

# Experiencing God Through Prayer

*Do not be anxious for anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition,  
with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.  
And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and mind in Christ Jesus.  
-Philippians 4: 6-7*

Prayer model: **P** – praise, **R** – repent, **A** – ask, **Y** – yield.

(Note: Another prayer model to consider is **ACTS**: **A**: Adoration, **C**: Confession, **T**: Thanksgiving, **S**: Supplication: requests for self and others)

## #1: Praise/Adoration:

*The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.  
Now, if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and  
co-heirs with Christ, **if indeed we share in his sufferings**  
in order that we may also share in his glory.  
-Romans 8: 16-17*

*Give thanks in ALL circumstances, for this is God's will for you  
in Christ Jesus. -1 Thessalonians 5:18*

*Oh come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving;  
Let us shout joyfully to Him psalms.  
For the Lord is a great God. –Ps 95:1,2*

*Serve the Lord with Gladness;... –Ps 100:2*

*Note: This is a part of God's plan (vision) for the lives of all of His children.*

*More love to Thee, O Christ! More love to Thee;  
Hear Thou the prayer I make On bended knee.  
This is my earnest plea, More love, O Christ to Thee,  
More love to Thee! More love to Thee. #458*

Loving parents like to do nice things and give nice things to their children. Our heavenly Father is the same, only even more so. What He desires from me, above everything else, is that I come and just spend time with Him.

Some of the gifts God, my Abba, has **GIVEN** me include:

- 1) **Physically:** Sight (to behold His creation), Hearing (to communicate with others and hear His gentle sounds in nature), ability to Walk (freedom to go where ever), Arms/Hands/Fingers (to care for myself and others), I am “fearfully and wonderfully made”;
- 2) **Emotionally:** Peace and joy, a happy disposition; the ability to forgive, the fruits of the Spirit, stability through God-confidence (and not self-confidence),
- 3) **Spiritually:** the Mind of Christ (MB 143, 1 Cor. 2:16), I am in the process of being restored in the image of God, forgiveness, hope, a new heart, a conscience which whispers to me right and wrong,
- 4) **Mentally:** the ability to communicate with Him; memory to remember spiritual things, job related things and life survival things, the ability to reason and plan, common sense.
- 5) **Socially/relationally:** a wife who loves me; children who love and respect me, a dog who adores me, family members who care about me, level 1 & 2 friends who make my life more joyful, my relationship with God and ability to commune with Him whenever I choose.
- 6) **Materialistically:** a house with a great view; a dependable vehicle, food, cloths, money, accessories (computer, books, Bibles etc), money for incidental needs.

Some of the things He has **DONE** for me include:

- 7) **Physically:**
- 8) **Emotionally:** calms my anxious heart, lifts me up when I am down, comforts me,
- 9) **Spiritually:** draws my heart back to His heart, He has restored my soul over and over again; give me insights into His love for me and His plan for my life,
- 10) **Mentally:**
- 11) **Socially:**
- 12) **Materialistically:**

## Attributes, characteristics and personality traits of my Father & Elder Brother that I adore:

(Read and reflect on: Psalms 8, 19, 23, 46, 95, 100, 148; Luke 1:46-55; Luke 1:68-79)

Attributes:

1. **Omnipotence:** (having unlimited power): Father, when I think of Your omnipotence I am reminded that You are ALL powerful. Nothing can touch my life unless You permit it to do so.

**Note:** *“When I consider the heavens and what You have done, when I see the moon and stars which You have made, I am awed. What is man that You concern Yourself with him? **Of what value is he to You that You continue to be bothered with him?**” –Psalms 8:3,4*

It is in our little world, the one blight on all creation, that the heart of God is centered. Why? Maybe it is because all other created beings are perfect reflections of His loving character already. We are the only ones who are mentally, physically, socially and spiritually deformed and degraded. With a father’s heart, He longs to see His children made whole.

2. **Omnipresent** (all present): Father, no matter where I am, You are there. No matter where I find myself, You are only a prayer away. You never take a break from watching over me.

*And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. –Matt. 28:20*

*For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, **which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

*– Romans 8:38,39 (Christ is the source of love. Go to Him to be loved and to grow in love)*

**Note:** God’s omnipresence includes His willingness to live in my heart through the Holy Spirit if I allow Him to do so. He leaves that decision up to me.

