

Prayer

How we thank God for you!

Because of you we have great joy as we enter God's presence.

*Night and day we pray for you, asking God to let us see you again
to fill the gaps in your faith. 1 Thessalonians 3:9-10 (NLT)*

DADDY, YOU LOVE ME!

My heavenly Father,

WOW! This is a WOW moment in my life. You are God, You are My Savior, and You are MY DADDY.

I am your child. But You are so much more than any earthly Daddy. You are perfect, You love me perfectly and unconditionally. You are not ashamed of me. You will never reject me.



You want to help me. I can trust You in everything. You have been there my whole life, but I ignored You. You are MY Daddy and You love me, You love me, You love me!

This is so hard for me to ask because my heart is hard. I have hardened my heart to your love because I thought I would get chewed out. All this time I have been ignoring You and making excuses for not spending time with You. Forgive me, for I have thought wrongly about You.

God, I am not a little boy, I am grown up and I am a Daddy. Thank you that you are my friend and my encourager. You want to guide me in the very best path; You want to strengthen me with your strength.

God, I want my kids to be free to come to me for advice and encouragement. I want to stand with them and love them unconditionally. Give me patience, care, and endurance to raise my kids. They are precious gifts from you.

Let me always have time for them. I repent of my selfishness, and from this moment forward I want to consider my family more important than my myself.

Let me teach my kids how to live by the life I lead. That means I need a lot of help, for I have sinned greatly in the past. Work in my heart that I might become a man of integrity and a man of no compromise.

In Jesus name I pray, Amen

W. Phillip Keller

WHAT IS THE FATHER LIKE?

In his fabulous book What the Father Is Like (Bloomington: Bethany House Publishers, 1996) W. Phillip Keller writes about our trust in God. Mr. Keller's writings, while filled with great depth of meaning, are relatively simple to read. I encourage you to read more of his writings. When I sit down and start reading Mr. Keller's writings and see his heart for God, my heart becomes softer and God's peace flows through me. The following is taken from the chapter "I Am Faithful."

"Those of you who will dare to trust Me, you are surprised at the serenity that confidence in Me brings. Absolute trust is one of the supreme secrets to finding rest for your souls and repose for your spirits. The assurance that "all is well" for I am here transcends all of your troubles and enables you to triumph over every adversity. This is more than high-sounding phrases—it can be your daily delight when you trust Me! But there is a barrier...

"Instead of standing firm in living faith in Me, so many choose to live in the realm of their feelings. Don't you see?—Your emotions are mostly natural responses to all the observable events, circumstances, and human relationships that affect your existence. In fact, this is a very shallow, turbulent, and uncertain way in which to deal with the turmoil of your time on earth. It means you live only on the basis of what you see, hear, touch, taste, or smell, with your five fallible, physical senses. Allowing your emotions to be governed and conditioned by these natural phenomena is known as "living by sight."

"I call you to live by faith in Me. This faith that I ask you to exercise is a supernatural capacity that comes from Me and is grounded in my faithfulness to you. I share it with every soul, so all men have faith. Their problem is to discover the supreme object in which to rest their faith."

"There are a few things on which people rest their faith...

- Education and science
- Business transactions
- Government programs
- Health schemes
- Human skills and expertise
- Church activities
- Family and friends

None of these is essentially evil but all are transient. Every one fluctuates, changes, and can easily delude you. Only I remain forever faithful."

"In earth, there is no greater guarantee. Faith in Me is the absolute assurance for your soul. Just calmly come and trust Me."

"It is to a life of complete confidence in my character that I invite you. Do not be afraid to trust Me though you cannot see or touch Me. For I assure you I never leave. I am with you to the end of your days on earth...and on into eternity."



