TO JESUS WITH LOVE

Prayers of Devotion

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Introduction

Being positive lifts the spirit. When we dwell on the good, then good surrounds us. When we think positive thoughts, speak positive words, and take positive action, we feel better, and things generally work out better. When we praise and worship God, we draw closer to Him.

Through communion with God we gain understanding and perspective of His hand in our lives. Worship puts us on His wavelength. Praise invigorates our faith; it encourages us to see beyond our present circumstances and to focus instead on the fulfillment of God’s promises in answer to our prayers. Gratefulness turns times of trouble into times of triumph. Praise reminds us that with God, all things are possible.1

It’s my hope that this book of prayers of devotion and worship will be a helpful aid—especially for those who might feel unsure of what to say or how to start. The more you praise, the more you will see there is to praise for. The more you worship God, the more naturally your words to Him will flow.

Let’s praise our heavenly Father for all the wonderful things He has done for us in the past and will do for us in the future. “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.”2

Acknowledgments

Aurora Production AG would like to thank those who submitted their prayers of praise and worship for publication.

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1 Mark 10:27
2 Psalm 150:6
Who is like You, Lord?¹

Who else calls the stars by name,² and has the grains of sand on the seashores counted?
Who else has the whole universe in His hands, and has numbered every atom that makes up matter?
Who else knows past, present, and future?³
Who else sees every height, breadth, and depth?
Who else fills everything and is everywhere?⁴
Who else can do everything?⁵
Who else is unbeatable?
Who else creates wonders out of nothing and keeps the universe in perpetual motion?
Who else gives life to every being, and fills the world with color?
No one else can do what You can.

¹ Exodus 15:11
² Psalm 147:4
³ Isaiah 46:9–10
⁴ Jeremiah 23:24
⁵ Job 42:2
You are everything

Lord, You are infinite peace, infinite goodness, infinite solace. You are the fullest comfort, the most complete peace. You are in everything and You have everything.

You are unlimited happiness and You could have ignored our plight. Yet You decided to suffer with us and for us. You decided to be touched with our infirmities, to be wounded that we might be healed, and to die that we might live.

Being perfect and omniscient, You had no need to come down to our level and live our pain. However, You chose to weep with us and take part in our fears and sorrows. That’s love! What a deep mystery of faith, that being infinite happiness, You can know such deep sorrow.

Thank You, Lord.

Keeper of my heart

I love You, Jesus, with everything I am. I give all of myself to You. Take me and let my heart be Your home. I would be a fool to think my heart is safe in my hands. You’re the only one who knows how to truly care for it, so I want to give it to You.

Forgive me for my hesitation and fear, my desire to be in control. I’ve walked in darkness for too long. I want You to be my light; I need You to be my light, because I’m now convinced I can’t make it alone.

I never fear losing Your love. You’ve assured me that You love me so deeply and completely, and I believe that there isn’t even a possibility of Your love for me ending. The thought of You not loving me someday doesn’t even cross my mind.
Divine fragrance

Your sweet fragrance, Lord, is known all over the world. You left Your divine perfume in Your wake. You delight us with countless fragrances. The scent of jasmine, of ginger lily, and magnolia. The odor of freshly sawn timber. The aroma of freshly baked bread. The fragrance of apples filling the room. The aroma of freshly ground coffee. The odor of wood burning in the fireplace. The scent of orange blossom and eucalyptus. The perfume of spices. The sweet scent of hay. The fragrance of the sea, disseminated by the breeze on the beach. The perfume of the pine trees that floods the soul with joy.

Through the myriad of scents that You delight our lives with, You have left a touch of Your own presence in the world.

Unsearchable wisdom

I like to gaze at the sea when the sunlight paints innumerable golden winks on it. I also like to watch the waves as they gallop toward the shore, like wild horses with foamy manes. I love to breathe that salty air.

The ocean that takes up most of our planet is like an illustration of You. Oceanic depths have never been fully explored, just like nobody will ever be able to fathom all Your secrets. No matter how much You reveal to us, there will always be more of Your unsearchable wisdom; there will always be unknown corners, mysteries that bring poetry to our lives.
You never fail me

You are the God of the impossible. You cause streams to flow in the desert and rivers in the wilderness. You open doors where there are none. You cut asunder the bars of iron. You make real that which is beyond imagination, because it is Your will. Even if I come up against the Red Sea, I know You can open a way where there is no way. You can rend the waters, split them in two, so I can cross through them without getting my feet wet.

