

PRAYER

—

THE VITAL BREATH OF THE NEW CREATURE

NORTH SEATTLE BIBLE STUDENT'S CONVENTION
MARCH 23, 2025

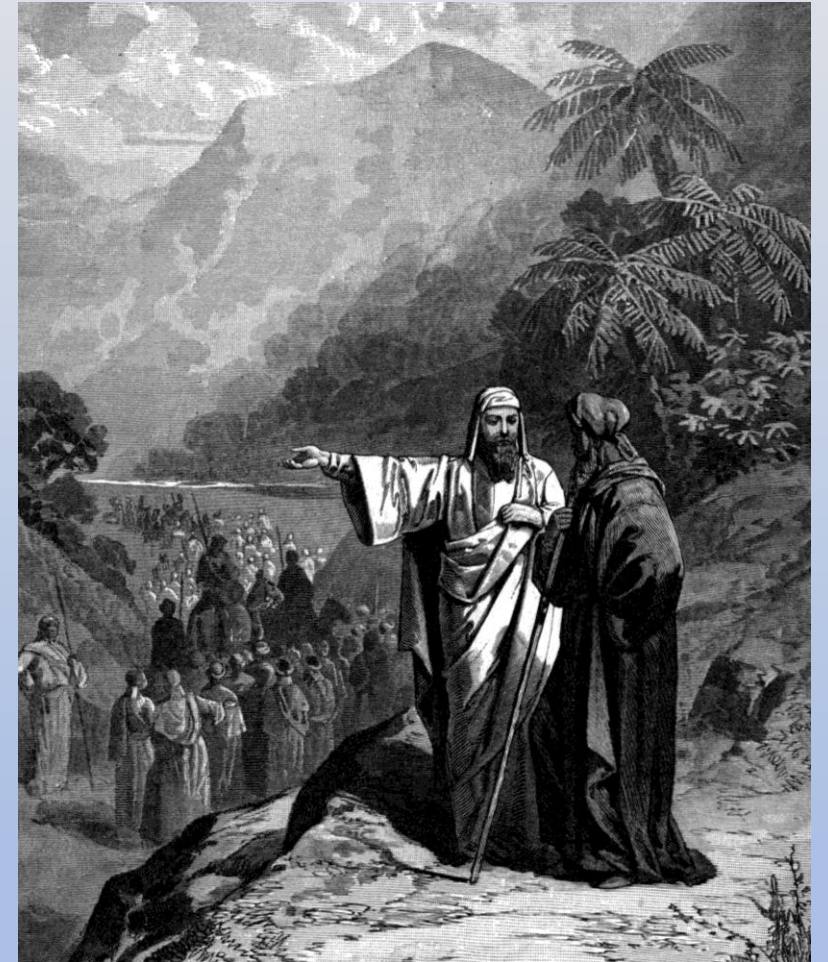
... prayer is the very essence of the Christian's life,
his "vital breath." (R5745)

