:1

O LORD, You are my God; I will exalt You, I will give thanks to Your name; For You have worked wonders, Plans formed long ago, with **perfect faithfulness**.

Acts 3:16

And on the basis of faith in His name, it is the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; **and the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.**

Romans 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so **that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.**

Philippians 1:6

For I am confident of this very thing, that **He who began a good work in you will perfect it** until the day of Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 1:16

Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, **Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example** for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

Dear God, our hearts overflow with gratitude for you alone are all God is and can be.

- *Fifth, God is all-powerful (omnipotent).*

God is able to do all He wills, but will not do all He can.

Matthew 7:29

for **He was teaching them as one having authority**, and not as their scribes.

Matthew 9:6

"But so that you may know that **the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins**" --then He said to the paralytic, "Get up, pick up your bed and go home."

Matthew 28:18

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**"

John 10:18

No one has taken it away from Me, but **I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again.** This commandment I received from My Father.

Romans 13:1

Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. **For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.**

Ephesians 1:20-23

²⁰ which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the

heavenly places, ²¹ **far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.** ²² And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Colossians 2:10

and in Him you have been made complete, and **He is the head over all rule and authority;**

Jude 25

to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, **dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever.** Amen.

Revelation 2:27

AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received authority from My Father;

Revelation 12:10

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "**Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come,** for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.

Genesis 17:1 (see also 35:11; 48:3)

Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, '**I am God Almighty;** Walk before me, and be blameless.'

Exodus 6:3

And **I appeared** to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, **as God Almighty**, but by My name, LORD, I did not make Myself known to them.

Dear God, we thank you for being able to do all you desire in the carrying out of your perfect will.

- *Sixth, God is all-knowing (omniscient).*

God knows everything knowable.

Psalm 139:4-13

⁴Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, **You know it all.** ⁵You have enclosed me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. ⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high, I cannot attain to it. ⁷Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? ⁸If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. ⁹If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, ¹⁰Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me. ¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night," ¹²Even the darkness is not dark to You, And the night is as bright as the day. **Darkness and light are alike to You.** ¹³For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb.

Dear God, we rest knowing you know our moments and nothing escapes your attention.

- *Seventh, God is all-present (omnipresent).*

God is everywhere at the same time in the fullness of His being.

1 Kings 8:27

But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, **heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You**, how much less this house which I have built!

Psalm 139:7-10

⁷ Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or **where can I flee from Your presence?** ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. ⁹ If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, ¹⁰ Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me.

Dear God, we take great comfort knowing you are in our moments working our story according to yours.

- *Eighth, God is infinite.*

God is without outside limitations.

Job 9:10

Who does great things, **unfathomable**, And wondrous works without number.

Romans 11:33

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How **unsearchable** are His judgments and **unfathomable** His ways!

Dear God, we bow in joyful worship knowing nothing keeps you from carrying out your *Story*.

The Goodness of God

- *First, God is all-wise*

God knows the best way of doing what He wants done.

Psalm 147:5

Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; **His understanding is infinite.**

Romans 11:33

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

Romans 16:27

To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.

Dear God, thank you for being so wise as to never make a mistake.

- *Second, God is holy*

Leviticus 11:45

For I am the LORD who brought you up from the land of Egypt to be your God; thus you shall be holy, for **I am holy.**

1 Corinthians 3:17

If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of **God is holy**, and that is what you are.

1 Peter 1:16

Because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, **FOR I AM HOLY.**"

- *Third, God is true*

John 3:33

He who has received His testimony has set his seal to this, that **God is true.**

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and **the truth**, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

- *Fourth, God is love*

1 John 4:8

The one who does not love does not know God, for **God is love.**

1 John 4:16

We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. **God is love**, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

- *Fifth, God is righteous*

Nehemiah 9:33

However, **You are just in all that has come upon us**; For You have dealt faithfully, but we have acted wickedly.

Daniel 9:14

Therefore the LORD has kept the calamity in store and brought it on us; for **the LORD our God is righteous** with respect to all His deeds which He has done, but we have not obeyed His voice.

1 John 2:1, 29

¹ My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, **Jesus Christ the righteous**; . . . ²⁹ If you know that **He is righteous**, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.

- *Sixth, God is faithful*

1 Corinthians 1:9

God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and **God is faithful**, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

2 Corinthians 1:18

But as **God is faithful**, our word to you is not yes and no.

- *Seventh, God is merciful*

Luke 17:13

and they raised their voices, saying, "**Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!**"

Luke 18:38

And he called out, saying, "**Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!**"

Luke 18:39

Those who led the way were sternly telling him to be quiet; but he kept crying out all the more, "**Son of David, have mercy on me!**"

God is described as a God of mercy (Pss. 78:38; 86:15; 103:8; 111:4). As a consequence of this quality "He will not forsake His people, He will not destroy His people nor will He forget the promises He made to His people" (Deut. 4:31; Neh. 9:31). God's mercy flows from His faithfulness (2 Chron. 30:9; Neh. 9:17). The idea of mercy is closely associated with such qualities as "gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth" (Exod. 34:6; Pss. 103:8; 145:8; Joel 2:13; Jonah 4:2). Consider the following boxcar words linked together in the train of God's character.

Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, **compassionate** and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; (Exod. 34:6)

But You, O Lord, are a God **merciful** and gracious, Slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth. (Ps. 86:15; See also Pss. 103:8; 145:8)

And rend your heart and not your garments." Now return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and **compassionate**, slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness And relenting of evil. (Joel 2:13)

He prayed to the LORD and said, "Please LORD, was not this what I said while I was still in my own country? Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and **compassionate** God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity. (Jonah 4:2)

The first occurrence of the Hebrew word for mercy is Exodus 33:19, "And He said, 'I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show **compassion** on whom I will show **compassion**.'" The second occurrence is Exodus 34:6. Both words come from the same family of words. The Exodus passage describes Moses' encounter with God.

- *Eighth, God is gracious*

Exodus 34:6, 7

⁶ Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, **compassionate and gracious**, slow to anger, and abounding in loving-kindness and truth; ⁷who keeps loving-kindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations."

2 Chronicles 30:9

For if you return to the LORD, your brothers and your sons will find compassion before those who led them captive and will return to this land. **For the LORD your God is gracious and compassionate**, and will not turn His face away from you if you return to Him.

Psalm 111:4

He has made His wonders to be remembered; **The LORD is gracious and compassionate.**

Romans 11:5

In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant **according to God's gracious choice.**

- Listen to how Isaiah the prophet describes his encounter with the hem of God's garment.

Isaiah 6:1-5

¹In the year of King Uzziah's death **I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.** ²Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory." ⁴And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. ⁵Then I said, "**Woe is me, for I am ruined!** Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."

- Listen to how the apostle John describes his encounter with the vision of God.

Revelation 22:8, 9

⁸I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And **when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship** at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. ⁹But he said to me,

"Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. **Worship God.**"

- Listen to how the apostle Peter describes his encounter with the living God.

Luke 5:6-8

⁶When they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish, and their nets began to break; ⁷so they signaled to their partners in the other boat for them to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "**Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!**"

- Listen to how Job summarizes his encounter with the whisper of God's voice.

Job 42:1-6

¹Then Job answered the LORD and said, ²"I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted. ³'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' "Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know." ⁴'Hear, now, and I will speak; I will ask You, and You instruct me.' ⁵"I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees You; ⁶**Therefore I retract, And I repent in dust and ashes.**"

What might you consider to be the only proper response to the enormity of God?

The Gospel

Praying through the Gospel

The gospel is Jesus Christ. It is possible to speak of the gospel in the abstract and in so doing depersonalize it. But the gospel is not an "it." The gospel is a person and His name is Jesus. The gospel, Jesus Christ, forms the theme around which the *Story* is spun. No matter where we "slice" the Bible we will find Jesus at its center. There is no *Story* if there is no Jesus. To speak of the gospel is to speak of His life, His death, and His resurrection from death to life. What happens as consequences of this are the actions of redemption, propitiation, regeneration, justification, fellowship, reconciliation, and adoption. We cannot stray from this gospel. It is Jesus Christ who forms for us our life. Everything we have and are comes from Him, is sustained by Him, and is for Him. As you read the following passages allow yourself to bathe and to linger in the truth. Look to feel the infusion of the truth in your mind and emotion as the Holy Spirit does His work.

- **His Person**

It is important to keep in mind how all of the attributes of God, the names of God, and biblical creeds speak to the person and work of Jesus Christ. Who He is and what He does flows out of His fullness.

Matthew 3:17

and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "**This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.**"

Matthew 17:5

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "**This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!**"

1 Timothy 2:3-6

³This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God, and **one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus**, ⁶ who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.

Hebrews 1:1-4

¹ God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, ² in these last days has spoken to us in **His Son**, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. ³ And **He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power**. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

- **His Work**

Without the person of Jesus having intrinsic worth and His life being above reproach, the work He accomplished would be of no value in redeeming sinners. Yet the Bible couples together His person and His work. Together they form the gospel. What He is in His person and work secures the end designed by God. The following passages speak to the death He died.

Matthew 16:21

From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and **suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.**

Philippians 2:8

Being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

Hebrews 9:28

so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

Hebrews 12:2

fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before **Him endured the cross**, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

1 Peter 2:24

and **He Himself bore our sins** in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

- **His Resurrection**

His resurrection from the grave, life out of death, is confirmation of His work's acceptance by the Father. What Jesus sought to do, He did. His resurrection is proof of this.

Matthew 16:21

From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and **suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.**

Matthew 28:5, 6

⁵The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for **Jesus who has been crucified.** ⁶**He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said.** Come, see the place where He was lying."

Roman 1:4

who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,

- *The Consequences of the Cross*

The death Jesus died and the victory He won has significant consequences as it relates to our sin and our relationship with the Father. The Bible speaks of this reversal of the fall in the following manner.

Romans 3:23-26

²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴being **justified** as a gift by His grace through the **redemption** which is in Christ Jesus; ²⁵whom God displayed publicly as a **propitiation** in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time,

so that **He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**

Romans 5:10, 11

¹⁰ For if **while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son**, much more, having been **reconciled**, we shall be **saved** by His life. ¹¹ And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the **reconciliation**.

