

A Prayer Worth Praying
~ Prayer, songs and
meditation with the psalmist ~

- **Psalm 119:17 - 20**

17 ¶ GIMEL. Deal bountifully with Your servant, That I may live and keep Your word.

18 ¶ Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law.

19 ¶ I am a stranger in the earth; Do not hide Your commandments from me.

20 ¶ My soul breaks with longing For Your judgments at all times

- **It seems to me to be a collection of David's pious and devout ejaculations, the short and sudden breathings and elevations of his soul to God, which he wrote down as they occurred, and, towards the latter end of his time, gathered out of his day-book where they lay scattered, added to them many like words, and digested them into this psalm, in which there is seldom any coherence between the verses, but, like Solomon's proverbs, it is a chest of gold rings, not a chain of gold links. – Matthew Henry**
- **The author of this Psalm was David; which I know none that deny, and of which there is no just reason to doubt – Poole**

- **This psalm is generally thought to be written by David, but when is uncertain; very probably towards the decline of life; and, as some think, for the sake or his son Solomon.**
- **It seems to be a collection of observations on the word of God and its precepts, the usefulness and excellency of it, he had made in the course of his life; interspersed with various petitions for the grace of God, to enable him to observe it. - Gill**

- **A call for us to aspire to the deep things of God**
- **A call to draw near to God so that one can be useful to the Master**
- **A call for us to pursue hard after God knowing that only the “apprehending” of God satisfies**
- **This message is for all serious-minded Christians who intend to affect their present generation and the generations following for good**
- **It is for those who have put their hands to the plough and do not intend to look back.**
- **It is not for the fly-by-night Christian**

- **Open my eyes that I may see wondrous things from your law. Why?**
 - **Are you blind?**
 - **Can you not see?**
 - **Are you incapable of reading?**
- **No, I am not blind!**
- **Rather, I recognise that God does not share His secrets or treasures with all and sundry**
- **He actually hides it from all and sundry**
- **God opens his word only to a class of persons. Listen to the following:**

- **Luke 8:10**

And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that 'Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.'

- **Luke 10:20 - 21**

20 "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

21 In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.

22 "All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him."

- **Psalm 25:12 - 14**

12 Who is the man that fears the LORD? Him shall He teach in the way He chooses.

13 He himself shall dwell in prosperity, And his descendants shall inherit the earth.

14 The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant.

- It is worth noting that he who prayed this prayer also prayed and said:
- Psalm 139:23 - 24
 - 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:
 - 24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.
- Psalm 139:23 – 34 a prayer that can be prayed at any stage of one's life. Both they who have minutes to live and those with a thousand years to live can pray this prayer and know great benefits from it.
- Perhaps this prayer should come before the prayer for the wondrous things of God?

- **The wondrous things of God are His:**
 - **Secrets**
 - **Pearls**
 - **Treasures**
 - **Counsels**
- **More than these, the wondrous things can be summed up in the revelation of God himself through His word**
- **The wondrous things of God are not:**
 - **Formulae**
 - **Methods**
 - **Tricks or tips**
 - **Programmes or procedures**

- **The wondrous things of the law are the truths of God.**
- **But there is no spiritual truth that exists outside or apart from God**
- **Therefore the wondrous things are the revelation of God as the Truth. After all did Jesus not say in John 14:6 “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”?”**

- **This kind of prayer has its source and root in God Himself**
- **It does not flow from mere human desire**
- **This is a deep inner prompting welling up from God**
- **It is deep, it is relentless, it is diligent, it is importunate and it follows hard, removing all hindrances, excuses, ifs and buts and what-ifs**
- **This is the longing and stirrings that differentiates the men and women of God from “the others”**
- **Listen now to the testimony of George Whitefield**

- **“My mind being now more open and enlarged, I began to read the Holy Scriptures upon my knees, laying aside all other books, and praying over, if possible, every line and word.**
- **This proved meat indeed, and drink indeed, to my soul.**
- **I daily received fresh life, light, and power from above. I got more true knowledge from reading the Book of God in one month, than I could ever have acquired from all the writings of men.**
- **In one word, I found it profitable for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, every way sufficient to make the man of God perfect, thoroughly furnished unto every good word and work.” – *George Whitefield***

- **The man or woman who prays this prayer is a man of prayer and a man of the word**
- **It is the man or woman who recognises his or her limitation as a human being**
- **This person also recognises that only God can grant access to His wondrous things**
- **Psalm 36:9**
For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.

- **Not for vainglory**
- **Not to be puffed up**
- **Not for head knowledge**
- **Psalms 119:130**

The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.

- **I want to know God**
- **I want to be enlightened so that I can understand**
- **I want to be changed from this creature that I am**
- **I just want to be what God wants me to be – like Jesus!**

- **Methods**
- **Procedures**
- **Formulae**
- **Programmes**
- **Principles**
- **These do not satisfy the deep longings of the soul**
- **It takes personality, it takes the creator revealed in us to satisfy the deep longings of our souls**
- **Soon the seemingly new method, programme, procedure, machinery etc lose their novelty and therefore fail to satisfy**
- **Only a revelation of God Himself will continue to satisfy from everlasting to everlasting**

- **Have you wondered why Moses, in his conversation with God never asked for a principle, method or procedure to enable him to carry on with his duty to lead Israel to the promised land?**
- **Anybody can take hold of methods, procedures, principles etc**
- **But the revelation of God; no, that cannot be passed on by man to man. Listen to what Moses requested:**
- **Exodus 33:18**
And he said, "Please, show me Your glory."

- **"What the Church needs to-day is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use -- men of prayer, men mighty in prayer. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men -- men of prayer." - *E. M. Bounds***
- **The Christian whose eyes are open to see the wondrous things from the law of God will also be the anointed man or woman of God**
- **Let us desire to be men and women of prayer**

- **Ephesians 1:15 - 19**

15 ¶ Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,

16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers

17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints

19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us who believe, according to the working of his mighty power

- **That the Father of glory,**
 - **may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:**
 - **The eyes of your understanding being enlightened;**
 - **that ye may know what is the hope of his calling,**
 - **and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,**
- **If David prayed this prayer and if Paul also prayed it for the Ephesians, then you and I should also ask for the grace to pray it!**
- **Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law.**
- **Amen.**