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*Our Father  
in Heaven*



A decorative wreath of cherry blossoms and two birds. The wreath is composed of several branches of cherry blossoms, some in full bloom and some as buds. Two small birds are perched on the branches, facing each other. The entire illustration is rendered in a monochromatic, woodcut-style style.

*Our Father  
in heaven, hallowed  
be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as it  
is in heaven.*

Matthew 6:9, 10



## *Asking*

I don't ask God for  
too much stuff  
for He knows what I need  
So I enjoy the things he sends  
and kinda' let Him lead.  
I get a lot of joy, ya' know,  
to think that He loves me  
And that's as good as it can get  
and sets my spirit free.

I often talk to Jesus  
and will tell Him "Thanks a lot  
For all the blessings that I have  
and for the stuff I've got."  
God has good things to say to folks  
who take the time to hear,  
And when our hearts break forth in praise  
He bends a list'ning ear.

To know your heart is right with God  
and often keep in touch  
Gives Him the message loud and clear  
that you love Jesus much.  
So when you talk to Him each day  
just try to measure up  
And keep your heart's door open wide  
so He can fill your cup.

## *Fancy Prayers*

Some folks use lots of fancy words  
when to the Lord they pray  
As if they want to show their skill  
by big words that they say.  
I doubt the Lord is too impressed  
by fancy words and such  
For if they're only from the head  
they won't amount to much.  
I am not sure how God views these,  
to judge is not my part,  
But one thing that I know for sure—  
God listens to the heart.





I wonder if you've thought about  
that God is always Home,  
You never get beyond His reach  
no matter where you roam.  
He's open seven days a week  
and never locks His door  
So anyone on planet earth,  
though they are rich or poor

Can talk to Him and tell Him thanks  
for all the stuff they've got  
For when they count their blessings up  
they find they have a lot.  
And if they have a problem  
they can also share that, too,  
And if they tell Him all their heart  
He knows just what to do.

It almost blows my mind, ya' know,  
to think He's always there  
And never takes a few days off  
to breathe some country air  
And take some time for R and R,  
relaxing just a tad  
For it must really weigh Him down  
when things on earth are bad.

The folks who want no part of God  
and do things their own way  
Have no one they can turn to  
when they have a lousy day.  
So folks thank God He's always Home  
and not locked up at night,  
Just put your hand in His big Hand.  
He'll make your burden light.





## *Quiet Desperation*

It seems some folks will spend their life  
in quiet desperation,  
They find no joy to cheer their heart  
in all of God's creation.  
I know sometimes it's hard to sing  
when skies have turned to gray,  
But hard times really come to 'pass,'  
they do not come to stay.

Now if you find you have no song  
and life is mean and tough,  
Self-pity will not fill the bill--  
it's really not enough.  
You've got to stir yourself a bit  
and count the things you've got;  
It's not too smart to make a list  
of things that you have not.

If desperation has set in  
and quietly you groan,  
Just put your hand in God's big Hand;  
you'll find you're not alone.

*For I am the Lord your God,  
who takes hold of your right  
hand. Isaiah 41:13*

*Luke 18:9-14*

*Both  
Men  
Prayed*



Jesus told a parable one day  
About two different men  
Who both were praying to the Lord  
And 'fore each said, "Amen"  
The one told God how great he was  
And good things that he did,  
No doubt he went to church a lot  
Since he was just a kid.

He said he always paid his tithe  
And fasted twice a week,  
He liked to pray so folks could hear  
The bragging words he'd speak.  
This Pharisee talked on and on  
And said a lot of stuff  
And then told God the other man's  
Not living up to snuff.

The other man, a publican,  
Did not have much to say  
But smote his breast and bowed his head  
And God heard him that day  
For he said, "I'm a sinner, Lord,  
Be merciful to me,"  
And this man went home justified  
And happy as can be.



*I Love Your Word,  
Oh Lord*

I love to read Your Word, Oh Lord,  
it means a lot to me,  
For there's wisdom in its pages  
that can set a person free.  
It tells us how we ought to live  
for living at its best  
And if we do the things it says  
we'll have both peace and rest.

It tells us of the patriarchs  
who lived in days of old  
And though we've heard of them as kids  
they still are often told  
Like Daniel in the lion's den,  
and David and his sling,  
Of course when Samson's hair was cut  
it spoiled most everything.