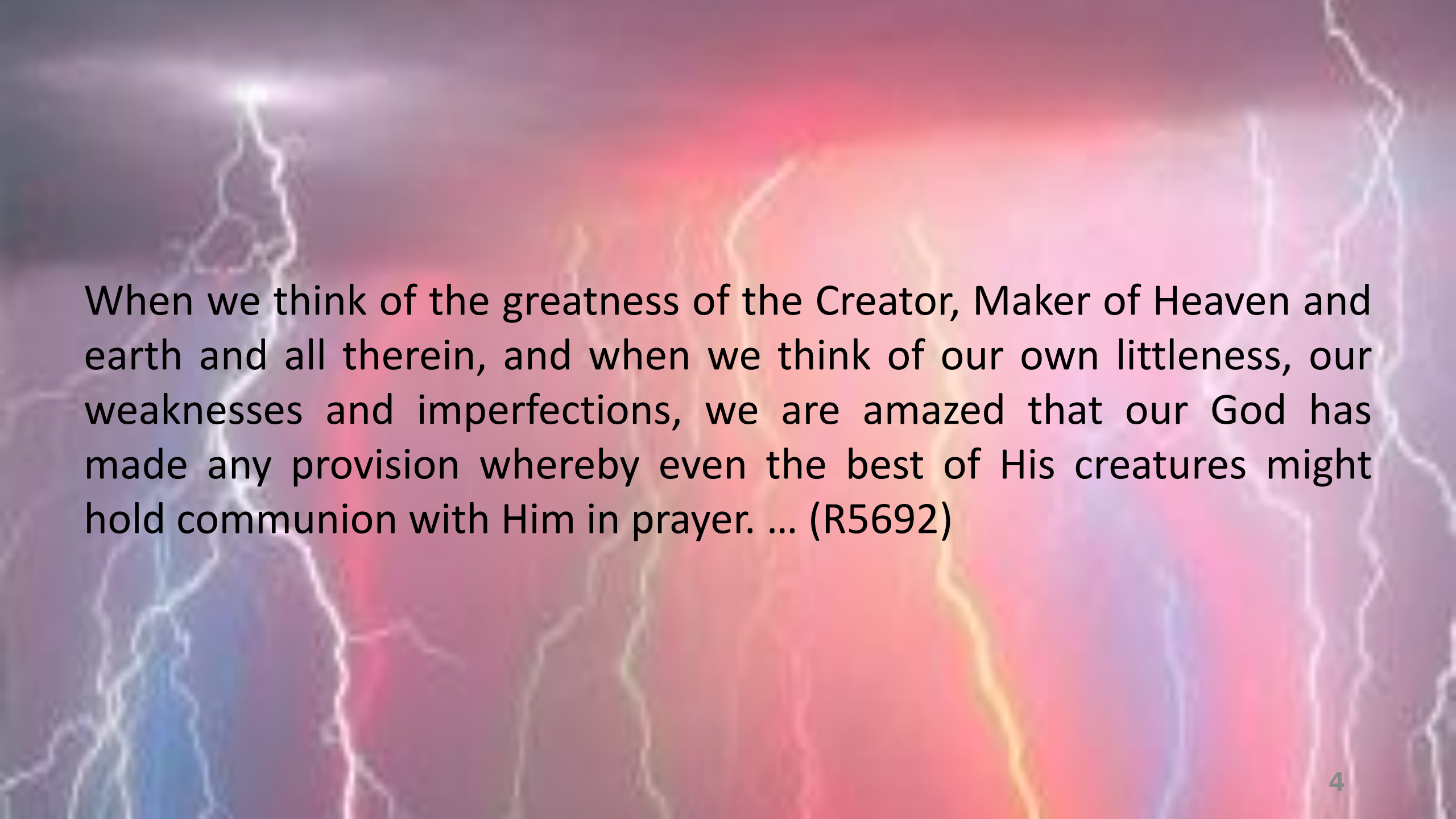
And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, **I pray thee**, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren.

— Genesis 13:8 KJV

Abram therefore said to Lot: Let there be no quarrel, **I beseech thee**, between me and thee ...

— Genesis 13:8 DRB





When we think of the greatness of the Creator, Maker of Heaven and earth and all therein, and when we think of our own littleness, our weaknesses and imperfections, we are amazed that our God has made any provision whereby even the best of His creatures might hold communion with Him in prayer. ... (R5692)

"Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
Uttered or unexpressed."

— R4883

True prayer is the language of the heart.

— R5835



The object of prayer, then, is to benefit ourselves, and to bring us into ***that attitude of mind which will be in heart-readiness to receive our Father's blessing.*** God does not wish to give His choicest blessings where they would be fruitless. When He gives us these blessings, He purposes that our hearts shall be in that condition which will assimilate them and bring forth fruitage. ... (R5745)

