

**“More Prayer from the fullness (abundant life) of Christ in Me” Colossians 4: 2-3**  
**Experiencing Spiritual Abundance through Prayer**

**Colossians 4:2-6 Devote yourselves to prayer, being (a) *watchful and thankful*.**

**3 And pray for us, too, (b) (witness) that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. 4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. 5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders (demonstrating unity to non-believers); make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.**

**Our Father passionately desires fellowship with us!**

**James 4:5-6 "The Spirit that God made to live in us wants us for himself alone"?**  
**NCV**

**James 4:5-6 Don't you realize that making friends with God's enemies-the evil pleasures of this world-makes you an enemy of God? I say it again, that if your aim is to enjoy the evil pleasure of the unsaved world, you cannot also be a friend of God. 5 Or what do you think the Scripture means when it says that the Holy Spirit, whom God has placed within us, watches over us with tender jealousy? 6 But he gives us more and more strength to stand against all such evil longings. TLB**

**Mark 3: 14-16 He appointed twelve — designating them apostles—that they might be with him... and that he might send them out to preach 15 and to have authority to drive out demons.**

**Luke 10:38-42 Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. 39 She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. 40 But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" 41 "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, 42 but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."**

**When we spend time in His presence, our lives radiate His character. (Moses)**

**John 14:2-3** *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. KJV [in His presence]*

**John 17:24** *"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me"*

**God Passionately longs to be everyone's intimate close friend. He has taken the initiative to provide the way... .. Rom 5:8** But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **But** the degree of intimacy we have in our relationship with Him is up to us!!! **James 4:8-Draw near to God and he will draw near to you.**

**We "draw near" by spending time in His presence, seeking Him.**

**Acts 17:26-28** *From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. (Psalm 139:16) 27 God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 28 'For in him we live and move and have our being.'*

**Prayer is our response. I'd like to share with you some ways I've experienced the fullness of Christ in prayer:**

**Practicing the Presence of God** (Sis. Gertie Wood taught Belmont ladies about On-going conversation with the Lord throughout the day. We can talk to him about everything in our day as if He is right there beside us... BECAUSE HE IS!!! [Pray without ceasing])

My life-line: **Prayer Walks** (since 1993) *I don't take these walks for granted because in 1996 my knees, thankfully only one at a time, began to swell so that it was hard to walk. I went to an orthopedic specialist who said that he was shocked that I was not in severe pain as the cartilage in my knees was wearing away so that bone was rubbing on bone and I would need to have something done. That was in 1996 and I'm still taking my prayerwalks now in 2024 without having had any medical intervention. I consider this a daily miracle!*

1) **Rhema-** Brother Ben Rake used to teach us about when God would give a word of scripture just for us about a particular situation we were facing. In 2000, Ben

and Linda felt called to leave Belmont for another ministry. We had no minister for 3 years and many left our congregation. A godly young man who was the band director of our local high school began attending and the elders asked him if he would consider being our pastor. He served us for several years and then another church in town heard about him and wanted him for their youth leader for 30 teens. We knew it was an amazing opportunity for him but I was crushed for my daughter to have to lose someone else who had greatly impacted her life. As I poured my heart out, the Lord put Psalm 139:16 in my heart which was a life-changer because it told me that My Father knew every day of my life and He had a plan. That plan was SAM MARSH! Through Sam and his family, we were able to continue the tradition Wayne and I had enjoyed of Central KY teens getting together on Friday nights for prayer and share times... And another dream of mine was fulfilled... Because of the Marsh's, Tori was able to go to Woodland Bible Camp for many years and her life was deeply impacted there as mine had been.

**Psalm 139:16- All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.**

2) Through my prayerwalks Our Father demonstrated to me that He cares about even the little things that I care about. I love to talk to My Father about the things on my heart. One day I was telling Him, "You know I love Fall the best but this year I've not seen many gold leaves and I miss them." A little while later a little girl, I'd never seen before who looked to be special needs and about 10 years old came bouncing up to me and said, "You're my neighbor!" She put something in my hand and went happily on her way. As I opened my hand to see what she'd put in it, there was a GOLD LEAF!!! I had to look up and say, "Father, that was you." He sent a little girl with a gold leaf to let me know that He heard my prayer and that He cared even about the little details of my life.

**Psalms 37:4-Delight in Him and He will give you the desire of your heart**

**3) Rain withheld...** then gushing as soon as I finish my prayerwalk- happened many times!!! (My friend Jan told me, "I believe Our Father is telling you that your prayerwalks mean as much to Him as they do to you!" and I believe she is right!

***James 5: 17 Elijah was completely human, a man just like us and he prayed earnestly for it not to rain, and no rain fell on the earth for three years and six months. 18 And [then] he prayed again and the heavens supplied rain and the***

*land produced its fruit.*

4) The heavens declare glory of God and inspire worship!