There's Moses and the burning bush,  
and Jonah and the whale,  
And these and many more are told  
of God who did not fail.  
And then in the New Testament  
some lived when times were bad  
Some Christians got some beatings  
taking all the grace they had.

But there were also happy times  
    when Jesus healed the blind  
And even brought folks back to life,  
    for He was super kind.  
He gave the Sermon on the Mount  
    and taught us how to pray,  
The things He taught aren't out of date  
    but still are used today.

Besides the heroes in God's Book,  
    it gives in great detail  
How Christians can prepare for Heav'n  
    and make it without fail.  
So when you knock on Heaven's Gate  
    and walk that golden stair  
Please be assured inside your heart  
    King Jesus will be there.





## *The Sacrifice of Praise*

Since Jesus Christ was Crucified  
and shed His Blood for man  
He was the all-time Sacrifice  
according to God's Plan.  
We no more offer bulls and goats  
to take away our sin  
For God devised a different way  
to give us life within.

God still wants us to sacrifice  
in several kinds of ways--  
I kinda' like to give to God  
the Sacrifice of Praise.  
It makes me happy when I thank  
the Lord for what I've got  
For He has blessed me bountifully  
and given me a lot.

I feel the Lord is really pleased  
when we've good stuff to say,  
I think the Sacrifice of Praise  
might really make His day.

*Let us continually offer to God  
a sacrifice of praise. Hebrews 13:15*

## *Trying Out Stuff*

Some folks will try a lot of stuff  
to try to help them cope  
So they can stay on top th' heap  
and give them joy and hope.  
Some may buy fancy cars and clothes  
and eat expensive meals  
And if their health in kinda' poor  
they may get Meals on Wheels.

The Bible has good news for those  
who struggle for life's best  
It says if we will come to God  
He'll give us peace and rest.  
Some folks have learned this secret  
and they look to God each day  
For guidance and protection  
and for help along life's way.



## *Small Prayers*

When children say their prayers at night  
before they fall asleep  
Their trusting little hearts will ask  
the Lord their soul to keep.  
They also ask that if they die  
before they should awake  
They want God to remember them  
so He their soul will take.

I'm sure God's heard that childish prayer  
repeated o'er and o'er  
No doubt it's in the millions—  
even billions, maybe more.  
But Jesus loved the little kids--  
I'm sure He takes time out  
To listen to a little child  
and things they talk about.



## *I Prayed for You*

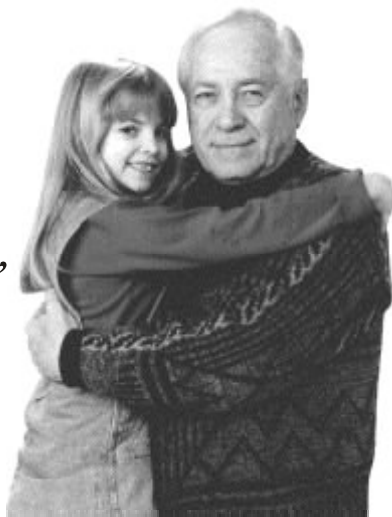


Today I prayed for you, my friend,  
I just want you to know  
That you are thought about and loved  
More than you'll ever know.  
I realize that living  
Can sometimes steal your song  
But God has ways to cheer the heart  
When minor things go wrong.

Don't forget God watches sparrows  
So you know He watches you  
So keep it in your heart and mind  
He knows all things you do.  
You are the apple of His Eye—  
He wants for you the best  
And if you keep your hand in His  
He'll give you peace and rest.

God never is surprised, ya' know,  
At things that come your way  
And be assured He'll give to you  
The strength you need each day.  
So keep a song deep in your heart,  
And if you will look up  
He will come by in His great love  
And fill your empty cup.

*Keepin'  
In  
Touch*



God's really awfully good to us  
to tell us not a thing  
About just what the future holds  
and what each day will bring.  
He knows that we might get upset  
and be depressed and blue  
And so He hides the future  
so we won't give up and stew.

It could be that He much prefers  
to give us strength each day  
For any problems that come up  
to muddy up our way.  
I think God likes it best this way  
so He can keep close touch  
And also let us know for sure  
He loves us very much.