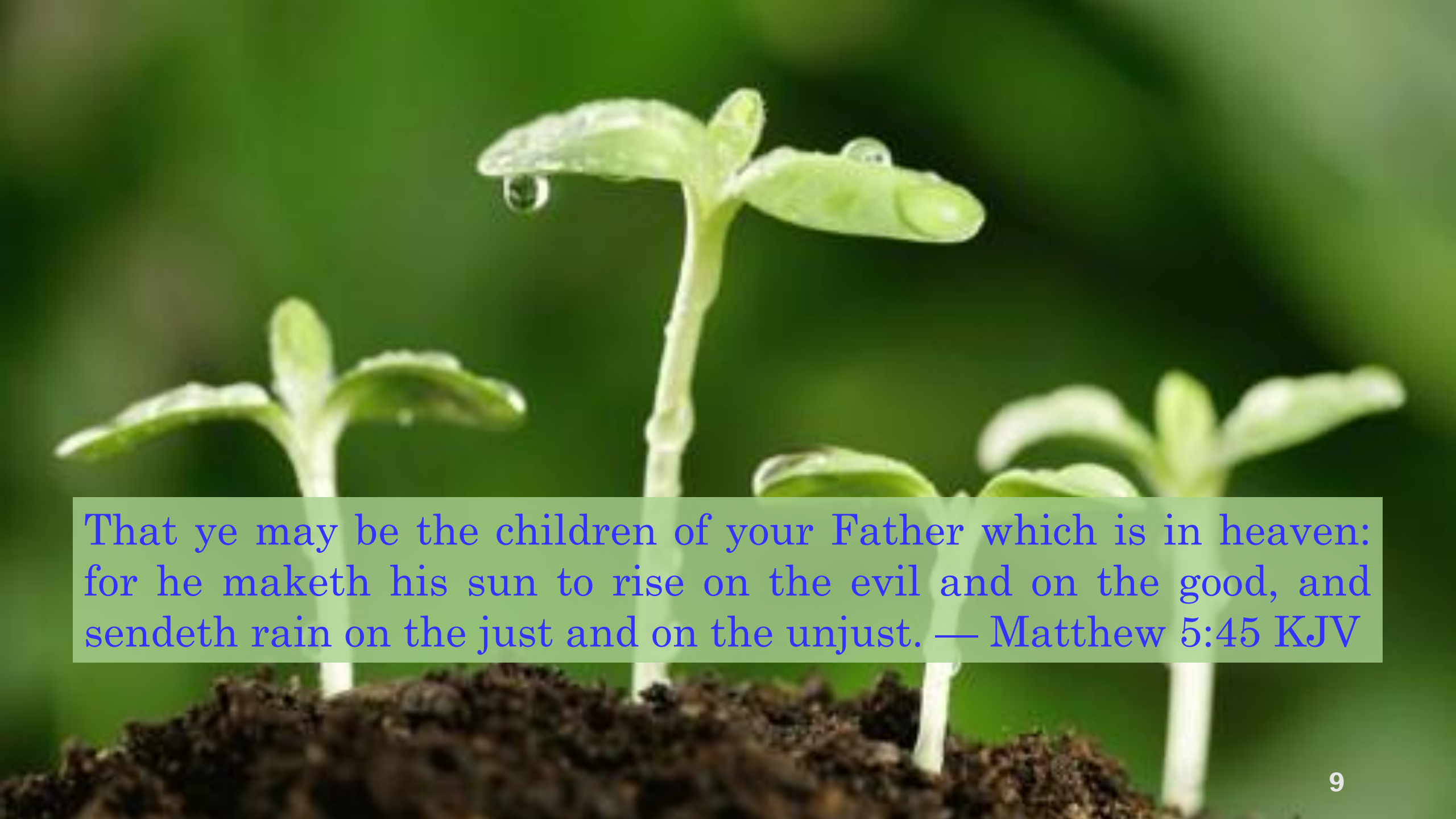
Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. — Psalms 141:2 KJV

... and the four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having each one a harp, and **golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.** — Revelation 5:8 ASV



PRAYER is a general term for all manner of petitions—whether a request, a hymn, or an expression of thanksgiving and praise. The word supplication seems to carry with it the thought of a continuous request, a repeated prayer, a longing desire, a waiting for the Lord to grant our petitions. (R5200)





That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven:
for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and
sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. — Matthew 5:45 KJV

... We have **the organ of veneration**, which appeals to us for the worship of God. ... (R5201)

Prayer seems to be the natural attitude of the human mind toward the Almighty. Even the heathens have a disposition to pray. ... But the people of God, who know of His Wisdom, Power and Love, and who have met the conditions of acceptable prayer, are alone authorized to come to the Throne of Grace. ... (R5833)



