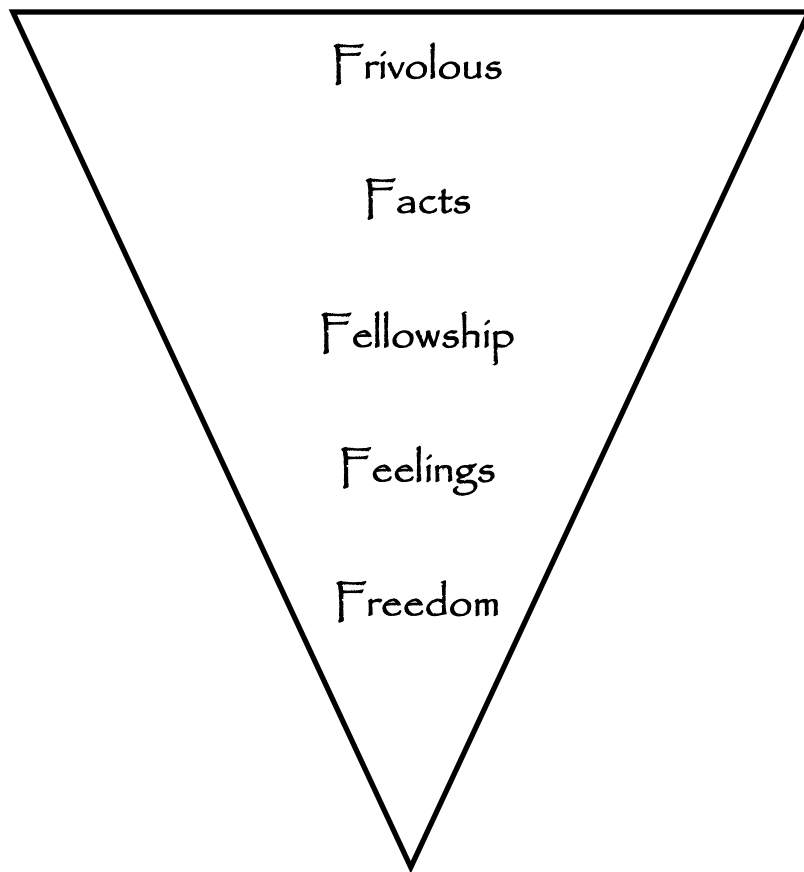


The
Never-Ending
Conversation

A PERSONAL PRAYER RETREAT



Levels of Intimacy



Truth in Jesus

Life-giving God,
Quicken me to call upon thy name,
for my mind is ignorant,
my thoughts vagrant,
my affections earthly,
my heart unbelieving,
and only thy Spirit can help my infirmities.

I approach thee as Father and Friend,
my portion forever,
my exceeding joy,
my strength of heart.

I believe in thee as the God of nature,
the ordainer of providence,
the sender of Jesus my Savior.

My guilty fears discourage an approach to thee,
but I praise thee for the blessed news that Jesus reconciles thee to me.

May the truth that is in him
illuminate in me all that is dark,
establish in me all that is wavering,
comfort in me all that is wretched,
accomplish in me all that is of thy goodness,
and glorify in me the name of Jesus.

I pass through a vale of tears
but bless thee for the opening gate of glory at its end.

Enable me to realize as mine the better,
heavenly country.

Prepare me for every part of my pilgrimage.

Uphold my steps by thy Word.

Let no iniquity dominate me.

Teach me that Christ cannot be the way

if I am the end,

that he cannot be Redeemer

if I am my own savior,

that there can be no true union with him

while the creature has my heart,

that faith accepts him as Redeemer and Lord or not at all.

Valley of Vision p. 308

My thanks to Dr. Wayne Quarrier who gave the foundational counseling upon which this "Levels of Intimacy" approach to prayer is based.

Meeting God

Great God,
In public and private, in sanctuary and home,
may my life be steeped in prayer,
filled with the spirit of grace and supplication,
each prayer perfumed with the incense of atoning blood.

Help me, defend me,
until from praying ground I pass to the realm of unceasing praise.