Nothing can separate us from the Love of God. Satan and sin can destroy our bodies; but God places a boarder around our hearts. That is our soul temple – the place where we commune with our Father. As long as we daily live in our soul temple, connected to the heart of God, we will live above the devastation of our circumstances. Not even satan can enter our heart's soul temple unless we allow it. But if we cling to our Father, and through His strength live in obedience to Him, we - like Jesus - will live above the circumstances and not under them.

3. **Omniscient** (all knowing): Father, there is nothing that confuses You. You know every thought of every human being: past, present and future. You know everything about the universe and everything in the universe. You are the ultimate source of all knowledge and wisdom.

*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives it generously to all without finding fault. And it will be given you. -James 1:5*

**Note:** “If we ever attain unto holiness, it will be through the renunciation of self and the reception of the MIND OF CHRIST.” –MB, 143

*But we have the mind of Christ. -1 Cor. 2:16 (When I am living totally submitted to my Father's will, He will inspire my motives, thoughts and actions)*

*Trust in the Lord with ALL your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In ALL thy ways acknowledge (include) Him and He will direct your path. –Psalm ?*

4. **Alpha & Omega:** “the beginning and the end”. Father, You were before this world, and before time. And You will be after this world and after time as we know it. Our minds are so puny and weak that we cannot grasp even a tiny speck of who You are.

## Characteristics & Qualities:

1. **Faithful:** *But God [is] faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear [it]. -1 Cor. 10:13*

*But the Lord is faithful, who will establish (make stable, firm, settled) you and guard you from the evil one. -2 Thessalonians 3:3*

*Be thankful for what the Lord has done for you and praise His holy name. For the Lord is good, His love never fails, and His faithfulness to His people endures forever. –Psalms 100:4,5*

2. **Holy:** *And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.  
3:4 And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here [am] I.  
3:5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither: **put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest [is] holy ground.**  
3:6 Moreover he said, I [am] the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. **And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.** –Exodus 3:3-6*

***Note:** I tend to be so casual in communicating with God and thinking about Him. While it is important that I see Him as my Abba, it is just as important that I see Him as the Creator and King of the universe. That I don't take Him lightly; but act with reverence of mind and actions every minute of every day. Like Moses, I am in His presence all of the time and need to be mindful of that.*

3. **Righteous:** (morally right or justifiable) *For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; His countenance doth behold the upright. –Psalm 11:7*

*In Thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and **in Thy righteousness** shall they be exalted. –Psalms 89:16*

4. **Just** (fair): *And there is no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; there is none besides Me. Look to Me, and be saved. –Isaiah 45:21,22*

5. **Merciful:** (For the LORD thy God [is] a merciful God;) *he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he swore unto them. –Deuteronomy 4:31*

*With the merciful Thou wilt show Thyself merciful, [and] with the upright man Thou wilt show Thyself upright.  
-2 Samuel 22:26*

*Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.  
–Luke 6:36*

6. **Gracious:** *All of these blessings will come upon you and accompany You. If you obey the Lord your God. –Deut. 28:2*

*Note: All of these blessings – Moses talks to the children of Israel after God has given them the 10 Commandments and tells them how God intends to bless all areas of their lives and they will be His evidence of what a difference it is to obey Him in everything. He desires to do the same for me. God rewards obedience. When I choose obedience, I can look for His blessing.*

7. **Provider:** *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. –Ps. 23:1*

*My God shall supply ALL of your needs according to His riches in glory. –Phil. 4:19*

*Note: God has provided and will continue to provide for all of my needs – physical, emotional, and spiritual. My job is to stay very close to Him so that I can see His provisions in my behalf and understand the difference between what I think I need and what He knows I need. There are times when what He provides does not look like a blessing. It is in those times that I must continue to cling to Him and trust that my Father knows best.*

8. **Counselor:** *And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. –Isaiah 9:6*

*Note: Before every board meeting, before answering every phone call of someone seeking advice, before every response to people who do not see things as I do, I must turn to my Counselor, turn my life over to Him and request that He speak to me & through me. When I choose to go it alone, it usually results in complications. He, through His Spirit, continually prompts me (still small voice) and leads me.*

9. **Attentive:** *He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. **He restores my soul.** –Psalms 23:2*

*Note: No matter how bad the storm that surrounds me, My Father provides my heart with “green pastures” and “still waters.” My need is to remain close to the heart of God and keep Him in my soul temple – my heart. Through His presence in my life – heart, I can live in tranquility no matter what is happening on the outside.*