PSALM 97: 10 SAYS,

**"HE GUARDS THE LIVES OF HIS FAITHFUL ONES AND
DELIVERS THEM FROM THE HAND OF THE WICKED."**

Teaching

*Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not.
Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching.
2 Timothy 4:2 (NLT)*

LET'S LOOK AT A FEW OF THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD THE FATHER PSALM 97:1-12

1. The first six verses of **Psalm 97** are written out below.

*The Lord reigns!
Let the earth be glad!
Clouds and thick darkness surround him.*

*Righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
Fire goes before him and consumes his foes on every side.*

*His lightning lights up the world.
The earth sees and trembles.
The mountains melt like wax before the Lord, before the Lord of all the earth.
The heavens proclaim his righteousness; and all people see his glory.*

God, our Heavenly Father is king. He is mighty. He is just and righteous. The verse says "Let the earth rejoice!" Precious people, we need to be exceedingly glad that God is our Almighty King, and is in control. Just imagine anyone or anything less than God being in control? Because God has allowed each of us to have a free will and to do evil, there is evil. But God can stop it any time, anyway he wants. God loves us, promises to protect us, to save us and He is able to do it. Just look at all the politicians in America who have promised to change things and make things better, giving us a false hope. They can't do it. They aren't able. Only God has the power to do whatever whenever He wants. God is the only safe place to put our trust.

2. **Psalm 97:7** tells us

"All who worship images are put to shame--Those who boast in idols worship him, all you gods."

An idol is anything we worship. We can make ourselves, our career, our spouse, or our family into an idol. Our ranch, horses, cows or equipment can become idols. Anything that is more important to us than God is an idol. We must believe God's Word. It doesn't matter what our idol looks like, we will be disgraced if we are worshipping anything but Jesus Christ.

3. **Psalm 97:8-9** says,

*"Zion hears and rejoiced, and
all the villages of Judah are glad because of your judgment, O Lord!
For you, Lord, are the Most High over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods."*

LET'S PRAY:

Oh Lord, thank you for you are just. You see the evil around us! You see those who worship idols and you are not afraid. For you, O God, are supreme. All gods will bow down to you! Because you are just, the wicked will pay for what they have done. I pray for all who are worshipping idols and pray that they would repent and turn to you, O mighty God. Jesus you came and died so that all might be saved. I pray we will turn from our idol worship and believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. We will believe that Jesus came and died to save us from our sins. Oh Lord, you have no desire to punish or destroy wicked men, but you desire that they repent and turn to you. I pray they would repent. But I thank you that you are just. You know who has a heart toward you and who doesn't. We leave the punishment in your hands. In the mighty name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen

4. ***Psalm 97:10*** says,

"You who love the Lord, hate evil!"

Please look up and write out these additional verses on hating evil.

a. ***Psalm 101:2-4, Page 537.***

b. ***Psalm 119:104, Page 552.***

c. ***Psalm 119:113, Page 552.***

d. ***Proverbs 8:7, Page 571.***

e. ***Proverbs 8:13, Page 571.***

5. **Psalm 97: 10** says,

"He guards the lives of his faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked."

LET'S PRAY:

Thank you, thank you, thank you for this marvelous promise that we might claim for us and for our families. Lord, our world looks very evil and it is easy for us to become fearful. But you want us to fear you and hate evil. We love you Lord and thank you that you promise to protect our lives and rescue us from the power of the wicked! Nothing is impossible for you. You are faithful and true. Thank you, that you will keep your promises toward your people. In the gracious name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

6. **Psalm 97:11-12** are special promises for those who love God.

***"Light shines on the righteous and joy on the upright in heart.
Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name!"***

LET'S PRAY:

Lord, thank you for this promise that your light will shine on the godly and your joy will reign in our hearts. We want to rejoice and praise you. Thank you for sending your son, Jesus Christ. Thank you for all that He did for us. We believe in Jesus Christ! We believe Your Words in the Holy Bible! Lord, when we fall into doubt or find gaps in our faith, help our unbelief, strengthen our faith. We fear you and obey you and love you. In the awesome name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