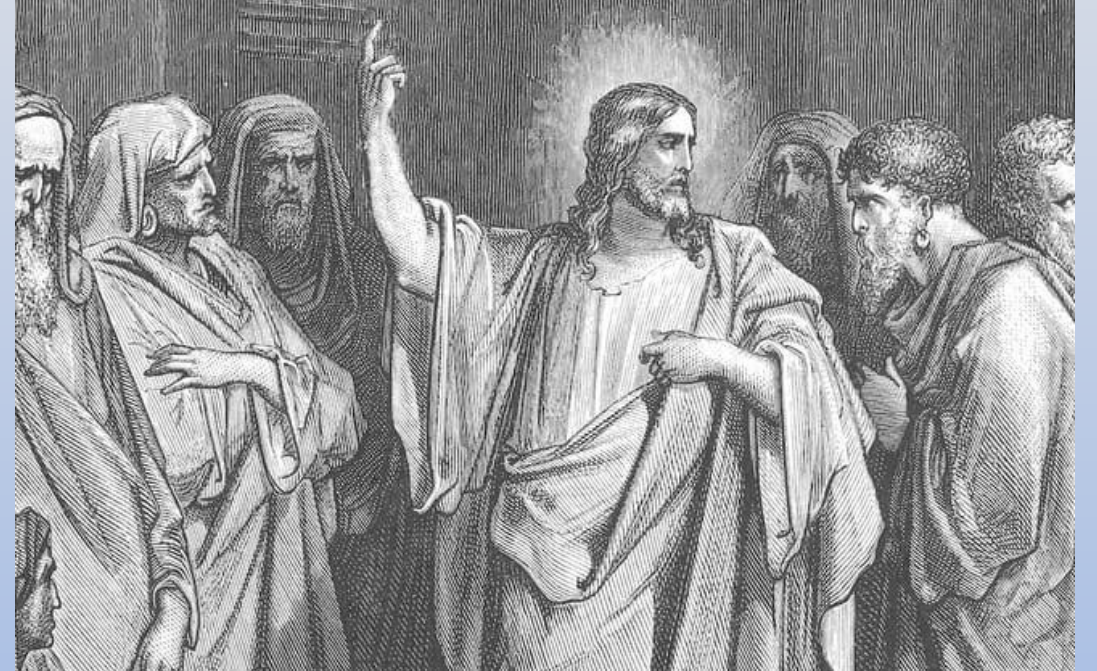
... in the matter of prayer there is a limitation. Only certain persons may pray to the Lord with any assurance of being heard. And these are they **who have become His people by a definite covenant.** Any who have come into such covenant relationship with God have the privilege of prayer. ... (R5708)

The Church of Christ alone, therefore, at this time has the special privilege of coming to God in prayer; for the great Antitypical High Priest has made a satisfactory Sin-Offering of Himself. ... (R5201)



Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. — John 14:6 KJV

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. — John 15:7 KJV



... the Apostle declares that **the children of believers are counted in with them as sharers in the divine grace of justification**—as no longer unholy, but justified in a tentative sense. This justified standing and its relationship to divine care and providence continues from birth until the age of discretion; and **such children evidently have much the same privilege as the justified in the matter of prayer ... (F684)**



There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway. ...

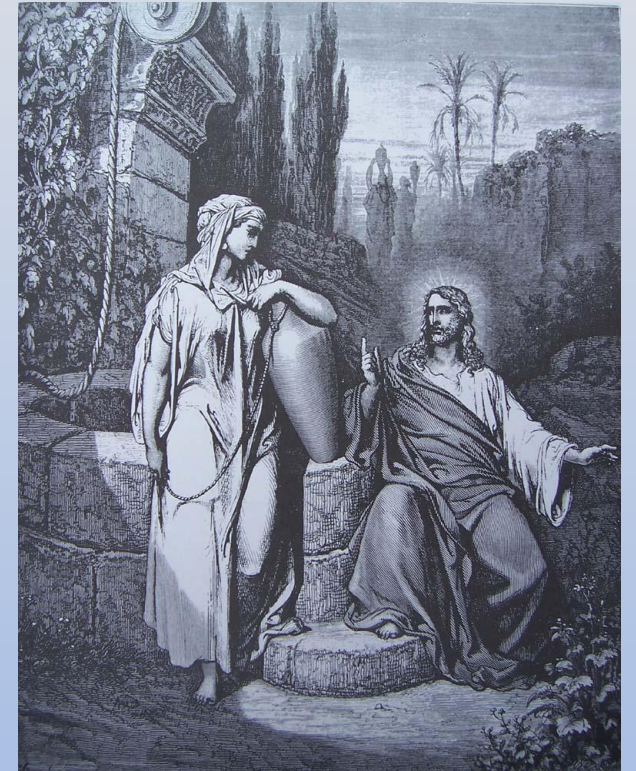
— Acts 10:1-6 KJV



Then Peter opened his mouth, and said ... The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all) ... How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. — Acts 10:34-38 KJV