**10. Unchanging:** *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. –Hebrews 3:8*

**11. Humble:** *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly (humble) in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke [is] easy, and My burden is light. –Matt 11:29,30*

**12. Meek:** (gentle, kind, patient) *...for I am meek and lowly in heart... -Matt 11:29*

*For the LORD takes pleasure in His people: He will beautify the meek with salvation. –Psalms 149:4*

**13. Gentle:** (“handled with care” “a soft touch”)

*But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, [and] easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. –James 3:17*

**14. Compassionate:** (sympathizing deeply with a desire to help)

*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. -Psalm 46:1*

*Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness: He is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous. –Ps. 112:4*

*And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick. –Matt. 14:14*

**15. Kind:** *But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be the sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. –Luke 6:35*

**16. Forgiving:** *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. -Ephesians 4:32*

**17. Patient:** *Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ. -2 Thessalonians 3:5*

**18. Peaceful:** (Prince of Peace):

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. –Isaiah 9:6*

**19. Loving:** *Beloved, NOW, are we the children of God. -1 John 3:2*

*For the Lord take's pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation. –Psalm 149:4*

*Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called the children of God. -1 John 3:1*

**Note:** “pleasure” – a pleased feeling, a thing that gives delight or satisfaction. When I humbly acknowledge Him as my Father and Lord of my life, He is delighted with me. To Him, I am like a three year old child who has just taken a bath before going to bed then crawls up onto his parents lap for a story. You can't help but love such a child and so does your Father love you. When we are willing, He beatifies us with salvation.

**20. Persistent:** *For He hath said, I will NEVER leave thee, nor forsake thee. –Hebrews 13:5*

**21. Ever present:** *The Lord Almighty is with us: the God of Jacob is our fortress. (Psalms 46:7)*

**Note:** Jacob was a deceiver before his night of great adversity fighting all night with Christ. But after that night, he gave himself completely to the Lord. He clung to the Lord for deliverance, and from that time on, when God wanted to make known who He was, He referred to Himself as the God of a converted sinner – Jacob. When our Father gets into name dropping, He doesn't try to impress with “important” names to make Himself look good, He drops the names of sinners who have asked for forgiveness and acceptance.

**#2: Repent:** (Don't do a mass sins confession. Take them out of the pile one-by-one, confess them to God, ask forgiveness and seek His power to win the victory over each one.)

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. -1 John 1:9*

*If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; Old things have passed away; behold ALL things have become new. -2 Corinthians 5:17*

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. – Psalms 51:10,11*



*Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation,  
And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.  
-Psalms 51:12*

*He delights in showing mercy.... He will trample our sins  
Underfoot and throw them into the depths of the sea. –Micah 7:18,19*

*I will remember their sins no more. –Jeremiah 31:34*

*May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart  
be pleasing in Your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my  
Redeemer. –Psalm 19:14*

**Note:** It is not enough to just claim these promises. Claiming them needs to be followed up by choosing to live, by faith, as if they are already part of your life.

### **Confessions:**

Father, I ask for forgiveness for not taking time with You (or time focused on You) each morning.

I ask forgiveness for not living in complete submission to Your will for me.

I pray for forgiveness for not coming to You in the name of Jesus and for feelings of self-sufficiency, pride and the desires to be in control of self. Please forgive me for wandering away from You and then, not wanting to come back. Create in me a clean heart, Father, and restore a clean spirit within me.

I pray for forgiveness for others I have hurt by my words and actions. (Names)  
I pray for forgiveness for not taking time to help others who You prompted me to help (think of who God may have been asking me to help in some way yesterday. I pray that You will forgive me for not listening closely for Your “still small voice” and missing Your calls to help others or do specific things.

I pray for the forgiveness of those “sins which so easily beset me” (note them & ask for strength to overcome them).

*Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset [us], and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [our] faith;** -Hebrews 12: 1,2*

Father, restore me and draw my heart to Your heart this day. Then, by Your grace, let me run with patience the race you have set before me. I am a sinner, Father. Please take my sinful being and restore me into the image of Jesus this day. Place in me the

mind of Christ so that I will think His thoughts, be motivated by His heart and do His actions.

If we ever attain unto holiness, it will be through the renunciation of self and the reception of the MIND of Christ. –MB, p. 143

Now Father, I claim this prayer by faith, let my thoughts and actions show that everything listed above has already been accomplished.