No matter how bleak the situation looks, I know I can count on You. You’re not going to let me down. You will not disappoint me. You will not leave me in the lurch. Even though I fail You sometimes, You never fail me. And even if the situation becomes impossible, You always give me a way to escape.

1 Luke 1:37
2 Isaiah 43:20
3 Revelation 5:8
4 Isaiah 45:2
5 Exodus 14
Rhyme and reason

I proceed from You and I go to You. You are my source and my destiny, my beginning and my end, my Alpha and Omega. I come out of You and I enter into You. I am born out of You, and in You I live and in You I will die. Dying in You is living. Without You, living is dying. You made me out of nothing, and without You I am nothing. You are everything, and without You I would be nonexistent.


Sharing my life with You

O Lord, my God, with whom my soul is married for eternity, 1 my inseparable companion—nothing can sever my branch from Your vine. 2 Whether or not I feel You near, You stay faithfully by my side. Thank You that You’re not a faraway God. You are by me, inside of me, surrounding me, holding me, embracing me.

While sometimes I’m aware of Your presence, help me to be more aware. I want to include You in all my activities. I want to have more conversations with You. It’s so good to know that I can communicate with You!—Not just to praise You, or to ask You favors, or to hear Your whispers in my heart, but to also chat with You as with a close friend. I can comment about things, express my feelings, and in short, I can share my life with You.

1 Hosea 2:19
2 John 15:5
My constant

Thank You, my Jesus, for this glorious day. It’s beautiful, just like You are—only You’re better. You’re wonderful, constant, and complete. That’s the comfort of Your love—it’s never-changing, unconditional, overflowing. O Jesus, what is life without You? What is love without You? You are the centerpiece of everything good. It would all be futile if it weren’t for You.

You are great, and do wondrous things;
You alone are God,
So I will go about Your altar, O L ORD,
That I may proclaim with the voice of thanksgiving,
And tell of all Your wondrous works.

Psalm 86:10; 26:6-7

A work of art

My dearest Jesus, I don’t always understand everything that happens in my life. Sometimes it seems like a complex and hazy picture that makes no sense. I look at it and I see no pattern, no rhyme or reason, just an intricate but indiscernible creation. I know that You’re the one who’s adding the colors to it, and perhaps it’s my own shortsightedness that has made this piece of work look confusing.

I don’t understand all the changes that have been brought about in my life, the heartbreaks and pain I’ve known. But I know that if I step back and see the whole panoramic view, I’ll understand. I will realize that my life is a masterpiece because You are the artist. You’ve intricately planned the final product. How could I ever think that the end result would be anything but beautiful? Thank You for making my life a work of art.
Lord of the wind

You are Lord of the wind—the wind to whose tune the leaves dance and with whose voice they sing. Your Spirit is invisible, but just like the physical wind, its presence is felt in the world. The gentle breeze of Your voice, the gust of Your Spirit whispers in my soul like the wind in the leaves. I want to be carried by Your Spirit wherever it takes me, just like the clouds sail through the skies, blown about by air currents.

The wind of Your Spirit propels me. Sometimes that wind is wild and strong and blows me in its whirlwind. Other times it’s a gentle breeze. Sometimes it’s a wind of change, a refreshing wind. In any case, it’s always a favorable wind that brings my vessel safely to its destination. It’s a wind that brings blessings. It brings fragrances from heaven. It’s a life-giving wind, a wind of peace. The wind of Your Spirit blows me toward You.

I count on You

You have said, Lord, that we must become like children to enter into the kingdom of heaven. Who doesn’t feel like a child in Your presence? Who doesn’t feel like a child before Your greatness? What can I do but run to You, as a child runs to his father when he is afraid and looking for comfort?

Sometimes the world is too big and life is too overwhelming, and I cry out to You like a weeping child calling his father in the dark. Sometimes I’m frightened like a child; I feel far from You, and I call out to You. I count on You. If it were not for You, what would become of me?

The thought of You fills me with faith and peace; it fills me to overflowing and gives me faith for the next step.

