

Thistlebend In the Garden Prayer Week Three

Let us lift our hearts up to the Lord and lay aside any distractions...what may have happened on our way to Bible study this morning, this new experience, any sounds, smells, or feelings. Let us ask the Lord to prepare our hearts to commune with Him. If you have anything that is burdening you or upsetting you, take a moment right now to lay it all down at the Lord's feet. Entrust whatever it is entirely to the Lord.

[T H A N K S G I V I N G]

Let us, "*Enter His gates with thanksgiving . . .*"

*I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples;
I will sing praises to you among the nations.
For your steadfast love is great to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.
Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let your glory be over all the earth! (Psalm 57:9-11)*

*I will praise the name of God with a song;
I will magnify him with thanksgiving.
This will please the LORD more than an ox
or a bull with horns and hoofs. (Psalm 69:30-33)*

*We give thanks to you, O God;
we give thanks, for your name is near.
We recount your wondrous deeds. (Psalm 75:1)*

Let us worship the Lord by offering Him a sacrifice of thanksgiving. During the next 2 minutes, we will take turns thanking the Lord out loud, specifically for His wonderful deeds recorded in His Word and recently demonstrated in our lives. We want to focus on WHAT He has done.

Abba Father I thank you for making me your own. For rescuing me from danger, darkness, depravity, and destruction. Thank you for loving me as only a perfect loving Father could with the heart and tenderness of a mother hen gathering her chicks under her arm. Thank you for loving me as a true best Friend, one that sticks closer than a brother, and one that loves in truth and in the Spirit with mercy and grace. Thank you that you know me and understand me. You know my past, my present, and my future. You know my heart, my sin, and my weakness. You know my hurts, my wounds, my loves, and my joys. Thank you, Father.

[P R A I S E]

Let us enter, "*into His courts with praise.*"

*Send out your light and your truth;
let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy hill
and to your dwelling!
Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy,
and I will praise you with the lyre,
O God, my God.
Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you in turmoil within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my salvation and my God. (Psalm 43:3-5)*

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During the next 2 minutes let us all praise the Lord out loud for specific attributes of His character that you remember from His Word or that you have experienced in recent days. Praise Him for who He is and how He has revealed himself to you in His Word, in His creation, through His people, or by His Spirit. Let us focus on WHO He is.

Abba Father, I praise you, for you are . . .

[C O N F E S S I O N]

Let us approach confession with fresh faith and hope, asking for the Lord's help. Draw near to Him. He made a way where there seemed to be no way.

1 John 1:9-10

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Ask the Lord to help you see your sin, call it sin, and confess it, as I read through the following list.

Lord please forgive us for our:

Selfishness
Self-centeredness
Self-will
Self-rule
Self-righteousness
Self-serving ways
Self-gratification
Self-protection
Self-promotion

For any other sin the Lord has revealed to you this morning or during this week, confess it out loud to Him and to one another.

Abba Father, I confess . . .

Let us pray the following prayer together out loud:

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father; We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Forgive us O Lord, as we confess our faults. Restore us O Lord according to Your promises declared to us in Christ Jesus our Lord. Abba Father we pray that we may walk in a manner worthy of the gospel and live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of Your holy Name. Amen.

We can be encouraged. The Lord tells us if we confess our sin He is faithful to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

[I N T E R C E S S I O N]

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As the body of Christ, His ambassadors and His holy priesthood, let us bring our requests before Him. During the next 3-4 minutes, we will each take a turn.

Abba Father, I lift up . . .