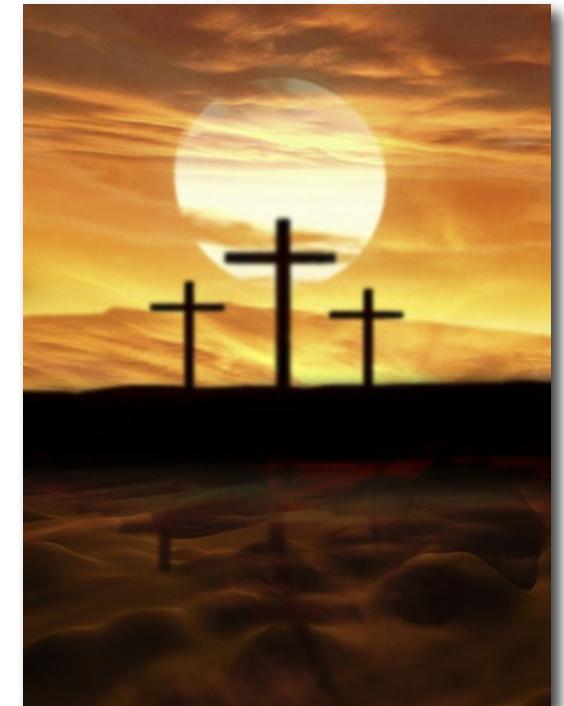


An Encounter with God in Prayer



Encountering God In Prayer

Appreciation:

To God for the ministry of Glenn Coon, Sr., whose books and tapes brought clear understanding back in 1969 that the promises of the Bible can be asked for, believed, and claimed. My eyes were opened to learn that thanks can be offered in prayer immediately—though there may be no feeling or outward evidence of an answer. Our God is trustworthy!

To God for Eleanor Anderson who, from the beginning, urged me to share with others whatever was learned about prayer. Praise God for the blessing of deep fellowship in prayer with literally thousands of other persons around the world since that time.

To God for Maurice Vargas “Prayer Therapy,” and Michael Curzon’s “Praying in the Sanctuary.” Listening to these two men in prayer has taught me much about communion with the Lord. In fact, “Prayer Therapy” is at the foundation of the Encounter Prayer sequence.

To God for my husband, Merlin, whose consistent personal prayer life has been an inspiration to me for over thirty-five years. How could one dream of a better prayer partner, willing to pray at any hour of the day or night about anything? I thank God for such a gift.

To God that the Holy Spirit introduced me in prayer to my personal Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. His presence has brought conviction, forgiveness, peace—and a sense of urgency. And it was the Holy Spirit who brought to mind the name of this particular approach to prayer which we share with you now: *An Encounter With God in Prayer*.

—Juanita Kretschmar

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God is there for you.

2 Chronicles 15:4

But when in their trouble they turned to the Lord God of Israel, and sought Him, He was found by them.

Jeremiah 29:11-14

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the Lord.

Acts 17:24-27

God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. . . . so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.

Isaiah 55:6, 7

See the Lord while He may be found,
Call upon Him while He is near.
Let the wicked forsake his way,
And the unrighteous man his thoughts;
Let him return to the Lord,
And He will have mercy on him;
And to our God,
For He will abundantly pardon.

**You Can
Trust God
to Let You
Find Him.**

God wants to be with us.

You Can Trust God's Promises.

God is just waiting to have an encounter with us and bless us with wonderful gifts.

Encountering God In Prayer

We don't have to be fearful of meeting with God, who promises us so much.

2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Isaiah 42:16

I will bring the blind by a way they did not know;
I will lead them in paths they have not known.
I will make darkness light before them,
And crooked places straight.
These things I will do for them,
And not forsake them.

James 5:13-16

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Hebrews 8:10

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

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Hebrews 8:11

None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, "Know the Lord," for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.

Psalm 95:6-11

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For He is our God,
And we are the people of His pasture,
And the sheep of His hand.

Today, if you will hear His voice:
"Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion,
And as in the day of trial in the wilderness,
When your fathers tested Me;
They tried Me, though they saw My work.
For forty years I was grieved with that generation,
And said, 'It is a people who go astray in their hearts,
And they do not know My ways.'
So I swore in My wrath,
'They shall not enter My rest.'"

Read:

John 10—Note: The sheep hear the Shepherd's voice.

Revelation 2, 3—Note the repeated phrase: "He who has an ear, let him hear."

Luke 24:25-32—Note: Jesus opened the Scriptures to them before revealing Himself.