Psalm 8:3-5 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, 4 what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? 5 You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

Balcony worship "WHEN I consider the heavens... The heavens declare the glory of God."

**Praying to commit each day to the Lord**- Pray for Him to lead me to where He wants me, resolving schedule conflicts, making more hours in my day, purchases to make... (Testimony: One day when I was driving through Richmond on my work route, I saw a Christian Bookstore named "The Way Station" that I'd never seen before and I never saw again. I decided to stop in and purchased 3 cassette tapes there. I popped one into the player and thought Linda Rake would love the ladies acapella-style harmony, so I decided to take it to her on my way home. When she came to the door, I handed her the cassette and told her that I wanted her to have it. She said, "Moni, You are an answer to prayer." I couldn't imagine HOW. She explained that she had received a call asking our Belmont ladies to sing at the retreat and she'd been praying that the Lord would reveal the song He wanted us to sing. She raised the cassette in the air and said, "And the song is on this cassette!!!" The song was "Love will be our home" and our ladies sang it on many occasions. 😊)

*"When a woman says yes to God, no longer is her day just one humdrum task after another, but rather a string of divine appointments and hidden treasures waiting to be discovered" ... And we don't have to seek to create opportunities to say yes to God, He has already gone before us and established them. We simply have to respond! (Lysa TerKeurst) Psalm 139:16*

**Prayer-journaling** Document testimonies of "MY FATHER'S FINGERPRINTS IN THE DETAILS AND TIMING" in my life journey. These testimonies will encourage on those days when discouragement is knocking at the door.

**Prayer Prompts:** [Example 1] Ruth Wilson once told my mother that she had a "ministry of suffering." Mom's suffering led to many trips by ambulance to the

hospital. So since those days, when I hear a siren, I pray for the person in need, for those who will help them and for someone to be drawn closer to God by whatever is happening.

[Example 2] When I pass my daughter and her husband's house on the way to work, that is a prayer prompt to pray for their hopes and dreams, for their days at work, for the burdens on their hearts, and I thank God for them and their faith, praying that He will grow them in love and faithfulness FIRST to God and then to each other.

**Praying while Driving:** Morning drive to work/ Country drives. When I drive to work, I have certain people I pray for each day.

**3am wake-ups-** When the Lord wakes me up, I pray!

**DBR Conversational prayer over scriptures**

*When things in life trigger anxiety... surely Our Father would love to hear us pray, "Jesus, Thank You for this opportunity to trust you more."*

*Instead of saying, "Lord, I don't know how I'm going to do this, say, Lord, I can't wait to see how YOU are going to do this!"*

*May it be said of me: "She turned every worry into an opportunity to trust God deeper."*

**Watch and Pray**

**1) Our Witness (Colossians 4- that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. 4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. 5 *Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders (demonstrating unity to non-believers); make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.***

**Grateful Spirit vs. IMPORTANT CONTRAST: Phil 2:14-16- Do everything without complaining or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the [dark] universe 16 as you hold out the word of life.**

*Grumbling and complaining kills our testimony and our witness for the kingdom/ We need to stop making FEAR/ANXIETY/FEELINGS our identity and live by faith! [Acts 4-5 Prayers for Courage and Boldness]*

## **2) Spiritual warfare: WATCH AND PRAY that our faith may not fail!!!**

**Luke 22:31-32, 46** "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, **that your faith may not fail**. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." ... **"Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."**

Luke 18:1-8 (v6) And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? 8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, **when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"**

**What is our job? Keep the faith** *He who endures to the end will be saved -LB (Even mustard seed faith is powerful enough to move mountains)*

## **The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak...**

**Genesis 4:7** *If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."*

**Ephesians 4:27** *Do not give the devil a foothold*

## **3) Pray to stand, to endure to the end!!!**

**Luke 21:34-36** "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. 35 For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 **Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.**"

## **To experience Fullness in Christ in prayer, we need fellowship with our sisters**

Romans 12: 4-5 *Just as there are many parts to our bodies, so it is with **Christ's body**. We are all parts of it, and **it takes every one of us to make it complete**, for we each have different work to do. So we belong to each other, and **each needs all the others**.*

**Encouraging each other's prayer life through testimonies that increase faith in our sisters:**

Gertie Wood's Testimony to our Belmont Ladies' Bible study - *Our God giving her a specific answer after her and Brother Jesse Wood had bought land and she wanted to build the house first while he wanted to plant the fields first. They couldn't agree and the Lord led her to see this verse, **Proverbs 24:27**- "Finish your outdoor work and get your fields ready; after that, build your house." We could hardly believe that this verse was really in the Bible but she proved that it was and our faith was strengthened.*

**Exodus 17:8-13** Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. **11 As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning... Aaron and Hur held his hands up — one on one side, one on the other — so that his hands remained steady till sunset.** 13 So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.