But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. — John 4:23-24 KJV



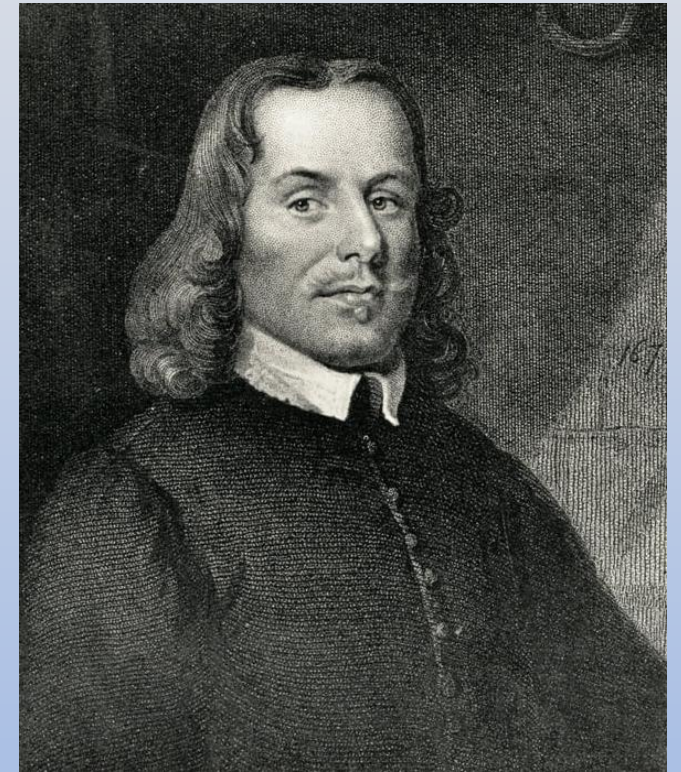
TO THE thoughtful, appreciative mind, **one of the greatest privileges** which the Word of God offers is that of personal audience and communion with the King of kings and Lord of lords. When we consider how great is our God, and how exalted his station, how wonderful is the condescension that thus regards our low estate! ... (R1864)

PRAYER is a wonderful privilege. It is a **very great favor** to be permitted to approach the Supreme Ruler of the Universe with our petitions. We should come, therefore, in the spirit of deep appreciation, of earnestness and humility and reverence. ... (R5480)

... your Father knoweth what things ye have need of,
before ye ask him.— Matthew 6:8 KJV

In prayer it is better
to have a heart without words
than words without a heart.

— John Bunyan, author of *Pilgrim's Progress*



When prayer delights thee least,
then learn to say,
Now is the greatest need
that I should pray.

R5382



The Province of prayer is to ask for such, and only such things, as God has already declared himself well pleased to grant. ... (R0798)



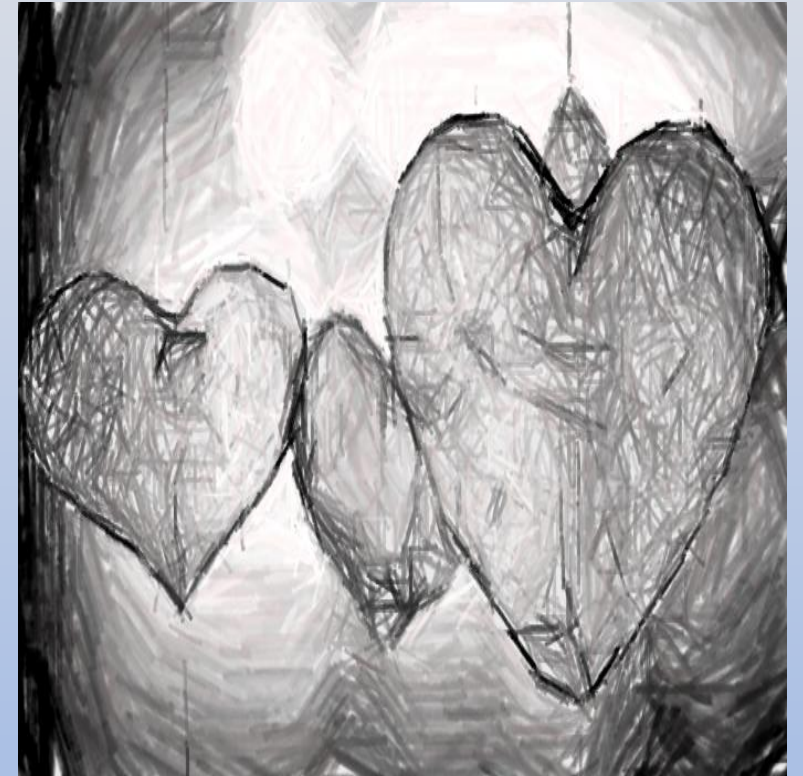
If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall **ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.**

