

December 6, 2009
"PRAYER", *Daily Disciple*, page 349



PSALM

- ⁶ I call on you, O God, for you will answer me;
give ear to me and hear my prayer.
- ⁷ Show the wonder of your great love,
you who save by your right hand
those who take refuge in you from their foes.
- ⁸ Keep me as the apple of your eye;
hide me in the shadow of your wings
- ⁹ from the wicked who assail me,
from my mortal enemies who surround me.

(Psalm 17:6-9)

MEDITATION

“God must be pleased when, in self-forgetfulness and humility, we do as he expected us to do when he made us—bring all our needs before him and expect him to supply them.”

(Ashley S. Johnson, *The Life of Trust*, pages 12-13)

SCRIPTURE

²⁴To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— ²⁵to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

(Jude 24, 25)

PRAYER

“God, my Savior, I long to stand in your presence. Keep me from falling, supply my every need, and guard me as the apple of your eye. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.”

Digging Deeper: Finding out, discussion and sharing

1. This devotional message focuses on bringing our needs to God who made us and knows how dependent we are upon Him.
2. Read Psalm 17 and answer the following questions:
 - a. What would you say the major theme of this Psalm is?
 - b. The Psalmist begins by asking God to listen to his cry. What assurance do we have that God listens to the cry of his children?
 - c. The Psalmist makes a profound connection in prayer that we do not make. He knows that God will probe his heart at night as he is praying.
 - d. Psalm 17:3 has been the biblical passage for the practice of Examen of Conscience. Look this up in a resource on prayer and discuss in your group what this might look like in our individual prayer life.
 - e. The very last verse of this Psalm (verse 15) is a reference to morning prayer.
 - 1) What does the Psalmist mean when he says, “In righteousness I will see your face”?
 - 2) He mentions that when he awakes in the morning, “I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness.” What does this mean in the context of morning prayer?
 - 3) Upon what basis does the Psalmist say in verse 6 that he calls upon God?
 - 4) If we, like the Psalmist, prayed to God, “Show the wonder of your great love”—what would that mean for us here and now?
 - 5) Verse 8 is a powerful prayer of refuge and protection. Share a time in your life when this type of prayer was your life line to sanity and eventual blessings coming out of a difficult time.
3. In Ashley S. Johnson’s meditation, he points out that two things are necessary for our prayer life to be pleasing to God. What are those two things?
4. Also, in the meditation, we find out that God supplies all our needs. Share a couple of scriptures on this point that have been most helpful in your Christian walk with this very blessing.
5. The Scripture from Jude is very powerful and often forgotten. This is an affirmation of God’s power to keep his children from falling.
 - a. Do we ask God in our prayer life to keep us from falling?
 - b. Do we ask God to present us without fault in his glorious presence?
 - c. Read Jude verse 1. What are the three descriptions used by Jude to characterize his readers?
 - d. Do you believe that if we were aware of these descriptions while we were intensely praying to God that it would effect how we pray?
6. Jude verse 20 says, “Pray in the Holy Spirit.” What does this mean? How does one do it?
7. The basic ideas of protection, care, provision and supply coming from God to his children has provided the context of this entire lesson on prayer.
8. Share with the group an occasion your life, or your family’s life, where you experienced the powerful protection and care from God your heavenly Father.
9. How does this experience radically transform the good news for you as you tell others about God and Jesus?