**Accountability** -& **Prayer Partners**- Mom and Amy Reeves knitted together in spirit [Ezekiel- Stand in the gap]

**James 5:16** *Confess to one another therefore your faults and pray for one another, that you may be healed and restored [to a spiritual tone of mind and heart]. The prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available.*

**Women who experienced the fullness of God through prayer:**

**1 Tim 5:5**- The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and **continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help...**

**Luke 2:36-38** There was also a prophetess, Anna,...She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37 and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but **worshiped night and day, fasting and praying...** she **gave thanks to God** and spoke about the child [Messiah] to all who were **looking forward** to the redemption of Jerusalem.

**Anna worshipped night and day...fasting and praying, giving thanks to God... LOOKING FORWARD! ...**

**Isaiah 26:3 says, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."** **According to this verse, Anna surely experienced Perfect Peace... Imagine how women must have been drawn to her for prayer, spiritual counsel and encouragement.**

**1 Sam 1:10-20** In bitterness of soul Hannah wept much and prayed to the Lord.  
11 And she made a vow, saying, "O Lord Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life..."

"**I am a woman who is deeply troubled.** I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was **pouring out my soul to the Lord.** 16 Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been **praying here out of my great anguish and grief.**" 17 Eli answered, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him." 18 She said, "May your servant find favor in your eyes."**Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast.** ... The Lord remembered her. 20 So in the course of time Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, "Because I asked the Lord for him."  
**Hannah took her distress to the house of God and wept before Him ready to give back the blessing she longed for! She experienced the fullness of God in prayer.**

**Psalm 62:8-** Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.

### **Prayers for the hearts of the Fathers...**

*Malachi 4:6 (KJV) or else God will strike the land with a CURSE. [FATHERLESSNESS]*

*Reese: "Do you ever feel like we are working in a mental institution? Sometimes I wonder what we're dealing with!"*

*Moni: In the NT, there were evil spirits. Do you think that they all just went away?"*

*In these last days, I believe we are dealing with evil spirits. Much of what is referred to as mental illness may be lives void of God. As God is pushed out of our culture more and more, there is a vacuum that Satan and his forces rush in to fill.*

**(Intense Needs) FASTING- Matt 17:15-24** Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is epileptic? and suffereth grievously; for oft-times he falleth into the fire, and oft-times into the water. [ASV] 16 And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him.... **21 Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting ."**

**Especially in these last days, there is a serious need for Father's hearts to be turned to their children...** **Eph 6:4** And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. NKJV  
These are possibly the saddest 2 verses in the Bible:

**Judges 2:7-11** *The people served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and*



*of the elders who outlived him and who had seen all the great things the Lord had done for Israel. 8 Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of a hundred and ten....10 After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel.*

***Psalms 78:3-7 What we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us... 4 We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done. 5 He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which He commanded our forefathers to teach their children, 6 so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. 7 Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.***

***The Blessing of Our Fullness in Prayer will surely affect the next generation... and the next.***

*Modelling prayer- When I left each day for school, my Mom was praying for me. Her prayers, I believe , shielded and protected me from many dangers in my school.*

*Are we sharing our personal testimonies with our kids... Are we praying with them to help them experience God's answers and are we talking to them about those answers? (Deuteronomy)*

*Ps 112:1-2 Praise the Lord. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who finds great delight in his commands. 2 His children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.*

***My mother's faith prepared me for something that I will refer to as "walking in the Spirit Realm."***

*My momma went home to be with Jesus on September 19<sup>th</sup> of last year after a 9-yr dementia journey. The Holy Spirit had prompted me to invest in and nourish her spirit by singing hymns to her, by praying blessings over her, reading scriptures to her and even in the last months before Jesus took her home, when she was long past being able to communicate, when she could no longer walk, eat, make intentional voluntary movements, etc... There were many "Ephesians 3:20*

moments” when I experienced with her what was beyond what I could ever have asked for or even imagined.

I realized that most of the hymns Mom reacted to most were songs of surrender to Our Lord. Two of those songs were “There is a place of quiet rest near to the heart of God” and “Have Thine own way, Lord” As our spirits seemed to bond together in worship before Our Father’s throne, I realized that many years ago, Mom had found that place of quiet rest near to the heart of God. Her life demonstrated peace that passes all understanding and she lived it throughout her journey. I believe she lived out this truth, “When I’ve given everything to God, there is nothing the enemy can take from me. “ Our Father pulled back the curtain to give me glimpses of the spirit realm. He gave me opportunity to know that Mom’s spirit was alive and well... The part of Mom that discerned spiritual truths and that knew God was not affected by dementia. ❤️🙏❤️ Our Father has given me memories to treasure that have brought me so much joy about realities we cannot see with our eyes... but only by faith! ❤️😊❤️

I want to leave you with this passage because I believe the FULLNESS OF CHRIST in prayer is evidenced by peace that is beyond what we can humanly comprehend.

**Phil 4:6-7** Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank him for his answers. 7 If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus. TLB

**Phil 4:6-7** In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus. ASV