Urged by my need,
invited by thy promises,
called by thy Spirit,
I enter thy presence,
worshipping thee with godly fear,
awed by thy majesty, greatness, glory,
but encouraged by thy love.

I am all poverty as well as all guilt,
having nothing of my own with which to repay thee,
But I bring Jesus to thee in the arms of faith,
pleading His righteousness to offset my iniquities,
rejoicing that he will weigh down the scales for me,
and satisfy thy justice.

I bless thee that great sin draws out great grace,
that, although the least sin deserves infinite punishment
because done against an infinite God,
yet there is mercy for me,
for where guilt is most terrible,
there thy mercy in Christ is most free and deep.

Bless me by revealing to me more of his saving merits,
by causing thy goodness to pass before me,
by speaking peace to my contrite heart;
Strengthen me to give thee no rest
until Christ shall reign supreme within me,
in every thought, word, and deed,
in a faith that purifies the heart,
overcomes the world,
works by love,
fastens me to thee,
and ever clings to the cross.

Frivolous:

pleasantries, good manners, superficial, polite

Entry level conversations, mere courtesy.
"Be with us." "May I please have ... " "Thank you so much!"
"Bless this bunch..." Nod to God.

"In spite of all our hymns and prayers, it is possible to be content
with the shallows of Love..."

May the "Searchlight of the Sprit expose us to ourselves,
and leave us appalled." *Amy Carmichael "If"*

Facts:

information, priorities, reporting, listing

General information available to anyone paying attention.
Checklist monologue.

"The folks are traveling over the holidays." "I don't feel well."
"We have a busy schedule this month."

Read the Matthew 6 model of prayer, it contains no me-centered
news bulletins.

Fellowship:

shared history, reciprocal memories

From my history, here is what I know to be true about God...
Here is what I have experienced about God that changes my
perspective ...
He draws me closer as I recount His past provisions, recall His
enabling, reminisce about His fulfilled promises, remember
people who represented Him well, recite His faithful Word.

Stand here quietly before the Lord as I remind you of the great
things the Lord has done for you and your ancestors. | Sam 12:7

Warning Note: This step is not meant to keep us in the past.
We get stagnant if we merely dwell in the "good ole" days.
Our memories should serve to energize our hope and propel us forward.

Feelings:

honest emotion, pretending ceases, circle of trust begins

1. Identify: Name the reality of my heart condition. Call it out. Take off the makeup.
2. Evaluate & Acknowledge:
Is the Fruit of the Spirit present or absent?
Is Jesus increasing & self decreasing?
Are feelings in alignment with truth?
“What is Your evaluation, Lord?”
“Lord, please clarify Your perspective on circumstances.”
3. Confess/Repent/Request
“Rule over my feelings.”
“Turn my heart toward the things You love.”
“Give me the mind of Christ.”
“Deliver me from self & all of it’s disguises.”
4. Receive: Forgiveness and Affirmation
Don’t be afraid... you have certainly done wrong, but make sure now that you worship the Lord with all of your heart and don’t turn your back on Him.” | Samuel 12:20

Use songs, poems, prayers, ponderings, journaling

MEDITATE - I will meditate on all Your words and consider all Your mighty deeds. Ps 77:12

The Hebrew word for meditate = mutter Think out loud as you list what God has done.

*Remind me, Lord, of what You bring to specific areas of life.
Cause me to focus on the attributes of God which influence the lists I have written.*

ASK - The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know how we ought to pray, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will. Romans 8:26-27

*What will bring You glory, Lord?
What pleases You, Father?
Spirit of God, direct my prayers.*

Move into Deeper Intimacy

Exercise yourself toward godliness | Tim. 4:7

SOLITUDE - And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Matthew 14:23

Truly intimate conversation is found in private times. Though the clamor of crowds and the cacophony of culture never distracted Him from their unity, even Jesus pursued the renewal found in solitude with His Father.

Help me to set aside every distraction and cause my heart to focus on You alone.