Romans 8:15

For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of **adoption** as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

Galatians 4:5

so that He might **redeem** those who were under the Law, that we might receive the **adoption** as sons.

1 Corinthians 1:9

God is faithful, through whom you were called into **fellowship** with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a **new creature**; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Romans 6:4

Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might **walk in newness of life**.

John 15:5

I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, **he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.**

Psalm 16:11

You will make known to me the path of life; **In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.**

- *Our Position in Christ*

Our position in Christ is a consequence of the person and work of Jesus. Our position in Him establishes our standing before the Father. God has moved from being judge to that of a Father who warmly receives us and welcomes us into His presence.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; and **it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me**; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Colossians 3:3, 4

³ For you have died and **your life is hidden with Christ in God.** ⁴ **When Christ, who is our life,** is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

2 Corinthians 5:21

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that **we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**

1 John 4:17

By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; **because as He is, so also are we in this world.**

Such truth as contained in the gospel is to be lived in and out every day. Consider the following thought as we ponder the gospel.

The hard work of Christian growth, therefore, is to think less of me and my performance and more of Jesus and his performance for me. Ironically, when we focus mostly on our need to get better we actually get worse. We become neurotic and self-absorbed. Preoccupation with my effort over God's effort for me makes me increasingly self-centered and morbidly introspective. You could state it this way: Sanctification is the daily hard work of going back to the reality of our justification—receiving Christ's words, "It is finished" into new and deeper parts of our being every day, into our rebellious regions of unbelief. It's going back to the certainty of our objectively secured pardon in Christ and hitting the refresh button a thousand times a day. Or, as Martin Luther so aptly put it in his *Lectures on Romans*, "To progress is always to begin again." Real spiritual progress, in other words, requires a daily going backwards.⁵

The gospel is what justifies the sinner and sanctifies the saint.
The gospel is Jesus Christ.

⁵ <http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/tullian/2011/03/26/what-to-preach-to-yourself-everyday/>

Biblical Creeds

Creeds from the Bible

As noted earlier [p. 5], Creeds are statements of affirmation. As a whole, a group of people typically embrace such statements. Although everyone has a Creed, we are not noting individual affirmations, but assembly affirmations. It is what groups affirm as true. The Bible is soaked with such affirmations and we will note several.

Exodus 34:6-8

⁶Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in loving-kindness and truth;⁷ who keeps loving-kindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations." ⁸ **Moses made haste to bow low toward the earth and worship.**

Cf. The Attributes of God / The Goodness of God / Seventh, **God is merciful.**

Numbers 14:17-21

¹⁷"But now, I pray, let the power of the Lord be great, just as You have declared, ¹⁸ **'The LORD is slow to anger and abundant in loving-kindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generations.** ' ¹⁹ **Pardon,** I pray, the iniquity of this people **according to the greatness of Your loving-kindness,** just as You also have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now." ²⁰ So the LORD said, "I have pardoned

them according to your word; ²¹ but indeed, **as I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the LORD.**"

"Though the sin of this people was great, the mercy of God to pardon was greater." (John Gill on Numbers 14:19).

Romans 5:20 "Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more."

Deuteronomy 6:4

Hear O Israel, **the LORD is our God, the LORD alone.**

On this verse the Jews lay great stress; it is one of the four passages which they write on their phylacteries, and they write the last letter in the first and last words very large, for the purpose of exciting attention to the weighty truth it contains. (Adam Clarke's Commentary on Deuteronomy 6:4).

1 Kings 18:39

And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "**The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God.**"

1 Chronicles 29:10-22

¹⁰ So David blessed the LORD in the sight of all the assembly; and David said, "Blessed are You, O LORD God of Israel our father, forever and ever. ¹¹ **Yours, O LORD,** is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O LORD, and You exalt Yourself as head over all. ¹² Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone. ¹³ Now therefore, our God, we thank You, and praise Your glorious name. ¹⁴ But who am I and who are my people that we should be able to offer as generously as this? For all things come from You, and from Your hand we have given You."

¹⁵ "For we are sojourners before You, and tenants, as all our fathers were; our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no hope. ¹⁶ O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided to build You a house for Your holy name, it is from Your hand, and all is Yours. ¹⁷ Since I know, O my God, that You try the heart and delight in uprightness, I, in the integrity of my heart, have willingly offered all these things; so now with joy I have seen Your people, who are present here, make their offerings willingly to You. ¹⁸ O LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, our fathers, preserve this forever in the intentions of the heart of Your people, and direct their heart to You; ¹⁹ and give to my son Solomon a perfect heart to keep Your commandments, Your testimonies and Your statutes, and to do them all, and to build the temple, for which I have made provision."

