

5

*Our Father
in Heaven*



A decorative wreath of cherry blossoms and two birds framing the text. The wreath is composed of several branches with small, five-petaled flowers. Two small birds are perched on the branches at the bottom of the wreath. The text is centered within the wreath.

*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

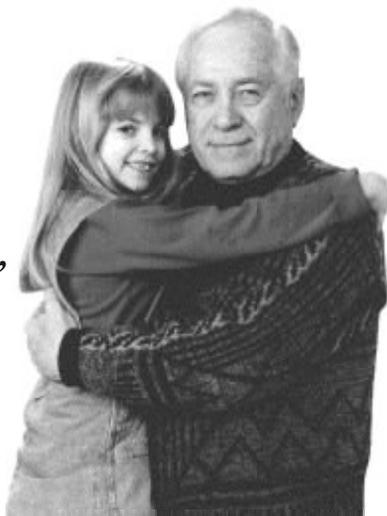


Today I prayed for you, my friend,
I just want you to know
That you are thought about and loved
More than you'll ever know.
I realize that living
Can sometimes steal your song
But God has ways to cheer the heart
When minor things go wrong.

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.