Hebrews 3:7-15—Be careful not to harden your hearts.

God wants to communicate with each of us. He promises to find a way.

You Can Trust God for Protection.

FIRST: Ask God for His Holy Spirit. “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

Luke 11:13

Encountering God In Prayer

As you begin the special prayer time, you'll always want to claim God's protection. There are other spirits that want to influence us. God's written Word is the test to know for sure what is from God or not. The blood of Jesus Christ, Son of God, is always our defense, our covering, our protection (1 John 4:1-3, 13, 15).

Read Isaiah 8:19, 20. There is no light in anything that is not in harmony with the law and the testimony.

Psalm 34:7

The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them.

Revelation 12:10-12

Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the Word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.”

Revelation 5:12

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

Encountering God In Prayer

Matthew 6:9, 10, 13
“Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven. . . .
For Yours is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.”

Revelation 14:6, 7

Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”

Philippians 2:5-11

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

You Can Trust God in Worship.

*SECOND:
Having claimed the protection He promised, worship Him!*

Encountering God In Prayer

Revelation 7:9-15

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” And all the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying:

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever.
Amen.”

Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?” And I said to him, “Sir, you know.” So he said to me, **“These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.** Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.”

Encountering God In Prayer

Ask God, as you bow before His throne worshiping the crucified and risen Savior, if there is sin in your life He wishes to reveal to you. Stay in silence. WAIT EXPECTANTLY.

Confess whatever He brings to mind as sin. Be specific. Ask for forgiveness. Accept the free gift of Christ’s forgivness immediately, and thank Him aloud. Whether or not you feel forgiven is not the issue. You are forgiven because of His death on the cross. He said so.

(Do not be alarmed if no sin comes to mind at this time. Sometimes this happens. Continue by thanking God for His faithfulness in forgiving your past failings. Be sure to claim Psalm 139:23, 24)

Psalm 66:18-20

If I regard iniquity in my heart,
The Lord will not hear.
But certainly God has heard me;
He has attended to the voice of my prayer.

Blessed be God,
Who has not turned away my prayer,
Nor His mercy from me!

1 John 1:7-9

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*We can worship now
and forever with good
reason.*

You Can Trust God in Confession.

NEXT: Invite God to search your life.

*“Search me, O God,
and know my heart;
Try me, and know
my anxieties;
And see if there is
any wicked
way in me,
And lead me in the
way everlasting.”
Psalm 139:23, 24*

You Can Trust God— You Are Forgiven.

THEN: Thank Him aloud for forgiveness of the sin you confessed.

Encountering God In Prayer

Because of Jesus you can accept the free gift and thank Him.

1 John 2:12

I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.

1 John 2:25

And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life.

Hebrews 12:1, 2

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Encountering God In Prayer

Mark 2:17

When Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

Acts 5:30-32

The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.

Acts 11:16-18

“Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, ‘John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?” When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, “Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life.”

Romans 2:4

Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

You Can Trust God for Repentance.

NOW: Ask God for the gift of an attitude of deeper repentance concerning the just-forgiven sin. Then thank Him aloud. The gift is yours if you are willing to accept it.

You Can Trust God for Release.

NEXT: Let God know you give Him permission to reach deep within you and lift out all the guilt that accompanied the sin. That guilt is laid on His Son. Thank dear Jesus aloud for releasing you—no matter how you feel.

Encountering God In Prayer

Isaiah 53:3-6

He is despised and rejected by men,
A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.
And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him;
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

Surely He has borne our griefs
And carried our sorrows;
Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.
But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon
Him,
And by His stripes we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
We have turned, every one, to his own way;
And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity
of us all.

Romans 8:1, 2

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

John 8:36

Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

Encountering God In Prayer

Ask God what gift He has for you to replace the guilt He just removed. WAIT EXPECTANTLY for a thought from Him. Then thank Him aloud, telling Him you are willing to receive whatever He brings to mind. Keep asking.

He'll create new thought patterns.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

When you were tempted and fell, be assured that He would have provided help if you had asked. You might ask Him now what He would have done for you if you had asked.

Philippians 4:19

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

He loves to give us gifts.

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with

You Can Trust God to Give You What You Need.

He makes an exchange from old to new ways.

You can ask Him:

"Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full."

John 16:24

Encountering God In Prayer

might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, forever and ever. Amen.



You may repeat these steps several times (for specific sequence see page 10), even asking Him if there are issues from your childhood He wants to bring to mind for cleansing and healing at the cross. Accept the forgiveness, healing, deeper repentance, release from guilt, and gift He is waiting to give.