### #3: Ask:

*Taste and see that the Lord is good. –Psalm 34:8*

*If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him. – Matthew 7: 9-11*

*Cast all your cares (anxiety) on Him because He cares for you. –1 Peter 5:7*

*Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your Heart. – Psalm 37:4*

*God acts in behalf of those who wait for Him. –Isaiah 64:4*

*Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart. ? (Note: the desires of your heart and not your flesh)*

**Note:** When we ask for something, we must follow it up by living by faith. That means **to live and to talk as if it has already been done**. Show God an attitude of gratitude for hearing and answering your prayers.

Waiting on God is active. To wait means to expect. To live expectantly for the answers to your prayers. Mark 11:24 says, “...believe it is given to you and you will receive it.” Pray that God will wake up your faith and let you live in a state of continual expectation.

### **Prayer Requests:**

**Note:** Date your daily prayer requests in each of the three areas. When they have been answered, place your choice of symbol at the beginning and note how they were answered in a paragraph below the request. Reviewing God’s answers to your request builds and strengthens your faith in Him.

Self:

Others:

Things:

#### **#4: Yield (Listening to the voice of God):**

- A) Promptings, admonitions, affirmations
- B) Revelations about God, Christ, the Holy Spirit and my relationship
- C) His promptings to help others

(Write down His promptings that apply to others on a note card and work on them that day)

A) His promptings, admonitions and affirmations for my life:

1. By focusing on adoration for God, then forgiveness I have found that when I come to “asking” my heart is full of joy and love for my Father. I feel close to Him.

B) His revelations about Himself, Christ, the Holy Spirit & my relationship with each one:

1. There is a correlation between my daily, consistent walk with God and things like: trust, God-confidence, peace, joy, love, kindness, compassion etc.

C) People He is prompting me to help, or, events He has placed on my heart to become involved in as a tool in His hands include:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Bible Stories to Build Trust in God’s Ability to Answer Prayer:**

## Stories of God's Power over Nature:

### Parting Rivers:

#### **Exodus 14: Story: Crossing the Red Sea**

Vs 1: The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: "Speak to the children of Israel, that they turn and camp at Pi" (**Note:** in this place they were trapped by mountains on both sides, the sea in front of them and the army would come behind them. There was no way out. God purposely placed them in an impossible situation so they would see the miracle of His deliverance.)

Vs 7: Pharaoh took all his chariots and all his army to go after them.

Vs 10-12: When the people saw the army coming after them, they got angry with Moses and said, "we were better off in Egypt. Why didn't you leave us there?" (**Note:** How quickly human nature changes based on immediate conditions. They went from the great joy of leaving Egypt where life was impossible to wishing they were back in those conditions again because of fear. God was giving them lessons of faith-building. They had been in Egypt for 400 years and had forgotten who their God was.)

Vs 13: Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord ... For you will see the Egyptian army no more."

Vs: 16: The Lord said to Moses, "lift your rod and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it."

Vs 19: And the Angel of God, (pillar of cloud) who went before the camp, moved and went behind them. So it came between the camp and the Egyptians and was a light to one and darkness to the other.

*Note: the merciful and protecting hand of God. Even in impossible conditions, He is able.*

Vs 21: Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all the night and the waters were divided.

*Note: God's use of nature to meet His wishes. How strong must the wind have been to divide a sea and hold it back while the children of Israel passed through the water. It was also able to make a strait path for them; but did not affect them as they crossed over.*

Vs 24-27: In the morning, the Egyptian chariots went after the children of Israel, and God caused the wheels of the chariots (in the lead) to fall off. The Egyptians said, “The Lord fights for them, lets go back; but Pharaoh wouldn’t allow a retreat. Then God told Moses to stretch out his arm over the sea and it would close on the Egyptians. And all of the Egyptians were destroyed.

*Note: Pharaoh had come to the point where he refused to think rationally. God gave him every reason to realize how powerful He was; but Pharaoh refused to be swayed to reason. He had been embarrassed into changing his mind over and over during the 7 plagues and it would not happen again. Also, it was out of greed that he went after the children of Israel. He knew this was his workforce and he needed them.*

Vs 31: Thus Israel saw the great work which the Lord had done in Egypt so the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and His servant Moses.