1 Matthew 18:3
A view from above

When I travel through the air in an airplane, I feel very close to You, Lord. It’s not that being so high I’m closer to heaven. After all, You are everywhere. But when I look out the window and see how small everything is, I feel so tiny in the immensity of space, and I become aware that I’m but a speck in that immensity.

As the artist steps back a few meters so he can have a better view of the picture he’s painting, sometimes I can perceive Your power better from above than when I have my nose stuck to the ground.

You are a magnificent Creator. When I look around at the wonders that You’ve wrought, I can’t help but be overwhelmed by Your incredible love.
The gift of knowing You

My dearest Jesus, thank You for this life that You’ve given me. Thank You for bringing me into this world and bestowing upon me the greatest gift there is—the gift of knowing You and loving You. I didn’t have to earn it, I didn’t have to be anything special, I didn’t even have to deserve it. You only asked that I receive it. I’m so glad, Jesus, because I’m so unworthy.

You’ve brought me through all these years, and for that I’m grateful. There have been ups and downs, but through it all I’ve learned to trust You. I’ve finally been able to see that You do all things well. Every year of my life is in Your hands, just as every day, every hour, every minute, and every second is known by You.

I praise You for the good times that make my heart happy. I praise You for the stormy times that strengthen my soul.

You see my heart

I marvel at how You see my heart and my desire to please and love You. Even though I fail so often, even though I fall short of many of my aspirations, You don’t care about my failings. You only see my heart and You pour such love down upon me that I overflow with happiness.

You and I both know that I have desperate times when I feel like all is lost. But in comparison to all the happiness, blessings, joy, satisfaction, peace, and love that You give me, these times of desperation are as nothing. My memories of sadness and disappointment vanish when I compare them with the light of Your love, because Your love is so great.

I praise You for Your infinite love. I praise You for Your understanding of my every thought and intent.
You give and pour out to me so abundantly: I’m in awe at Your mercies. Even when things look like they could hardly get rougher or more rugged, when the climb up life’s mountain is steep, and when—wearied and exhausted—I feel myself slipping, You remind me that You’re right here with me. You’ve tied the rope of Your love firmly around me, and I know it won’t break. You remind me time and again that You’ve been on this mountain before and know the terrain well, and that as long as I keep looking to You and depending on You, my steps will be safe and sure.

Thank You for Your loving support and for bearing me up when I feel no strength at all to continue on. You lift me up and give me all that I need. And when I reach the top—that glorious mountaintop—and the victories of this life are won, great joy and celebration will be mine. I’ll revel in Your love; rejoice in Your mercies, and relax completely in Your everlasting embrace.
I love You as a friend. You stick closer to me than a brother.¹

I love You as a companion; I need never fear that I’m alone, for You’re always with me.²

I love You as a healer; You heal my body when it’s weak and revive my spirit when it’s broken.³

I love You as a father⁴; You guide me in my work and You take me in Your arms when I’m drained. You’re there for me when I need a shoulder to cry on.

I love You as a brother; with You I can laugh and have the time of my life. You put a smile on my face.

I love You as a spouse⁵; I can tell You the most intimate details and You’ll always be interested to hear what I have to say.

I love You as a mother; You’re gentle and calm.⁶ You’re the one who strokes my hair and looks after me with such love and concern.

I love You as an author. Every word or phrase penned by the greatest writers is merely a simplistic copy of Your wonderful words. Your words are beyond comparison.⁷

I love You as a visionary. You created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them.⁸ You’re bold and daring. Your creations are exquisite and celebrated in the hearts of all Your children. Everything good that I know and love; the first thought of that creation was Yours. You made all that I love.

How do I love You, Jesus?
Let me count some of the ways...
I love You as a guide; Your mark on the road I walk is evident, and I’m comforted by the thought that You know my path well. You go before me, preparing my path. You lead me onward.  

I love You as a supporting staff; when the day seems long and bleak and there’s yet an upward climb, You are that extra something I need to get me to my destination.

I love You as a cool breeze on a summer day; the words You speak to me are the breath and the life of my soul. They caress me and refresh me.

I love You as my God of brilliance; You are the light. You are the day. You are all that shines and is bright.

