

## *Prayer Guide*

During these very uncertain times, as in many times past all throughout history, one thing will always remain steadfast – and that is Who God is. Open your time of prayer by simply and profoundly reminding yourself Who He has always been, Who He is in your life now, and Who He will be into and throughout eternity. With each attribute of His character, feel free to fill in other descriptive words and, more importantly, how you have experienced each attribute recently in your own person life. Stay on each attribute prayerfully for as long as it takes to engrain it into your heart.

We will now go through the ABCs of who God is to you:

### *God is...*

Able...

Benevolent...

Compassionate...

Detailed...

Everlasting...

Father God...

Generous...

Holy...

Intentional...

Just...

Kind...

Loving in every single thing He does...

Mindful of my unique circumstances...

Never-ending in His grace towards me

Omniscient... (*God is all-knowing*)

Powerful to intervene in all things...

Quiet in His ways...

Righteous...

Sovereign... (*God is in control*)

Trustworthy...

Unshakeable...

Victorious over all things...

Watchful in the tiniest of circumstances...

And XYZalted above all things in this world. (Beautiful spelling courtesy of Anne Graham Lotz.)

All these attributes are intentionally listed in the form of a “greater than” sign, to be a reminder that in your deepest desires, hurts, and disappointments...

*"You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them,  
because the one who is in you **is greater than** the one who is in the world."*

I John 4:4

God will *always be* greater than any difficulty you will ever encounter.

We never know what a day will bring for us...

... and when an unexpected event occurs, large or small, we can be immediately distracted with attempting to rectify it on our own, to compensate for its inconvenience and/or loss in an ungodly way, or sometimes find a quick replacement that does not honor God and isn't what God had intended for us to experience *because of* that sudden twist in our lives.

Read Mark 6:45-48

Mark 6:48 is a rather obscure verse, but one that holds great promise for us...

*"He saw that they were in serious trouble." NIV*

Jesus first and foremost in these few short verses teaches us the absolute necessity of being alone with the Father in Heaven for our strength, our direction, our guidance in heading in that direction, and our peace as we move forward into all things each and every day.

*What do you need to separate from to be alone with your Heavenly Father?*

*What needs to change to make your time alone with the Lord Jesus even possible?*

*What distractions has this time of "sheltering at home" removed in order for you to spend time in His Word, in prayer, and in more in-depth, faith-based conversation with fellow Believers?*

The vision of Jesus alone on the hillside around the Sea of Galilee, watching from a distance as the Disciples struggled against the wind, who were making hardly any headway towards their destination, is of great comfort to us as Believers. We think our unusually difficult circumstances are somehow outside of His watch care; they are not. Jesus *directed* the Disciples to get into the boat and gave them their destination, as He has with all of us in our very unique circumstances. May we never forget that *all* we are experiencing is within His view, His hearing, and His watch care.

*What struggles weigh heavy on your heart right at this moment? Simply state them to the Lord Jesus... knowing His answer will be perfect and perfectly timed.*

*What struggles are you trying to alleviate apart from God's help and guidance?*

*In what areas do you need to cease struggling and simply offer them up to His Throne in an offering of complete trust?*

In this simple passage of Scripture, Andrew Maclaren writes, "Is it not the symbol of life for us all? The solemn law under which we live demands persistent effort and imposes continual opposition toward us. ... Christ on the hillside saw them toiling at rowing, but they did not see Him. ... but Jesus' calm and loving gaze looked down, pitying all their fear and toil. The darkness did not hide from Him, nor His own security on the steadfast land make Him forget, nor His communion with the Father so absorb Him as to exclude them, or us, from His thoughts."

How we just need to be reminded that *He sees us...El-roi*, just as Hagar had experienced in the desert wilderness.

There is a very popular sign that always brings a smile to those who think on it, yet it also immediately leaves us with comfort, as well as a convicted heart. The sign reads...

*"I saw that.  
- God."*

May we conclude our time of prayer in asking the LORD to reveal the things He has seen us do, say, think, and allow to come into our hearts that have dishonored Him.

Confess them openly and honestly and bluntly before Him, how they have marred his character.

Ask for His forgiveness for each one.

Ask for His strength to repent from them... wholeheartedly.

In closing, prayerfully read through Psalm 27, journaling a word or phrase next to each line that applies to your life right at this moment.

*Thank, you, Lord Jesus, for interceding for us at the Throne of Grace,  
Thank you for hearing us and giving us your presence...  
in Jesus' powerful name we pray...  
Amen.*