*Note: how quickly the people turned on Moses when things got tough and how quickly they praised him every time God miraculously provided for them. We tend to be the same.*

### **Joshua 3 Story: Crossing the Jordan River into the Promised Land.**

Vs 2: So it was, after three days that the officers went through the camp and commanded the people saying, “When you see the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord your God, and the priests and Levites bearing it, then you shall set out and follow it.”

Vs 4: Leave a space of 200 cubits between you and the Ark. Do not come near it.

*Note: while God was teaching them trust (that He would provide for their needs), He was also teaching them reverence and obedience. They were not to go near the ark because it represented His presence and was to be treated with utmost respect. They were warned not to take God casually. He is “Abba;” but He is also the almighty King and Creator.*

Vs 7: and the Lord said to Joshua, “This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you.”

*Note: If God CALLS you to lead, He will not only bless your leadership (so long as you are doing what He wants done); but*

*He will find ways to impress upon others that you have been appointed to lead by Him.*

Vs 8: You shall command the priests who bear the Ark of the Covenant, saying, “When you have come to the edge of the water of the Jordan, you shall stand in the Jordan.”

Vs 13: As soon as the soles of the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped into the edge of the water (for the Jordan was at flood stage in the springtime) that the waters that came down from upstream stood still and rose in a heap.

*Note: God always requires that I take the first little step in faith. The priests had to first step into the water while believing God would do as He had said. If they hadn't stepped into the water, the river would not have parted.*

Vs 17: Then the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all Israel crossed over on dry ground until all the people had crossed over the Jordan.

*Note: This was the second time the children of Israel had seen the miraculous power of God to control the water. God was building for them a bank of memories they could fall back on when times got tough. He was revealing to them that He could be trusted. I need to build a similar bank of memories when I know God has provided for me. That serves to remind me to take prayer time very seriously. That is when I commune with God, offer petitions to Him and yield my thoughts to hear His still small voice speaking to me.*

Providing Food:

### **Exodus 16: Story: Bread from Heaven**

Vs 2: Then the WHOLE congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness... “Oh that we had died by the hand of the Lord in Egypt when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full.”

*Note: “The Whole congregation” – When people get hungry, look out. How would you like to have 3 plus million people complaining to you and at you?*

Vs 4: Then the Lord said to Moses, “I will rain down bread from heaven for you. And the people will go out and gather a certain portion each day that I may test them.”

Vs 6: Then Moses and Aaron said to the children of Israel, “At evening you shall know that the Lord has brought you out of the Land of Egypt. And in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord: for He hears your complaints against the Lord. But what are we that you complain against us?”

*Note: Even these leaders, as close as they were to God, fell subject to the affect of criticism at times. They said, “ don’t blame us, it was God.”*

Vs 13: So it was that quails came up at evening and covered the camp, and in the morning the dew lay all around the camp. And when the dew lifted, there, on the surface of the wilderness was a small round substance as fine as frost on the ground.

*Note: God gave them what they were use to in Egypt – Quail; but then He started them on a better diet – Manna. He didn’t allow much time for the transition. It was a dramatic shift to a new way of living.*

Vs 16: “Let every man gather according to his needs. Gather one omer for each person in the family. And leave none for the next morning.

**Note:** God was putting boarders around the human urge for gluttony or excessiveness.

Vs 20: Some did not heed Moses and left part for the next morning. And it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them.

Vs 23: This is what Moses said, “Tomorrow is a Sabbath rest, a holy Sabbath to the Lord. Bake what you will bake today; and lay up for yourselves all that remains to be kept until tomorrow.” And on Sabbath some went out to get food and there was none. And the Lord said to Moses, “How long will you refuse to keep my commandments and laws?”

*Note: God went strait to His leader for the unfaithfulness and disobedience of the 3M people. Why? Because this was God’s contact point with the others. Moses was the conduit to the rest of them. God was not only teaching trust; but the other part of the equation – obey – as well.*

Vs 31: And the house of Israel called it Manna (bread from heaven) and it tasted like wafers of honey.

Vs 35: And the children of Israel ate manna forty years until they came to an inhabited land; they ate manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan.

*Note: Every day, for forty years, the 3 million plus people had to trust God to supply their food. No where does it say that God ever missed a day in providing for them. He is faithful.*

### **John 6: 1-13: Story of the 5 little loaves and 2 fish**

Vs 5: When the people found out where Jesus was, they came to see Him, and soon a very large crowd had gathered.