— John 15:7 KJV

... How broad a statement this is! It might seem at first as though we might ask for anything. But it has very particular limitations. ... (R5311)



The OBJECT of prayer is to bring the heart and mind of the child of God, whether in joy or sorrow, into contact with the heart of God, that he may be enabled thus most fully to realize the fatherhood of God, his love and care and his deep interest in every item of our welfare; that in deep affliction we may unburden our hearts to God and thus have forcibly brought to our attention his love and care and wisdom—for our encouragement, not his; for our strengthening, not his, and for our joy. ... (R0797)



... This opportunity is not for us to instruct Jehovah how to arrange matters for the best, but it is to bring our hearts to realize him as the centre of wisdom and power, that having unburdened our hearts, **we may be prepared to listen for his answer and advice through his word.** ... (R0797)



“In thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand are pleasures forevermore,” declares the prophet. (Psalm 16:11) It is because **prayer brings the soul into the presence of the Lord** that it prepares the way for divine blessing and superlative joys. ... (F679)

... God withholds many of his blessings until we approach to ask them in prayer, in order that we may realize our need of his aid, and our dependence on him. ... (R2252)



... By coming to the Lord with regularity in prayer they are enlisting the best qualities of their own minds. Thus, **the New Creature is using the highest faculties of the old nature to wean the old creature from the natural habits which he had cultivated through weaknesses of the flesh.** (R5311)



In order to pray properly, the child of God should know what he may pray for. Otherwise, he might be asking for the wrong things, such as God would never be pleased to give him. ... (R5310)



... when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

— Matthew 6:7 KJV



... Their prayers are all vain repetitions. The first petition was vain and all the subsequent petitions were vain, **because they are not based upon the conditions necessary to acceptable prayer.** (R5311)



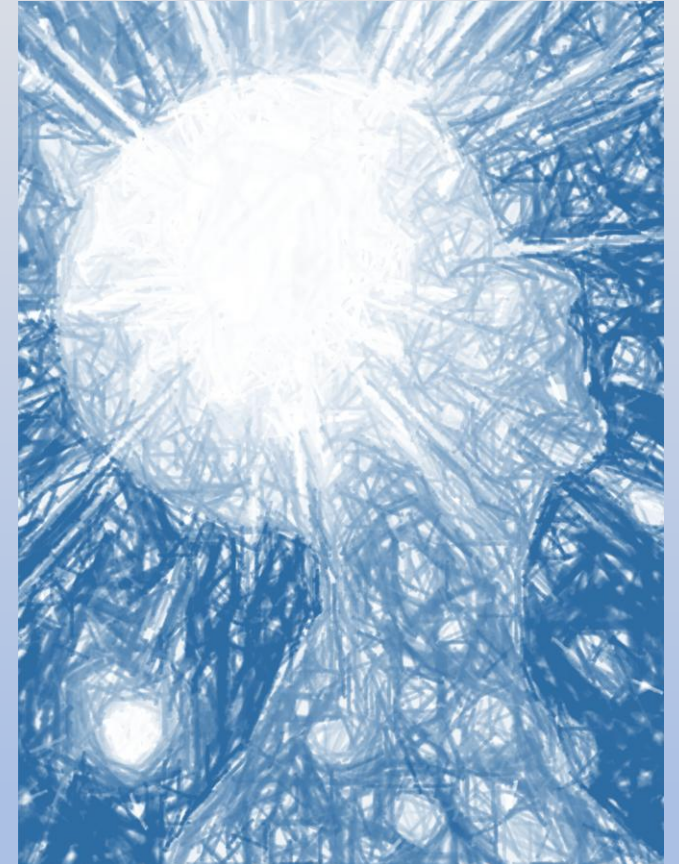
Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.