SILENCE - In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength Is. 30:15

Be still, and know that I am God. Ps. 46:10 (also Zeph 1:7)

Stand here quietly before the Lord as I remind you of all the great things the Lord has done for you and your ancestors I Sam 12:7

Do not be afraid of silence in your prayer time. Wait in stillness and you will know that your Lord ponders the voice of your humble desires. - Amy Carmichael

To be silent does not mean to be inactive; rather it means to breathe in the will of God, to listen attentively and be ready to obey. *Meditating on the Word* - Bonhoffer

Quiet my soul.

LISTEN - If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. John 15:7

Prayer begins in listening to the Word of God. - A. Parrish

The petitions of true disciples are echoes (so to speak) of Christ's words. Prayer is some fragment of His teaching transformed into a supplication. - Westcott

We are to pray only for what God has promised. - John Owen

Remind me of what Your Word tells me.

Freedom

authenticity, intimacy

Freedom is found in surrender to His limitless will.

“Thy will be done!”

When we reach freedom, we are no longer weighed down by our own will, no longer limited by our finite imaginations and our humanly concocted solutions; we are no longer restricted and restrained by options found only in the physical realm.

Freedom is found when we enter into His life, when He lives His life through us. In this freedom we live fully - complete in who He created us to be. In freedom we find “abundant” life.

... in quietness and in trust shall be your strength. Isaiah 30:15

Now stand here and see the great thing the Lord is about to do.
I Samuel 12:16

*Deep unto deep, O Lord, crieth in me,
Gathering strength I come, Lord, unto Thee.
Jesus of Calvary, smitten for me,
Ask what Thou wilt, but give Love to me.*

*That which I know not,
Teach Thou me, O Lord, my God.
IF by Amy Carmichael*

To Do List

	F _____
	F _____
	F _____
	F _____
	F _____
	F _____

Songs for Prayer Days

Trust In You

Letting go of every single dream,
 I lay each one down at your feet
 Every moment of my wandering Never changes what you see
 I try to win this war, I confess,
 my hands are weary, I need your rest
 Mighty warrior, king of the fight,
 No matter what I face you're by my side

When you don't move the mountains I'm needing you to move
 When you don't part the waters I wish I could walk through
 When you don't give the answers As I cry out to you
 I will trust, I will trust, I will trust in you

Truth is you know what tomorrow brings
 There's not a day ahead you have not seen
 So in all things be my life and breath
 I want what you want Lord and nothing less

Whate'er my God Ordains is Right

Whate'er my God ordains is right: Here shall my stand be taken;
 Though sorrow, need, or death be mine, Yet I am not forsaken.
 My Father's care is round me there; He holds me that I shall not
 fall: And so to Him I leave it all.

He's Been Faithful

In my moments of fear, Through every pain, every tear
 There's a God who's been faithful to me.
 When my strength was all gone, When my heart had no song
 Still in love He's proved faithful to me.
 Every word He's promised is true
 What I thought was impossible I see my God do.

Songs for Prayer Days

I am not Skilled to Understand

I am not skilled to understand what God hath willed, what God hath planned; I only know at His right hand stands One who is my Savior.

More Love to Thee, O Christ

May I love You more, and more, and more with the best kind of love - because of who You are - not because of what I get from You - not for what I benefit.

Open the Eyes of my Heart

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart. I want to see You. I want to see You.

Jesus Paid it all

I can hear my Savior say, "Thy strength indeed is small. child of weakness, watch and pray. Find in Me your all in all."

Nearer, my God to Thee

This, then, my prayer shall be, nearer my God to thee

The safest, sweetest spot - the nearer I am to You, the more everything else fades away. The sharp edges of this present reality will soften and be less fearsome as I stay close to You.

All the Way My Savior Leads Me

All the way my Savior leads me. What have I to ask beside? Can I doubt His tender mercies who through life has been my guide?

Cause me to remember Your faithfulness in my regeneration story.

I Must Tell Jesus

I cannot bear these burdens alone... He ever loves and cares
May it be my habit to tell You - first - quickly - authentically

Take My Life

Take my will and make it Thine, it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is Thine own, it shall be Thy royal throne. Take my love, my Lord I pour at Your feet, it's treasure store. Take myself and I will be ever, only, all for Thee.