*Note: People are also drawn to anyone who is being restored to the image of God. When they see a life that is genuinely Christ-like, they are drawn to it. But remember, it is not you they are drawn to, it is Christ at work in you and then through you that is attractive to them.*

Vs 6: “Where can we get some food to feed them?” Jesus asked Philip this question to test his faith.

Vs 9: Andrew said, “There is a boy here who has 5 little loaves and two fish, but how can that feed all these people.”

Vs 10: There were about 5,000 men, some with families.

Vs 11: Then Jesus asked for the loaves and fish, offered a prayer of thanksgiving to His heavenly Father and started passing out to his disciples to give to the people.

*Note: Even with Jesus, it was by faith that he acted. Christ had to take the first step and begin passing out the bread before it multiplied. The miracle was not done by Christ, it was done by His Father, who He called on and thanked in advance.*

Vs 13: After picking up the leftover bread and fish, the disciples had 12 baskets full of food the people couldn't eat.



Vs: 14: Because of this miracle, the men in the crowd said, “There is no doubt that this Man is the Prophet we’ve been waiting for.” Then they agreed to force Jesus to be their king in place of Herod.

*Note: It is interesting that they recognized this Man was the One they had been waiting for; but they agreed to force Him to be their earthly king. Jesus was never forced to meet any man’s expectation. He willingly submitted to God’s wishes and that was all He did. He lived above the circumstances. We too can live above the circumstances when we get to the point where we have: nothing to prove [you are looking only to God for affirmation and direction and the praise or criticism of men means nothing to you], nothing to hide [you are living so close to God that your life has become the simple outworking of His will for you], and nothing to lose [like Paul, you can say, “to live is Christ in me and to die is gain.”] . That can only happen when we are living in our heart’s soul temple with God. When there is a heart connection with God, we can live above our circumstances.*

### **1 Kings 17: Story of Elijah fed by Ravens**

Vs: 1: So God sent Elijah to Ahab (King) with a message... “There will be no more rain for three years until I say so.”

Vs: 2: Then the Lord spoke to Elijah again, “Now leave the city. Go east and make a camp for yourself by the Cherith Brook... There you will be safe from Ahab and have plenty of water to drink during the drought that’s coming. I will order the Ravens to bring you food.”

Vs: 6: So the ravens brought him pieces of bread and meat in the morning and again in the afternoon. He drank water from the brook.

Vs: 7: Soon the drought had its affect and ... even the Cherith Brook dried up.

Vs: 8: then the Lord said to Elijah, “Go toward the city of Sidon. You will come to the village of Zarephath. That is where I want you to stay until the drought is over.”

*Note: Elijah is faithful to God and puts his life on the line trusting God to protect and provide for him. Then God begins the 3-year process of taking Elijah to deeper and deeper levels of trust. This first step is to be fed by ravens, one beak full at a time, for weeks.*

*Note: God had said, “Your bread and water will be sure.” But then Elijah saw the Cherith Brook get dryer and dryer until the water was gone. That is a crisis. But when things looked hopeless, God led Elijah to the next level of trust – the widow at Zarephath would provide his bread and water until the drought was over.*

*Note: It appears that all of the Bible characters who walked closely with God came to the place where they lived above their earthly circumstances. Like Paul, they could say with a sincere heart, “For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” There focus was not on surviving in this life, it was living out what God wanted them to do.*

### **More Examples for Further Study:**

**Elijah fed by the widow’s mite:** 1 Kings 17

**Power over Wind and Waves:** Mark 4: 35-41

**Extending Daylight Hours:** Joshua 10:12-14

**Drinking Water:** Exodus 17:1-7

**Uses Birds and Animals:**

- Ravens feed Elijah
- Whale preserves Jonah

**Power over Man’s Life-cycle:**

- Abraham and Sarah: Romans 4:18-21

**Stories of God’s Power over Circumstances:**

- Peter delivered from prison: Acts 12
- Daniel in the lion pit

- Fiery furnace
- Jesus protected from demons

**Stories of God's Power over Hearts:**

- Moses: Exodus 3 & 4
- Pharaoh's heart: Exodus 11:1-8
- Elijah discouraged: 1 Kings 19:15
- Saul to Paul: Acts 9:1-31
- Peter restored: Matthew 16:18-19
- Samson's conversion: Luke 22:31-32