I love You as my Savior; You gave Your life for me that I might live. For that alone I will be eternally grateful to You and in deepest debt, for there is no way I can repay.

I love You, my all in all, for there is none equal to You. You are the God of the universe. You are my majesty.

I love You in so many more ways, too, Jesus, but words can’t express the magnitude of my love for You. You are life to me. You’re everything good and great. You’re the reason for my every happiness.

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1. Proverbs 18:24  
2. Hebrews 13:5  
3. Malachi 4:2  
4. 2 Corinthians 6:18  
5. Isaiah 54:5  
6. Isaiah 40:11  
7. Matthew 24:35  
8. Genesis 1:1,31  
9. Psalm 48:14  
10. John 8:12  
11. John 3:16
The antidote

When I’m weak and in need of You, You give me an injection of Your strength and happiness. When I’m tired, You tell me that I can find rest in You.¹ When I need a shoulder to cry on, You’re always there, eager to wipe my tears away. When I doubt Your love, it’s Your pleasure to remind me of how great Your love is toward me. When I’m downcast and looking at the waves, You lift my chin and focus my eyes on the sunshine breaking through the clouds. When it seems like all hope is lost, You are the hope of my salvation.

You have the antidote for any low feeling that I experience. When I’m negative, You turn me to the positive. When I say it can’t be done, You prove to me that through You it can be done.² For all of this—and more—do I love and praise You.

¹ Matthew 11:28
² Philippians 4:13
Resting in You

You are a shade from the heat, a refuge for the needy. 'Thank You for the peace You give me in the middle of the daily hustle and bustle. Thank You for sheltering me at the hottest time of the day, when the sun is most intense and exhausting.

Thank You, Lord, that I can regain strength by resting in You. You’ve told me to come to You when I’m weary and heavy laden, and You will give me rest. “When I can’t go on, I just lie down and have a nap in Your shade. Then when I wake up, I am full of life and energy and ready to resume my tasks.

There’s nothing like resting in You, Lord. There’s nothing like committing my tasks to You so that I can carry through on them successfully.

1 Isaiah 25:4
2 Matthew 11:28–29
Dear Lord,

Let my mouth be filled with Your praise
And with Your glory all the day.
Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound!
They walk, O Lord, in the light of Your countenance.
In Your name they rejoice all day long,
And in Your righteousness they are exalted.
For You are the glory of their strength.

I will hope continually,
And will praise You yet more and more.
My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness
And Your salvation all the day,
For I do not know their limits.

My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing to You,
And my soul, which You have redeemed.
I give thanks to You, O God, I give thanks!
For Your wondrous works declare that Your name is near.

Prayer adapted from Psalm 71:8; 89:15–17; 71:14–15, 23; 75:1
Lord, You are the fountain of life.¹ You slake our longing and quench our thirst. The fountains of the world can run dry, but You will always flow with clean, clear, unpolluted water. There’s no need to filter or purify it; it’s crystal-clear water, not muddied by foreign matter.

You are the spring that never runs out; You have inexhaustible reserves. You’re an oasis in the desert of this world. I want to bathe in Your waters, soak myself, and be carried by Your current.

Your waters are serene waters, or babbling waters, or even rushing waters that fall in a cascade of stars. You are the water that washes my life. You are the water that refreshes my soul. You are the healing waters for my heart.

Your water washes my eyes so I can better see the things of Your Spirit. Your water becomes in me a well of water springing up into everlasting life.² Your water is made of light. Yours is thermal water that gives me warmth and health. Your waters are tranquil; they put out the fires of worry and anxiety.

¹ Psalm 36:9
² John 4:14
Enveloping Love

As the beautiful ivy that is working its way through tiny holes in the wall introduces its white and green heart-shaped leaves into our garden, so Your love is entering my life.

As the light that pours down from the afternoon sun filling the landscape with its languid, golden warmth, so Your love pours into my heart till it is enveloped in the warmth and serenity of Your presence.

As the autumn sun is a warm caress upon the land, so Your love caresses me.

I praise You for the sunshine that brightens my days. I praise You for cloudy skies that give cool, soothing shade.

My champion

Jesus, You’re my champion. You’re so mighty, so spectacular! I’m so small, so weak, and yet You’ve come down from the halls of heaven to bless me and to strengthen me in ways that are far beyond my understanding. I have no words that could possibly express my thanks, my appreciation, and the wonderful joy and excitement that I feel inside.

