

At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children." Matthew 11:25

In our efforts to help people pray we have sometimes made it more difficult for some. Formulas and steps for prayer have been written to make prayer "more effective." What should have been a simple communion with God became another task, even a burden. This was never God's intention.

Prayer is a part of the soul's life, so it has many sides and emotions according to what life's experience is at the time. It reflects the condition of the mind, and an attitude of the heart which God recognizes. It is sometimes manifested in quiet thinking, in sighing, in audible words, tears, laughter, or other forms.

Do we want our loved ones and friends to approach us in a personal way, or in a formal fashion? How do we believe God wants us to come into His presence? Shouldn't prayer be a free, spontaneous, vital fellowship between the created person and the personal Creator, in which Life should touch life? The Hymn says: O the pure delight of a single hour that before Thy throne I spend, when I kneel in prayer, and with Thee, my God I commune as friend with friend!

I sat in a courtroom and watched a judge work from an unapproachable bench. A week later I saw the same judge in a fast food restaurant. His children were climbing on his lap and hugging his neck. Out of the courtroom the Honorable Judge was simply "Daddy" to those children.

Religion can make God seem to be unapproachable, except to some. To me, Christianity is not a religion, but a relationship with Christ. When Jesus taught us to pray, He did not say, "Your Honor..." but, "OUR FATHER..."

Grace and Peace, Rev Ray