²⁰ Then David said to all the assembly, "**Now bless the LORD your God.**" And all the assembly blessed the LORD, the God of their fathers, and **bowed low and did homage to the LORD** and to the king. ²¹ On the next day they **made sacrifices to the LORD** and offered burnt offerings to the LORD, 1,000 bulls, 1,000 rams and 1,000 lambs, with their drink offerings and sacrifices in abundance for all Israel. ²² So they ate and drank that day before the LORD with great gladness. And they made Solomon the son of David king a second time, and they anointed him as ruler for the LORD and Zadok as priest.

Isaiah 40:12-31

¹² Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, And marked off the heavens by the span, And calculated the dust of the earth by the measure, And weighed the mountains in a balance And the hills in a pair of scales? ¹³ Who has

directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His counselor has informed Him? ¹⁴ With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding? And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge And informed Him of the way of understanding? ¹⁵ Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, And are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales; Behold, He lifts up the islands like fine dust. ¹⁶ Even Lebanon is not enough to burn, Nor its beasts enough for a burnt offering. ¹⁷ All the nations are as nothing before Him, They are regarded by Him as less than nothing and meaningless. ¹⁸ **To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare with Him?**

¹⁹ As for the idol, a craftsman casts it, A goldsmith plates it with gold, And a silversmith fashions chains of silver. ²⁰ He who is too impoverished for such an offering Selects a tree that does not rot; He seeks out for himself a skillful craftsman To prepare an idol that will not totter. ²¹ Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been declared to you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²² It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. ²³ He it is who reduces rulers to nothing, Who makes the judges of the earth meaningless. ²⁴ Scarcely have they been planted, Scarcely have they been sown, Scarcely has their stock taken root in the earth, But He merely blows on them, and they wither, And the storm carries them away like stubble. ²⁵ "To whom then will you liken Me That I would be his equal?" says the Holy One.

²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high And see who has created these stars, The One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; Because of the greatness of His might and

the strength of His power, Not one of them is missing. ²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob, and assert, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, And the justice due me escapes the notice of my God"? ²⁸ Do you not know? Have you not heard? **The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth** does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. ²⁹ He gives strength to the weary, And to him who lacks might He increases power. ³⁰ Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly, ³¹ Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary. (NAS95)

Isaiah 42:5-9

⁵ Thus says God the LORD, **Who created the heavens** and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, **Who gives breath to the people on it** And spirit to those who walk in it, ⁶ "I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, And I will appoint you as a covenant to the people, As a light to the nations, ⁷ To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the dungeon And those who dwell in darkness from the prison. ⁸ **I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images.** ⁹ Behold, the former things have come to pass, Now I declare new things; Before they spring forth I proclaim them to you." (NAS95)

Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶ Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: **'I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me.** ⁷ 'Who is like Me? Let him proclaim and declare it; Yes, let him recount it to Me in order, From the

time that I established the ancient nation. And let them declare to them the things that are coming And the events that are going to take place. ⁸ 'Do not tremble and do not be afraid; Have I not long since announced it to you and declared it? And you are My witnesses. **Is there any God besides Me, Or is there any other Rock? I know of none.**'

Daniel 2:19-23, 46, 47

¹⁹ Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven; ²⁰ Daniel said, "**Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, For wisdom and power belong to Him.**" ²¹ It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men And knowledge to men of understanding. ²² It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, And the light dwells with Him. ²³ To You, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, For You have given me wisdom and power; Even now You have made known to me what we requested of You, For You have made known to us the king's matter." . . . ⁴⁶ Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face and did homage to Daniel, and gave orders to present to him an offering and fragrant incense. ⁴⁷ The king answered Daniel and said, "**Surely your God is a God of gods and a Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries,** since you have been able to reveal this mystery."

Daniel 4:34, 35

³⁴ "But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and **honored Him who lives forever;** For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom endures from generation to generation. ³⁵

"All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But **He does according to His will in the host of heaven And among the inhabitants of earth**; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, 'What have You done?'

Jonah 4:1, 2

¹ But it greatly displeased Jonah and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, "Please LORD, was not this what I said while I was still in my own country? Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that **You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in loving-kindness, and one who relents concerning calamity.**

Micah 7:18-20

¹⁸ **Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity** and passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because **He delights in unchanging love.** ¹⁹ He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities under foot. Yes, You will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. ²⁰ You will give truth to Jacob And unchanging love to Abraham, Which You swore to our forefathers From the days of old.

Matthew 4:24

The news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and **He healed them.**

Matthew 12:15

But Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. Many followed Him, and **He healed them all,**

Matthew 15:30

And large crowds came to Him, bringing with them those who were lame, crippled, blind, mute, and many others, and they laid them down at His feet; and **He healed them.**

Matthew 19:2

and large crowds followed Him, and **He healed them there.**

Matthew 21:14

And the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and **He healed them.**

Matthew 16:16

Simon Peter replied, "**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**"

John 1:49

Nathanael answered him, "**Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!**"

John 6:68-69

⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, "Lord to whom shall we go? **You have the words of eternal life;** ⁶⁹ and we have believed, and have come to know, that **you are the Holy One of God.**"

John 20:28

Thomas answered him, "**My Lord and my God!**"

Acts 8:36-37

³⁶ And as they went along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What is to prevent my being baptized?" ³⁷ And Philip said, "If you believe with

all your heart, you may." And he replied, "**I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**"

Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him. ³⁶ The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, **preaching peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all)** -- ³⁷ you yourselves know the thing which took place throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee, after the baptism which John proclaimed. ³⁸ **You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.** ³⁹ We are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. **They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross.** ⁴⁰ **God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible,** ⁴¹ not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. ⁴² And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that **this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.** ⁴³ **Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."**

Acts 16:31

And they said, "Believe in the **Lord Jesus**, and you will be saved, you and your household."