Encountering God In Prayer

1 John 5:11-16

And this is the testimony; that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death.

Job 1:1, 5

There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil. . . . So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, “It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.” Thus Job did regularly.

You Can Trust God as You Pray for Others.

As peace flows in your own heart, God may bring someone to your mind for whom you will want to pray.

You Can Trust God as You Praise Him.

FINALLY: Make sure you spend the final time in this Encounter With God praising Him.

Encountering God In Prayer

Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul;
And all that is within me, bless His holy name!
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And forget not all His benefits:
Who forgives all your iniquities,
Who heals all your diseases,
Who redeems your life from destruction,
Who crowns you with lovingkindness and
tender mercies,
Who satisfies your mouth with good things,
So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord executes righteousness
And justice for all who are oppressed.
He made known His ways to Moses,
His acts to the children of Israel.
The Lord is merciful and gracious,
Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.
He will not always strive with us,
Nor will He keep His anger forever.
He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
Nor punished us according to our iniquities.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
So great is His mercy toward those who
fear Him;
As far as the east is from the west,
So far has He removed our transgressions
from us.
As a father pities his children,
So the Lord pities those who fear Him.
For He knows our frame;
He remembers that we are dust.

Encountering God In Prayer

As for man, his days are like grass;
As a flower of the field, so he flourishes.
For the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
And its place remembers it no more.
But the mercy of the Lord is from
everlasting to everlasting
On those who fear Him,
And His righteousness to children's children,
To such as keep His covenant,
And to those who remember His
commandments to do them.

The Lord has established His throne in
heaven,
And His kingdom rules over all.

Bless the Lord, you His angels,
Who excel in strength, who do His word,
Heeding the voice of His word.
Bless the Lord, all you His hosts,
You ministers of His, who do His pleasure.
Bless the Lord, all His works,
In all places of His dominion.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Psalm 91:1, 2
He who dwells in the secret place of the
Most High
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and
my fortress;
My God, in Him I will trust."

Point by Point.

*A review of the
Encounter Prayer
sequence.*

Encountering God In Prayer

1. Ask the Father for the covering of the Holy Spirit bringing the presence of Jesus. Claim the blood of Jesus Christ over all sin. Ask for angels to guard you, since He has promised. Ask Him to make sure that no other influences or thoughts will be allowed to disturb, and that He will protect.
2. Worship the Creator, Redeemer, King.
3. Invite Him to search your life for a revelation of hidden sin. Allow Him to take you back to your childhood if necessary.
4. Wait.
5. As conviction comes to your mind of thoughts, acts, cherished “rights” such as anger, rebellion, and resentment, or experiences that in the presence of the cross are sin, be specific, call it sin, and ask for forgiveness. Accept forgiveness and thank Him aloud. (Your ears need to hear your own voice expressing confidence and praise.)
6. Ask for a deeper repentance. Since it is a gift, thank Him, whether you feel anything or not.
7. By your own free choice, tell your Heavenly Father you give Him permission to remove the sin and sense of guilt or condemnation that came with the sin. Let God know you are willing to allow Him to place the burden you have been carrying on the shoulders of His Son. Accept Jesus’ desire to release you from this guilt. Christ

Encountering God In Prayer

- wants to do this for you. Be sure to express thanks aloud.
8. Ask God what He has for you in exchange. What characteristic of Jesus is He waiting to give you? What gift of guidance or insight is He making available?
9. Wait.
10. Let God know you will accept that gift (whatever thought, word, or picture He brings to your mind). Be sure to thank Him aloud.
11. Repeat the process as desired. Enjoy His presence. Praise Him.
12. At the time you are accepting gifts from God, if He has just impressed you of specific instances of sin, you may want to ask what help He would have sent if you had turned to Him fully in that earlier moment of temptation. Or you may ask what Jesus would have done in your place. He may give you delightful insights.
13. You may want to ask Him in the final moments of this specific prayer if there is anything or anyone else He wants you to pray about or for, or if there is any particular instruction He wants to share with you.
14. Wait.
15. Be sure to praise Him aloud as you end the time of prayer. You’ll want to. He’s a wonderful God and a marvelous, generous, loving Friend.

A word of caution:
Impressions must never replace or contradict the counsels of God’s written Word. Blood was not shed to cover sins we are deliberately planning or cherishing the right to commit.

A word of hope:
God promises to work within us to change our desires. We can claim His promise in Philippians 2:13: “For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”

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