I praise You for Your tremendous power. Thank You for being my force, my strength, my life.

O L ORD, You are my God; I will exalt You, I will give thanks to Your name; For You have worked wonders, Plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness.

Isaiah 25:1 NASB
Life’s pathway

There’s a certain tantalizing mystery to the sea. What’s beyond the horizon, on the other side, on other shores? It’s the same with pathways. They arouse my curiosity. Where do they lead? There’s always something unknown, some uncharted territory, some new world to discover. What surprises do You have in store for me around the next bend? What spectacular views will You delight me with? What treasures will I find along the road? Who will I meet as I wend my way to new horizons? I’ll take Your path, and walk into the wonders of tomorrow.

I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.

Psalm 9:1–2
Maker of all things

I thank You, my imaginative Lord, for Your beautiful creation. Thank You for the trees that lift up their arms in praise to You. Thank You for the birds that sing their songs of praise and thanksgiving. Thank You for the butterflies that are like happy little flying flowers. And thank You for the flowers in all their many colors, which turn their heads to You because they know they need You and can’t live without You.

The sunshine is like Your love shining on us, melting and warming our hearts and making us become one with You, our great Creator. For You are the maker of all things—our Master, our everything—and You care for us all, small or great. We’re all one with You. I know I can’t thank You enough, but all that I have I want to give to You. I want to thank You, my Lord, as long as I live.

Infinite greatness

Lord, You are an infinitely great God. You are the God of endless space, Lord of the universe, Lord of the cosmos. Yet at the same time that You are infinitely great, You govern that which is infinitely small. You are also the Lord of tiny cells and chromosomes, the Lord of molecules and atoms, and the Lord of subatomic particles. In the infinitely small, Your infinite greatness is manifested. With such minuscule particles You built such a vast universe. From such tiny cells You create such complex living beings, as a picture of how You can use a very small and insignificant creature like me to perform Your will. If it were not for the invisible components, the visible ones would not be possible—the great show that I see in nature. Only somebody as great as You could create small things with such perfection.
You fulfill my dreams

Sweet Jesus, love of mine,
How my heart adores You.
You're loving, caring, tender, and kind;
I cannot live without You.

I keep Your picture close to my heart;
Your words are all around me.
I hear Your voice in song and music;
Your loving Spirit surrounds me.

I think of You, I look to You,
I love and I adore You.
I listen to You, I visualize You,
I yearn for and implore You.

You're never far away from me;
You're not beyond my reach.
I'm so glad You are here to stay;
You fulfill all of my dreams.
A firm foundation

Thank You, Lord, that You are stable, firm, and sure. You are the rock beneath my feet. You are the firm foundation upon which my life is built. You are the anchor that steadies my ship. You are the strong support beam that holds up my house—my life, my body, my spirit. You give me peace, faith, and rest. I know that no matter what happens, whatever turmoil may rage within me or around me, You will hold me fast.

I know I can trust in Your supportive hands. Thank You that as I look to You, I can be constantly reassured that You’ve got it all under control. Thank You for helping me to keep my trust in You firm and steady. Thank You for reminding me that You will see me through the worst and bring me to the best.
In sickness and in health

Thank You, Jesus, that there’s always something that I can praise You for. Even when in the natural it seems like everything’s going wrong, You direct my eyes to the good and the positive. I find strength in praising You and in the knowledge of Your ever-present care.

Even when I’m sick I can praise You. Though my body feels weak and achy, I can still find hope in Your promises of healing. I can also praise You for being with me throughout my sickness. You use these times to strengthen my spirit through communion with You.

I thank You, my tender physician, for taking care of me through the good times and through the bad times. Thank You for being with me in sickness and in health, for better or for worse. When I think about Your love for me, I know that everything’s going to be okay.

Oceans of unending love

You’re never too busy, never too encumbered by Your work, never too important to take a moment with me. I know I’m not worthy of Your love. But that’s what makes it all the more special, that You, knowing all my faults and what a weak and frail person I am, still want me. How can You have such great love for me? It’s so far beyond my mind or understanding. You tell me I don’t have to understand it—all I have to do is revel in it. I love to bathe in the oceans of Your unending love.