Romans 11:33-36

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of **God**! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! ³⁴For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? ³⁵ Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? ³⁶ For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen.

1 Corinthians 8:6

Yet for us there is **one God**, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and **one Lord**, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

1 Corinthians 12:3

Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "**Jesus is Lord**" except by the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

⁴ **Christ** is patient, **He** is kind and is not jealous; **He** does not brag and is not arrogant, ⁵ does not act unbecomingly; **He** does not seek **His** own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, ⁶ does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ **Christ** never fails;

1 Corinthians 15:3-7

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that **Christ died for our sins** in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴ that **he was buried**, that **he was raised** on the

third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

Philippians 2:6-11

⁶ Who, though **he was** in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Colossians 1:15-20

¹⁵ **He is** the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, ²⁰ and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

1 Timothy 1:15, 17

¹⁵ It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. . . ¹⁷ Now to **the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God**, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

1 Timothy 3:16

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of our religion: **He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.**

1 Timothy 4:10

For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on **the living God**, who is **the Savior of all men**, especially of believers.

Titus 3:4-8

⁴ But when **the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared**, ⁵ He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. ⁸ This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.

1 John 4:2

By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit which confesses that **Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God.**

Revelation 4

¹ After these things I looked, and behold, a door *standing* open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like *the sound* of a trumpet speaking with me, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things." ² Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, **a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne.** ³ And He who was sitting *was* like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance; and *there was* a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald in appearance. ⁴ Around the throne *were* twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones *I saw* twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads.

⁵ Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And *there were* seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God; ⁶ and before the throne *there was something* like a sea of glass, like crystal; and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind. ⁷ The first creature *was* like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face like that of a man, and the fourth creature *was* like a flying eagle. ⁸ And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *is* THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME."

⁹ And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

¹¹ **“Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”**

Revelation 5

¹ I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. ² And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?” ³ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it. ⁴ Then I *began* to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it; ⁵ and one of the elders *said* to me, “Stop weeping; behold, **the Lion** that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, **has overcome** so as to open the book and its seven seals.” ⁶ And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. ⁷ And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. ⁸ When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they *sang* a new song, saying, **“Worthy are You** to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God

with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. ¹⁰ "You have made them *to be* a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth." ¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice, "**Worthy is the Lamb** that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing." ¹³ And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "**To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.**" ¹⁴ And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped.

Revelation 11:17

We give thanks to thee, **Lord God Almighty, who art and who was, that you have taken your great power and begun to reign.**

Revelation 19:6b-8

^{6b}**Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.** ⁷ Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; ⁸ it was granted her to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure.

Historical Creeds

Creeds of the Early Church

There are many wonderful Creeds produced through the various wrangling of the early church as she stood for truth and battled tirelessly for truth. We, however, will only note those from the first five centuries.

The Apostle's Creed

This creed arose out of the early Western church and should be thought of as a summary of the Apostles' teaching rather than directly attributable to them. Originally it was essentially a baptismal confession and had several variations. The form in use today dates from the eighth century. It reads as follows:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell [i.e. "the place/abode of the dead"]. The third day He arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven [i.e. "the place/abode of the living"] and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal [i.e. global] church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

The Nicene Creed (325 A.D.)

This creed was first formulated at the First Ecumenical Council, held at Nicea, located in what is now Turkey, in 325, as a response to the Arian heresy, which denied the divinity of Christ. It was revised at the Second Ecumenical Council, held at Constantinople in 381 as a response to the Macedonian or Pneumatomachian heresy, which denied the divinity of the Holy Spirit. It reads as follows:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy universal [i.e. global] and apostolic [i.e. historical] Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins [i.e. spirit baptism]. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The "**Rule of Faith**" as recorded by **Irenaeus (2nd century A.D.)**:

... this faith: in one God, the Father Almighty, who made the heaven and the earth and the seas and all the things that are in them; and in one Christ Jesus, the Son of God, who was made flesh for our salvation; and in the Holy Spirit, who made known through the prophets the plan of salvation, and the coming, and the birth from a virgin, and the passion, and the resurrection from the dead, and the bodily ascension into heaven of the beloved Christ Jesus, our Lord, and his future appearing from heaven in the glory of the Father to sum up all things and to raise anew all flesh of the whole human race
...

The Chalcedonian Creed (451 A.D.)