*God is  
Always  
Listening*



I bet the Lord bows down His ear  
and likes it quite a lot  
When people pray and give Him thanks  
for all the stuff they've got.  
He really knows our every need  
so He takes care of things  
So why not just say, "Thank You, Lord"  
and find the joy it brings.

Of course our God would like for us  
to often keep in touch,  
He'd like to hear you tell Him  
that you love Him very much.  
And while you're on the line with Him  
you oughta' ask Him, too,  
If He has something in His Heart  
He'd like for you to do.

Don't live a mediocre life  
and kinda' drift along--  
God has a special plan for you  
to give your heart a song.  
Don't miss the joy of serving God  
for it's so good to know  
That He will keep His Eye on you  
and never let you go.

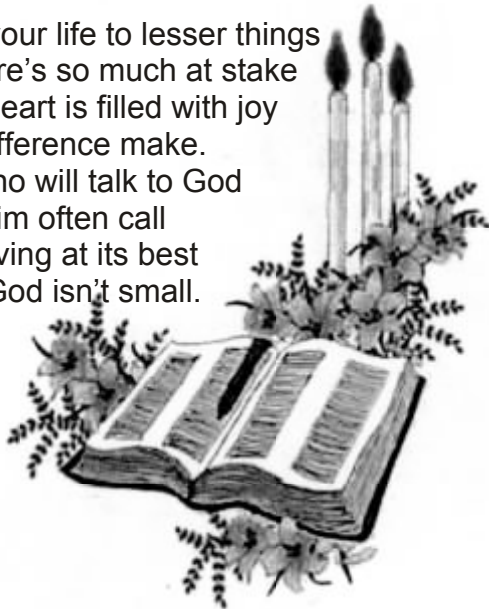


*“on call”*

Some folks don't seem to realize  
God always is “on call”  
And it's unfortunate to see  
their God is far too small.  
When they don't have their head on straight  
they follow rabbit trails  
And may end up lost in the woods  
because their judgment fails.

Our God is really wise, ya' know,  
and if folks want life's best  
They need to talk to Him a lot  
and let Him be their Guest.  
He's always been in Heaven  
and He runs the Place with care  
And folks who give their heart to Him  
will live with Him up There.

Don't trust your life to lesser things  
when there's so much at stake  
For if your heart is filled with joy  
it will a difference make.  
A person who will talk to God  
and on Him often call  
Discovers living at its best  
for their God isn't small.



## *Long Prayers*

Some folks say long and fancy prayers  
That don't get off the ground.  
I'd guess those prayers are not sincere  
And have a hollow sound.  
It's not too good to just say words  
If they're not from the heart--  
God knows if they're sincere or not  
Right from the very start.  
So if you'd speak with God, My friend,  
And catch His listening ear  
You've gotta' tell it like it is  
If you want Him to hear.



## *The Listener*



It really kinda' blows my mind  
About this thing called prayer  
Nobody can prevent it  
For our God is always There.  
We can pray for someone far away  
Or someone right next door  
For distance doesn't bother God,  
He always knows the score.

God hears the prayers of little folks,  
Or those who say a prayer  
Because they feel depressed and down  
And need someone to care.  
But if you think on it a bit  
We need God every day  
To help us with the bumps in life  
That seem to come our way.

Don't hesitate to pray for folks  
Who mean a lot to you  
For they have struggles all their own--  
Needing love and caring, too.  
No one can stop a person's prayers  
No matter how they try  
For God is always listening  
Somewhere up in the sky.



## *Refinement*

When your life is going smoothly  
and you're perking right along  
It's easy to be cheerful  
if you haven't lost your song.  
But if you get too busy  
and you don't take time to pray  
You just may hit a speed bump  
that will slow you on your way.

And when these tough times slow you down  
no doubt you'll breathe a prayer  
And tell God what your problems are  
assuming He's up There.  
Sometimes it's easy to forget  
the good stuff that you've got  
Until it sorta' slips away  
and then you're on the spot.

But if you're kinda' in that shape  
and hardly can endure  
Remember God still loves you,  
of this you can be sure.  
It could be He's refining you  
so He can shine through you  
So folks can see the love of God  
in everything you do.