... The children of God are not to "say prayers," they are to pray. There is much formal prayer—much saying of prayers—which does not **get higher than the head of the one who repeats the words.** The Scriptures speak of this as drawing near to God with the lips when the heart is far from Him. ... (R5835)

Praying always with all prayer and supplication **in the Spirit**, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

— Ephesians 6:18 KJV





Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. — Matthew 6:10 KJV

The world is full of woe and wretchedness because of sin. And our hearts cry out, **How long, O Lord, how long until Thou wilt deliver Thy people and establish righteousness in the earth?** So, we pray day by day, "Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth!" Should we grow tired of this? No; for the Lord has bidden us to continue to wish for it, to pray for it. (R5835)

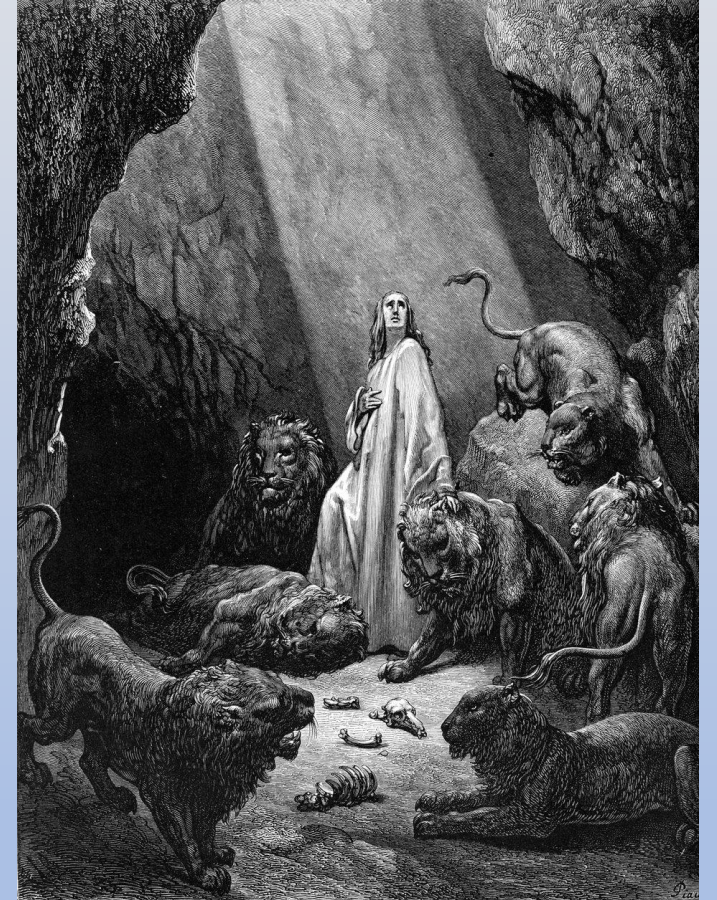


Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss,
that ye may consume it upon your lusts. —
James 4:3 KJV

How few seem to remember that as New Creatures
our desires and requests should be especially for
the **things that pertain to our spiritual interests**;
that it is this class of blessings that the Father
desires us to have, and has promised to give us! ...
(R5481)



... We may not pray for the Lord to hinder others or ourselves from having trials or tests along these lines, for it is for the Divine Wisdom to determine what these shall be, but it is our privilege to pray for each other and for ourselves—to pray for that grace to help in every time of need which the Lord has promised He will grant.—Hebrews 4:16. (R5928)



And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, ***Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed*** (Strong's G37) ***be thy name.*** Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

— Luke 11:2-4 KJV



And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. *Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.* Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

— Luke 11:2-4 KJV



Give us this day our daily bread.

— Matthew 6:11 KJV

... Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. — Matthew 4:4 KJV

... not my will, but thine, be done.

— Luke 22:42 KJV



... While we have been cleansed from original sin by the precious blood of Christ, we must remember that we have daily trespasses; and we should pray daily, "Forgive us our trespasses." This request the Lord answers on condition that we ask for forgiveness of our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. (R4883)



The experience of the New Creature in coming to the Throne of Grace for help is, therefore, [1] **educational**. It will strive the more diligently, the more earnestly, the more perseveringly, to live according to the will of God, not only in mind, but also in body. The result of faithfully following this course of daily scrutinizing our thoughts and words and doings must be [2] the **strengthening**, the fortifying of the New Creature against the wiles of the world, the flesh and the Adversary. (R5101)

Additionally, this course must mean not only a higher and nobler earthly life, even though still imperfect, but [3] a great **sympathy** for others of the human family and for the Church, who similarly strive against the weaknesses of heredity in the flesh ... (R5102)

... we shall not obtain the fulness of our desire until we are changed into the higher life, into the perfection of the new nature, in the resurrection. Then we shall pray no more. Then we shall be fully satisfied. **Prayer will be swallowed up of praise.** (R5833)