This creed was adopted at the Fourth Ecumenical Council, held at Chalcedon, located in what is now Turkey, in 451, as a response to certain heretical views concerning the nature of Christ. **It established the orthodox view that Christ has two natures (human and divine) that are unified in one person.** It reads as follows:

We, then, following the holy Fathers, all with one consent, teach men to confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the same perfect in Godhead and also perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man, of a reasonable [rational] soul and body; consubstantial [co-essential] with the Father according to the Godhead, and consubstantial with us according to the Manhood; in all things like unto us, without sin;

begotten before all ages of the Father according to the Godhead, and in these latter days, for us and for our salvation, born of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, according to the Manhood; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, only begotten, to be acknowledged in two natures, inconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably; the distinction of natures being by no means taken away by the union, but rather the property of each nature being preserved, and concurring in one Person and one Subsistence, not parted or divided into two persons, but one and the same Son,

and only begotten, God the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ; as the prophets from the beginning [have declared] concerning Him, and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself has taught us, and the Creed of the holy Fathers has handed down to us.

The Athanasian Creed (500 A.D.)

This creed is attributed to Athanasius, the fourth century bishop of Alexandria who was the strongest defender of the doctrines of the Trinity and the divinity of Christ. It defines the doctrines of the Trinity and the nature of Christ in very concise language. Please note that the term "catholic" with the lower case 'c' is not a reference to the Roman Catholic Church, but is a reference to the universal/global Christian faith, since that is how the term was originally used. It reads as follows:

Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the universal [i.e. global] faith. Which faith except everyone do keep whole and undefiled, without doubt he shall perish everlastingly.

And the universal [i.e. global] faith is this: That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity, neither confounding the persons, nor dividing the substance. For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Spirit. But the godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, is all one, the glory equal, the majesty co-eternal.

Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit. The Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, and the Holy Spirit uncreated. The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible, and the Holy Spirit incomprehensible. The Father eternal, the Son eternal, and the Holy Spirit eternal. And yet they are not three eternal, but one Eternal. As also there are not three incomprehensibles, nor three uncreated, but one Uncreated, and one Incomprehensible.

So likewise the Father is Almighty, the Son Almighty, and the Holy Spirit Almighty. And yet they are not three almighties, but one Almighty. So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. And yet they are not three gods, but one God. So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son Lord, and the Holy Spirit Lord. And yet not three lords, but one Lord.

For as we are compelled by the Christian verity [i.e. truth] to acknowledge each Person by Himself to be both God and Lord, so we are also forbidden by the universal [i.e. global] religion to say that there are three gods or three lords. The Father is made of none, neither created, nor begotten. The Son is of the Father alone, not made, nor created, but begotten. The Holy Spirit is of the Father, neither made, nor created, nor begotten, but proceeding.

So there is one Father, not three fathers; one Son, not three sons; one Holy Spirit, not three holy spirits. And in the Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another, but all three Persons are co-eternal together and co-equal.

So that in all things, as is aforesaid, the Unity in Trinity and the Trinity in Unity is to be worshipped. He therefore that will be saved must think thus of the Trinity.

Furthermore, it is necessary to everlasting salvation that he also believe rightly the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. For the right faith is, that we believe and confess, that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and man; God, of the substance of the Father, begotten before the worlds; and man of the substance of his mother, born in the world; perfect God and perfect man, of a rational soul and human flesh subsisting. Equal to the Father, as touching His godhead; and inferior to the Father, as touching His manhood; who, although He is God and man, yet he is not two, but one Christ; one, not by conversion of the godhead into flesh but by taking of the manhood into God; one altogether; not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.

For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ; who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead. He ascended into heaven, He sits at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the quick and the dead. At His coming all men will rise again with their bodies and shall give account for their own works. And they that have done good shall go into life everlasting; and they that have done evil into

everlasting fire. This is the universal [i.e. global] faith, which except a man believe faithfully, he cannot be saved.

Biblical Prayers

Prayers of the Old Testament

Perhaps prior to reading the following passages one would do well to go back and reread the Prologue: An Opening Word to remind oneself as to why reading such biblical prayers is of value.

Genesis 27:28

Now may God give you of the dew of heaven, And of the fatness of the earth, And an abundance of grain and new wine;

Exodus 33:13

Now therefore, I pray You, if I have found favor in Your sight, **let me know Your ways that I may know You**, so that I may find favor in Your sight. Consider too, that this nation is Your people.

Exodus 33:18

Then Moses said, "**I pray You, show me Your glory!**"

Numbers 14:17

But now, **I pray, let the power of the Lord be great**, just as You have declared,

2 Kings 6:17

Then Elisha prayed and said, "**O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.**" And the LORD opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

2 Kings 19:19

Now, O LORD our God, I pray, deliver us from his hand that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You alone, O LORD, are God.

2 Chronicles 6:40

Now, O my God, I pray, let Your eyes be open and Your ears attentive to the prayer offered in this place.

Psalm 5:2

Heed the sound of **my cry for help**, my King and my God, For to You I pray.⁶

Proverbs 30:7-9

⁷Two things I asked of You, Do not refuse me before I die: ⁸Keep deception and lies far from me, **Give me neither poverty nor riches**; Feed me with the food that is my portion, ⁹That I not be full and deny You and say, "Who is the LORD?" Or That I not be in want and steal, And profane the name of my God.