Thank You, Jesus, that we can talk about the most personal things. I can tell You my every secret. I can confess every sin to You. I can look to You for the answer to every question, because You’re my comforter, my friend, my answer man. You’re everything to me. Without You, I have no life, no love, and no friendships. There’s no purpose to my existence without You. That’s how important You are to me, Jesus.
Thank You for all of the wonderful things You’ve made. I can’t help but rejoice when I experience Your glorious creation through the senses You’ve given me.

Thank You for the eyes You’ve given me, so that I can enjoy the beautiful scenery—everything from the small bee to the marvelous sunset.

Thank You for my ears with which I can hear the lovely sounds of the cheerful chirping birds, as well as the heartwarming voices of my loved ones.

Thank You for my voice with which I can praise You.

Thank You for taste, to enjoy all of the many flavors You’ve made.

Thank You for smell, to absorb the spirit-lifting scent of a flower or the mouthwatering aroma of my favorite foods.

Thank You for the touch of another’s embrace that helps me feel cared about and secure.

Everything that I love and enjoy is because of You.
Glorious harmonies

Lord of music, You rain over me inspired tunes that seep through my ears and drip all the way to my heart, soaking it in sweetness, and causing me to praise You for that liquid-sounding beauty. If You gifted musicians like Mozart or Haydn when they were on earth, so that they would compose works that carry the clear imprint of Your beauty, I wonder what they’re composing in heaven now for Your delight? I dream of the day when I’ll be able to enjoy heavenly melodies in all their tones and with all my senses while I sing Your praises.

Lord, without You my life would be out of tune. But because You are within me, glorious harmonies flow through and around me.

At the touch of Your hand

I will praise You, my God. I will extol You and honor You and give You the praise that is due Your name. For truly You are the greatest of all, the Master of all masters, the King of all kings, the Friend of all friends.

At the touch of Your hand the flowers bloom, the sun rises and sets, the stars twinkle, and the moon gives forth light. By You the world was created in all its splendor, and yet You stoop down to love even me. How unworthy I feel at times and how undeserving of Your love I know I am!

Even though I often feel like a grain of sand amongst millions on a vast, open beach, yet You stoop down and say, “I love you.” Those words are so special to me, Jesus. The gift of Your love is the most precious gift of all.
Life, love, hope

I want to please You more than anyone else, because You’re the one who gave me life and love and hope. You’re the one who saved me from a life of misery and hopelessness. You’re the one who brought me into the kingdom of light. You’re my Shepherd who leads me beside the still waters. ‘You feed me sweet bread to satisfy my hunger. You give me cool waters to quench my thirst. You lie with me in the shadow of the oak tree so that I can rest my head on Your shoulder and find peace and tranquility.

Thank You that You walked in the shoes I walk in. Thank You for experiencing not only the good things of the human life, but also our weaknesses, our frailties, our desires, and our pain. Thank You for learning to understand everything about us—down to the smallest, most insignificant details. I know that You, and only You, truly know everything about me, even my most secret thoughts, feelings, and desires.

You complete me

I touch the wonder of You in the things that surround me. I look at the sky and I sense Your presence. I feel Your caress in the morning breeze as it envelops me and clears my mind. The sweet song of a bird sings in unison with my heart. Together we give praise to You, the one who makes all things beautiful.

Every moment I spend with You makes me more alive, more vibrant, a little closer to You. Oh, Jesus, that’s all I ask for: let me be closer to You. Let me be always within Your reach. Help me to remain forever at Your side. I can’t do anything without You. You’re the best part of me; You complete me.

O Lord, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth!

Psalm 8:9

1 Psalm 23:1–2
My protector

You provide the greatest security service in the world. There’s so much fear in the world, so little security of heart and mind. Thank You that I can trust in You, the best bodyguard ever. You provide physical and spiritual protection. You have countless powerful beings at Your disposal, and You freely deploy them in times of risk or danger. You are so powerful.

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness,
The power and the glory,
The victory and the majesty;
For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours;
Yours is the kingdom, O LORD,
And You are exalted as head over all.
Both riches and honor come from You,
And You reign over all.
In Your hand is power and might;
In Your hand it is to make great
And to give strength to all.

