

## A Kingdom Prayer Contrasting God and the World

### The Valley of Vision (from the Valley of Vision Collection of Puritan Prayers)

Lord, high and holy, meek and lowly, you have brought me to the valley of vision, where I live in the depths but see you in the heights; hemmed in by mountains of sin I behold your glory. Let me learn by paradox that the way down is the way up, that to be low is to be high, that the broken heart is the healed heart, that the contrite spirit is the rejoicing spirit, that the repenting soul is the victorious soul, that to have nothing is to possess all, that to bear the cross is to wear the crown, that to give is to receive, that the valley is the place of vision. Lord, in the daytime stars can be seen from the deepest wells, and the deeper the well, the brighter Your stars shine; let me find Your light in my darkness, Your life in my death, Your joy in my sorrow, Your grace in my sin, Your riches in my poverty, Your glory in my valley.

One of the most frustrating things to believers is their inability to obey God; our ongoing battle with the flesh. In Romans 7:18-19, Paul writes: ...For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. <sup>19</sup>For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.

Characteristics of the hell-bound include taking from others, dominating others, selfishness, pride, and demanding their own way. When we were whistling down the road to destruction, we sinned with abandon, flair and vigor. We were blind to our affronts to God; we had no regard for Him.

Characteristics of the heaven-bound include generosity, serving others, humility, tenderness and peace. When your heart breaks because of your sin, you are very close to God. When you rush to repent and grieve over the evil you've done to your ever-loving and gracious Father, you may be as close to heaven as you can get without dying. Pray that God will give you the grace to see your sin, hate your sin, grieve over your sin, and repent. Then look up from the bottom of your well of sin, and behold the glory of God.

My gracious God and Father, your loving kindness is always on me. Allow me to see my sin, and give me the grace to abhor it, to be sickened and saddened by it. Encourage me to repent, so I will behold and cherish your mercy and love for me. Teach me to love your correction and discipline, because through it you are making me the way you want me to be; more like Christ. Let me suffer, but make me remember that every good father who loves his children, corrects them. Make the world loosen its grip on me, and allow me to grow in obedience according to your will. Build me up in being low. Increase my humility, generosity, service and love. I pray this in the name of my brother Jesus, who paid for my sin, and bought my body and soul through his death on a cross. Amen.