⁶ I have made it a regular part of my personal readings to include the Psalms. The Psalms are the Songs and Prayers of the nation of Israel. They are the voice of their spirit/emotion. Many are great resources as it relates to one's own prayer life. They often put words to our passions. I would encourage you to make the Psalms a part of your daily readings.

Prayers of the New Testament

Matthew 5:44

But I say to you, **love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,**

Matthew 6:9-13

⁹ **Pray, then, in this way:** "Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."

Luke 18:13

¹³ "But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, '**God, be merciful to me, the sinner!**'"

John 17:1-26

¹ Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, ² even as **You gave Him authority over all flesh**, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. ³ **This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.** ⁴ I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵ Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

6 “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. ⁷ Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You; ⁸ for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received *them* and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me. ⁹ I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours; ¹⁰ and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ I am no longer in the world; and *yet* they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, **keep them in Your name**, *the name* which You have given Me, that they may be one even as *We are*. ¹² While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.

¹³ But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that **they may have My joy made full in themselves**. ¹⁴ I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to **keep them from the evil one**. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ **Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth**. ¹⁸ As You sent Me into the world, **I also have sent them into the world**. ¹⁹ For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.

²⁰ **“I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they may all be one;** even as You, Father, *are* in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

²² The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; ²³ I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. ²⁴ **Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory** which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

²⁵ "O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; ²⁶ and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

Romans 1:8-10

⁸**First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all,** because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world. ⁹For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness as to how unceasingly I make mention of you, ¹⁰**always in my prayers making request,** if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you.

Romans 10:1

Brethren, my heart's desire and **my prayer to God** for [Israel] **is for their salvation.**

Romans 15:5, 6

⁵**Now may** the God who gives perseverance and encouragement **grant you to be of** the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, ⁶so that with one accord

you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:13

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:30-33

³⁰Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me, ³¹that **I may be rescued** from those who are disobedient in Judea, and that **my service** for Jerusalem **may prove acceptable** to the saints; ³²so that I **may come to you in joy** by the will of God and find refreshing rest in your company. ³³Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

Acts 7:59, 60

⁵⁹ While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "**Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.**" ⁶⁰ Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "**Lord, do not hold this sin against them.**" When he had said this, he fell asleep. (NIV)

1 Corinthians 1:4-9

⁴**I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus,** ⁵that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge, ⁶even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you, ⁷so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁹God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Corinthians 9:12-15

¹²For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God. ¹³Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all, ¹⁴**while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you.** ¹⁵Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

2 Corinthians 12:7-9a

⁷Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me--to keep me from exalting myself! ⁸Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. ⁹And He has said to me, "**My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.**"

2 Corinthians 13:7-9

⁷Now we pray to God that you do no wrong; not that we ourselves may appear approved, but that you may do what is right, even though we may appear unapproved. ⁸For we can do nothing against the truth, but only for the truth. ⁹For we rejoice when we ourselves are weak but you are strong; **this we also pray for, that you be made complete.**

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵**For this reason I too**, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶**do not cease giving thanks for you**, while making **mention of you in my prayers**; ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, **may give to you** a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. ¹⁸I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, **so that** you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might ²⁰which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²²And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 3:14-21

¹⁴**For this reason I bow my knees before the Father**, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, ¹⁶that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. ²⁰**Now to Him** who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according

to the power that works within us, ²¹to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 6:19, 20

¹⁹and pray on my behalf, **that utterance may be given to me** in the opening of my mouth, to make known **with boldness** the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Philippians 1:3-6

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴**always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all**, ⁵in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:9-11

⁹**And this I pray, that your love may** abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; ¹¹having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Philippians 4:6, 7

⁶Be anxious for nothing, but **in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God**. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 1:3-14

³We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **praying always for you**, ⁴since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel ⁶which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth; ⁷just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf, ⁸and he also informed us of your love in the Spirit. ⁹For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. ¹³For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 4:2-4

²Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; **³praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ**, for which I have

also been imprisoned; ⁴that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.

1 Thessalonians 1:2, 3

²We give thanks to God always for all of you, **making mention of you in our prayers**; ³constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,

1 Thessalonians 2:13-16

¹³For this reason **we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God** which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe. ¹⁴For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they did from the Jews, ¹⁵who both killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out. They are not pleasing to God, but hostile to all men, ¹⁶hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved; with the result that they always fill up the measure of their sins But wrath has come upon them to the utmost.

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account, ¹⁰as **we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face, and may complete what is lacking in your faith?** ¹¹Now may our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord direct our way to you; ¹²and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one

another, and for all people, just as we also do for you; ¹³so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Now may the God of peace Himself **sanctify you entirely**; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:3-10

³**We ought always to give thanks to God for you**, brethren, as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater; ⁴therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure. ⁵This is a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering. ⁶For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, ⁷and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, ⁸dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, ¹⁰when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed--for our testimony to you was believed.

2 Thessalonians 1:11, 12

¹¹To this end also **we pray for you always**, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, ¹²so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 2:16, 17

¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, ¹⁷ **comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.**

2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

¹ Finally, brethren, pray for us that **the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified**, just as it did also with you; ²and that **we will be rescued from perverse and evil men**; for not all have faith. ³But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one. ⁴We have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing and will continue to do what we command. ⁵May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ.