1 Chronicles 29:11–12

Psalm 91:11

_____________________

1

You are brightness and color

You are brightness and color when my day is uninviting, colorless, and bleak. You are the hand that wipes all tears from my eyes. It's because of You that I can smile. It's because of You that I want to be a better person. You are the reason I love others. You are the one I work for. You are the one I live to please.

You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have loosed my sackcloth and girded me with gladness, That my soul may sing praise to You and not be silent.

O Lord my God, I will give thanks to You forever.

Psalm 30:11-12 NASB

My refuge and shelter

Jesus, You whom my soul loves, where You lead I will follow. Where You stand still, in calm or in storm, there will I rest, for You are my shelter. You are my refuge and Your arms are my dwelling place. To whom else shall I go? No one but You has my heart.

You see all there is of me, even the things that I never reveal in my words or expressions. You know the most secret secrets of my heart—the ones I could never tell. You’re a father, a trustworthy friend, and a majestic king. I’ve realized that You are everything good that exists. You’re in it all. I know now that all I’ll ever want is to be with You. I don’t care about anything but You and what You care about.
Symphony of the world

You sing in the wind, in the waterfall, and in the stream. You play the harp in the trees with the wind. You put the melody in the voice of the birds and tune the living flute of the crickets.

You are the greatest virtuoso, the great maestro. You conduct the magnificent orchestra of the universe, in which every member is perfectly synchronized and hits the right note with mathematical precision. Planets don’t get ahead or lag behind as they wend their way through space. They seem to operate by means of a gigantic, invisible clock.

Everything knows its time: the seasons of the year, the time when animals mate and give birth, the time when flowers bloom and plants yield their fruit. The great symphony of the world resounds in all its magnificence, giving glory to You.
Guiding light of my life

I praise You for the happy times, when I feel You so close and when You shower me with blessings and cause me to walk on a bright and sunshiny path. I praise You for the sad times, when I must walk through the storm and climb steep cliffs, when the darkness that surrounds me causes me to reach out in desperation to You for Your leading in my life.

I glorify You for the path that You lead me on. You know what I need so much better than I do. At times when I thought I knew the way to go and started heading down a dangerous path in my pride and ignorance, You were always there to guide me gently, back to a safe path. You always do it in such a tender manner that I’m deeply humbled.

You are the guiding light of my life.

You have what I need

I know that I have faults and failings and that I stumble and fall. But I also know that You have the answers to all my questions, my failures, my pain, and my loss. I know that You have what I need.

I run to You now and I ask You to lift these loads I’ve been carrying. Please lift this condemnation and hurt. Help me to see the wonders of Your loving plan for me. Help me to believe by faith that even when it seems dark and stormy, the sun is still shining above the clouds. I know that its rays will reach me again when this storm is past.

I accept Your love and forgiveness. Lighten my load. Better yet, help me to cast it all on You. I need Your love and I can’t make it without You, my God and my King.
You never lose hope

The more I open my heart to You and speak words of praise and worship to You, the more You manifest Your love for me in return. The deeper Your love goes into my heart, the more beautiful my life becomes. Your love melts me, softens me, and helps me to be more loving with others. When I feel the wonderful presence of Your loving Spirit, I want to give that same love to those around me.

With every new baby You bring into the world, Lord, You give us a clear signal that in spite of everything You haven’t given up on humanity. What a lesson for us. We are so ready to lose patience with one another, but You never lose hope.

New every morning

I love You, Jesus. Thank You for giving us this beautiful day, and for bestowing upon us Your mercies, which are new every morning. Lord, I pray that You will show me the tasks that You wish for me to perform, those things which You desire for me to do as I go through this day. But now I want to thank You for all that You are for me, and especially for all that Your Word is for me. It’s a part of You that I can see, feel, and hear, and through it, know that I’m seeing, feeling, and hearing You—because it is You.

I will praise You, O LORD, among the peoples; I will sing to You among the nations.
For Your mercy reaches unto the heavens,
And Your truth unto the clouds.
Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;
Let Your glory be above all the earth.