In this these words there is freedom.

O God, I have tasted thy goodness, and
it has both satisfied me and made me thirsty for more.

I am painfully conscious of my need of further grace.

I am ashamed of my lack of desire.

O God, the Triune God, I want to want Thee;
I long to be filled with longing;
I thirst to be made more thirsty still.

Show me Thy glory, I pray Thee,
so that I may know Thee indeed.

Begin in mercy a new work of love within me.

Say to my soul, "Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away."

Then give me grace to rise and follow thee up from this misty
lowland where I have wandered so long.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.
The Pursuit of God by A.W. Tozar

Do not grow
weary
in doing
what is right.

2 Thessalonians 3:13

Worry List

Be not anxious ... everythingPhilippians 4:6

	F_____
	F_____
	F_____
	F_____
	F_____
	F_____

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
whom he has redeemed from trouble. Psalm 107:2

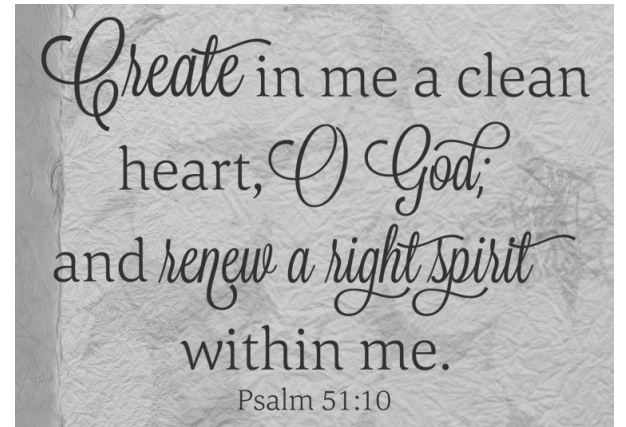


Blessing List

	F _____
	F _____
	F _____
	F _____
	F _____
	F _____

We...take every thought captive to obey Christ. II Cor 10:5

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace,
that we may receive mercy and find grace to help
in time of need. Hebrews 4:16



Contact List

**As for me, I will certainly not sin against the Lord
by ending my prayers for you** | Samuel 12:23

	F _____
	F _____
	F _____
	F _____
	F _____
	F _____

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other
so that you may be healed.
The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. **James 5:16**

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the
LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love
kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8

I would appeal to God; I would lay my cause before Him.
He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed,
miracles that cannot be counted. Job 5:8-9



Bucket List

	F_____
	F_____
	F_____
	F_____
	F_____
	F_____

Psalm 107:1-43

⁴ **Some wandered** in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in; hungry and thirsty, **their soul fainted within them.**

¹⁰ **Some** sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, **prisoners in affliction and in irons, for they had rebelled** against the words of God, and spurned the counsel of the Most High. So he bowed their hearts down with hard labor; they fell down, with none to help.

¹⁷ **Some were fools** through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities suffered affliction; they drew near to the gates of death.

²³ **Some went down** to the sea in ships, **doing business on the great waters; ... For [the Lord] commanded and raised the stormy wind, their courage melted away ... and they were at their wits' end.**

**Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he delivered them**

He ... led them by a straight way
satisfies the longing soul,
and the hungry soul he fills with good things.
brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death,
and burst their bonds apart.
shatters the doors of bronze
and cuts in two the bars of iron.
sent out his word and healed them,
and delivered them from their destruction.
made the storm be still,
and the waves of the sea were hushed.
brought them to their desired haven.
turns rivers into a desert,
springs of water into thirsty ground,
turns a desert into pools of water,
a parched land into springs of water.
raises up the needy out of affliction
and makes their families like flocks.

Whoever is wise, let him attend to these things;
let them consider the steadfast love of the Lord.

Wish List

	F_____
	F_____
	F_____
	F_____
	F_____
	F_____

Psalm 145:14-18

The LORD upholds all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.

The eyes of all look to You,
and you give them their food in due season.

You open Your hand;
You satisfy the desire of every living thing.

The LORD is righteous in all his ways
and kind in all his works.

The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