1 Timothy 2:1-7

¹First of all, then, **I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men**, ²**for kings and all who are in authority**, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave Himself as a ransom for

all, the testimony given at the proper time. ⁷For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying) as a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

2 Timothy 1:3-7

³I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, **as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day**, ⁴longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well. ⁶For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

Philemon 4-7

⁴I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers, ⁵because I hear of your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints; ⁶**and I pray that the fellowship of your faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for Christ's sake.** ⁷For I have come to have much joy and comfort in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.

Hebrews 13:18

Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a good conscience, **desiring to conduct ourselves honorably in all things.**

James 5:16

Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and **pray for one another so that you may be healed**. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

3 John 2

Beloved, **I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.**

Biblical Benediction

Benedictions

The following parting words are blessings that simply enrich the heart of those who hear them.

Genesis 31:49b

The LORD watch between you and me, when we are absent one from the other.

Numbers 6:24-26

²⁴ **The LORD bless you and keep you;** ²⁵ the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Joshua 22:5

Take good care to observe the commandment and instruction that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to keep his commandments, and to hold fast to him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.

1 Kings 8:56, 57

⁵⁶ Blessed be the LORD, who has given rest to his people Israel according to all that he promised; not one word has failed of all his good promise, which he spoke through his servant Moses. ⁵⁷ **The LORD our God be with us**, as he was with our ancestors; may he not leave us or abandon us,

1 Kings 8:59-61

⁵⁹ Let these words of mine, with which I pleaded before the LORD, be near to the LORD our God day and night, and may he maintain the cause of his servant and the cause of his

people Israel, as each day requires; ⁶⁰ so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no other. ⁶¹ Therefore **devote yourselves completely to the LORD our God**, walking in his statutes and keeping his commandments, as at this day.

1 Chronicles 12:18b

Peace, **peace to you**, and peace to the one who helps you! For your God is the one who helps you.

Psalm 67:1, 2

¹ **May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us**, Selah ² that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

Acts 20:32

And now **I commend you to God** and to the message of his grace, a message that is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified.

Romans 1:7

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:13

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:33

The God of peace be with all of you. Amen.

Romans 16:20b

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Romans 16:24

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Romans 16:25-27

²⁵ **Now to Him who is able** to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, ²⁶ but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, *leading* to obedience of faith; ²⁷ to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen

1 Corinthians 1:3-6

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you--

1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 16:23, 24

²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus **be with you**. ²⁴ My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

2 Corinthians 1:2-5

² **Grace to you and peace from God** our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, ⁴ who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. ⁵ For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17

May the abundant grace of God, the constraining love of Christ and the indwelling witness of the Spirit make of us new creatures, so that old things pass away, behold all things become new.

2 Corinthians 13:11-14

¹¹ **Finally, brethren, rejoice**, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss. ¹³ All the saints greet you. ¹⁴ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Galatians 6:18

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ **be with your spirit**, brethren. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20, 21

²⁰ Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 6:23, 24

²³ **Peace be to the whole community**, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:2

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:12, 13

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, **work out your own salvation** with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Philippians 2:16, 17

¹⁶ It is by your holding fast to the word of life that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷ **But even if I am being poured out** as a libation over the sacrifice and the offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you--

Philippians 4:9

The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, **practice these things**, and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:19, 20

¹⁹ And **my God will supply all your needs** according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ Now to our God and Father *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Philippians 4:23

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Colossians 3:15a, 16a, 17

¹⁵ And **let the peace of Christ rule** in your hearts . . . ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly . . . ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 4:18

I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my imprisonment. **Grace be with you.**

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

¹¹ **Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you.** ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

1 Thessalonians 5:23, 24

²³ **Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely;** and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

1 Thessalonians 5:28

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

2 Thessalonians 2:16, 17

¹⁶ Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, ¹⁷ **Comfort your hearts, and establish you in every good word and work.**

2 Thessalonians 3:8

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

2 Thessalonians 3:16

Now may the Lord of peace himself **give you peace at all times in all ways.** The Lord be with all of you."

1 Timothy 1:2b

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Timothy 1:17

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

1 Timothy 6:21b

Grace be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

Titus 3:15

All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.

Philemon 25

²⁵The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Hebrews 13:20, 21

²⁰ Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹ **make you complete in everything good** so that you may do his will, working among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen."

Hebrews 13:25

Grace be with all of you.

1 Peter 1:1b, 2

^{1b} To (those) ... who are chosen ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

1 Peter 1:5-9

⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, ⁷ so that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ⁸ and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

1 Peter 5:10, 11

¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 5:14

Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

2 Peter 3:18

but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

2 John 1:3

Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, in truth and love.

Jude 2

May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance.

Jude 24, 25

²⁴ Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, ²⁵ to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, *be* glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Revelation 1:5b-7

Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.

Revelation 7:12

Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 22:20-21

The one who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

WAUKESHA BIBLE CHURCH



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