Psalm 57:9–11

1 Lamentations 3:22–23
Soothing my nerves
I love the way You soothe my nerves and lift the stress and worries that weigh so heavily on me.
When You hold me in Your arms and wipe the tears from my eyes, I know that everything's going to be okay. You're my strong tower, my everlasting refuge. In You there is no fear; in You there is no harm.
I know that I can come to You at any moment anywhere and You'll have what I need. You're so constant in Your care of me and so complete in Your love for me.
You comfort me when I'm inconsolable and when no other can give me hope. You encourage me, wrap me in Your arms, and give me peace. Your love for me is what I treasure most.

Starting afresh today
I thank You that I don't have to be worried about what I've done in the past. I don't have to worry about the times that I've erred and strayed and haven't loved You like I should. You have forgiven and forgotten. Thank You that I can start afresh today, to do my best and love You with all of my heart. Thank You for making it so easy for me.
Thank You that I don't have to work for Your love. Thank You that it's a free gift and that You love me no matter what I do or what I've done or what I will do in the future. You don't base Your love toward me on circumstances, conditions, and events; You loved me before I ever loved You.
I have trusted in Your mercy; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.

Psalm 13:5
Love like the rising sun

Jesus, it’s Your love for me that makes me what I am. I don’t even deserve to have You, Jesus—yet You love me, You accept me. All I can do is bask in this love and acceptance. I’m like a flower, lifting my face to the warmth of the rising sun, which rises anew every morning. Your love is like that rising sun, bestowing fresh mercies on me each day.

The best thing about You is that You know everything about me, every detail. You know about things that a lot of people would consider insignificant, and You care. At times when I feel down or I can’t express myself, I just look into Your eyes and I know You understand, because our hearts beat as one. You know everything—my secrets, my dreams, my unspoken prayers, my fantasies. That’s the beauty of Your love for me.
Tokens of Your love

Each day You send me a token, a manifestation of Your care and love, yet sometimes I get so busy I fail to notice. Help me to go slower so that I can see all that You show me. You’re so detailed and intricate. You think of everything and go to such great lengths to make me happy. I’m so unworthy. Thank You for Your care. Thank You for Your love. Thank You that I can rest assured in Your love. Thank You for the wonderful comfort it is to know that everything You do, everything that comes from Your hand, is a part of Your love.

I praise You, adore You, and bow down before You for Your never-ending mercy bestowed upon me. I praise You, sing to You, and cling to You for Your warm embrace.
Everything imaginable

Jesus, You are the best, the most.
You’re understanding, longsuffering, gentle, and compassionate.
You’re caring, generous, unselfish, and gracious.
You’re regal, gallant, noble, and courageous.
You’re true, protective, fearless, and strong.
You’re thoughtful, succoring, supportive, and sympathetic.
You’re strengthening, encouraging, challenging, and defending.
You’re perceptive, discerning, empathetic, and considerate.
You’re sensible, organized, multifaceted, and interesting.
You’re wise, brilliant, instructive, and knowledgeable.
You’re dynamic, interactive, communicative, and extraordinary.
In short, You are everything and more than I could ever imagine or desire You to be.
A psalm of praise

I will give You thanks with all my heart;  
I will sing praises to You…
I will bow down toward Your holy temple  
And give thanks to Your name for Your  
lovingkindness and Your truth;  
For You have magnified Your word according  
to all Your name.  
On the day I called, You answered me;  
You made me bold with strength in my soul.

All the kings of the earth will give thanks to You, O LORD,  
When they have heard the words of  
Your mouth.  
And they will sing of the ways of the LORD,  
For great is the glory of the LORD.  
For though the LORD is exalted,  
Yet He regards the lowly,  
But the haughty He knows from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,  
You will revive me;  
You will stretch forth Your hand  
against the wrath of my enemies,  
And Your right hand will save me.  
The LORD will accomplish what concerns me;  
Your lovingkindness, O LORD, is everlasting;  
Do not forsake the works of Your hands.

Psalm 138 NASB
Expressing your gratefulness to God and rejoicing in His presence makes Him happy—and it makes you happy too!

In this book you’ll find 70 short prayers, each expressing thankfulness and adoration to the one who is the creator of the universe, God Almighty, and our best friend. Rest in Him and revel in His goodness as you reflect on these words. Let them be a springboard for the praise and worship of your heart, and experience peace, joy, and inspiration in return.