

A Gift of Faith Book

5



Part 3

**PRAYER
AND
PRAISE**



A Gift of Faith Book

5

Prayer and Praise

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Stars

Dear Jesus,

I really like it when, like a hidden surprise, the stars all of a sudden can be seen appearing in the darkening evening sky. They are so beautiful and remind me of angels, sparkling and shining in Heaven, and watching over us.

I want to shine too, in my own special way. I want to be like a bright shining star, that reminds people of You and Your love. I want to let Your love shine out of my smile, and the things that I do to be worth watching—just like people like to star-gaze. I want to be a nice and pleasant example of You, and to be filled with Your light and joy.

Help me not to hide my light, and positive words, and fun personality behind a rain cloud of grumpiness or selfishness—like the stormy nights that cover and hide the stars from view. Help me to let the light of Heaven shine through me so I can lead others to You, even in the darkest or most difficult times. Your light and love can shine all the time! *Amen*



Colours

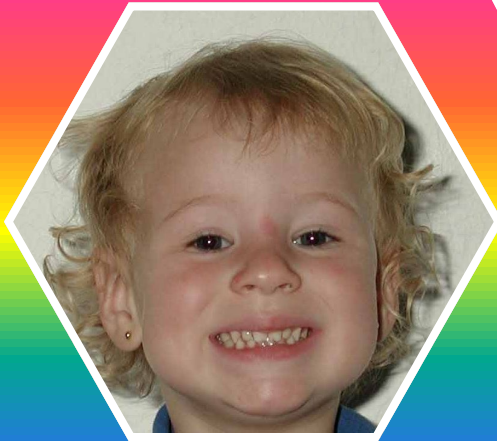
Dear Jesus,

The world is so colourful! There are flowers and leaves of all kinds of colours and shades. The sunsets and sunrises display gorgeous colourful designs and beauty.

Some birds and fish can be brightly coloured. Fruit and vegetables come in all different colours. I think You must like colourful things, because You like to make things nice for us on Earth to look at. You could have made the world all grey, but You didn't. You wanted us to enjoy it!

You even made people all over the world have different shades and colours of skin, hair and eyes. I think You like variety and beauty.

Today, I want to notice the pretty things around me. I want to appreciate the colours that You use to paint the world.



And I want to show my appreciation by showing care and kindness to each person and everything that You created.

I want to show thoughtfulness to anyone that I see or meet. I want to notice the good and be accepting of them for just how they are, and the colours that You chose to give them.

I want to realise that no matter what shade or colour someone is, that inside each person there is always a heart that needs love and wants to be treated with kindness— just like me!

Amen



Photo by Curtis Peter van Gorder

Time

Dear Jesus,

Every day You give us the gift of time—time that will pass by very quickly. Before too long this day will come to a close and the time will be passed. I'm glad that I have a chance to live another day! I'm thankful I still have time today!

Please help me to know what to use my time for, when I have a chance to decide what to do. And in the times that I already know what I am meant to focus on, help me to do things well, to show love, and to do a good job. Help me to say words that will lift people up and encourage them, and not waste my time doing things that will sadden or hurt others.

I don't want to waste time by using it unwisely or foolishly. Please help me to remember that today comes only once in my life, and to use each minute of this day to live life joyfully and to do the things that will be a benefit to myself and others. I want to please You today Jesus, in return for Your gift of time and the opportunity to live yet one more day. *Amen*

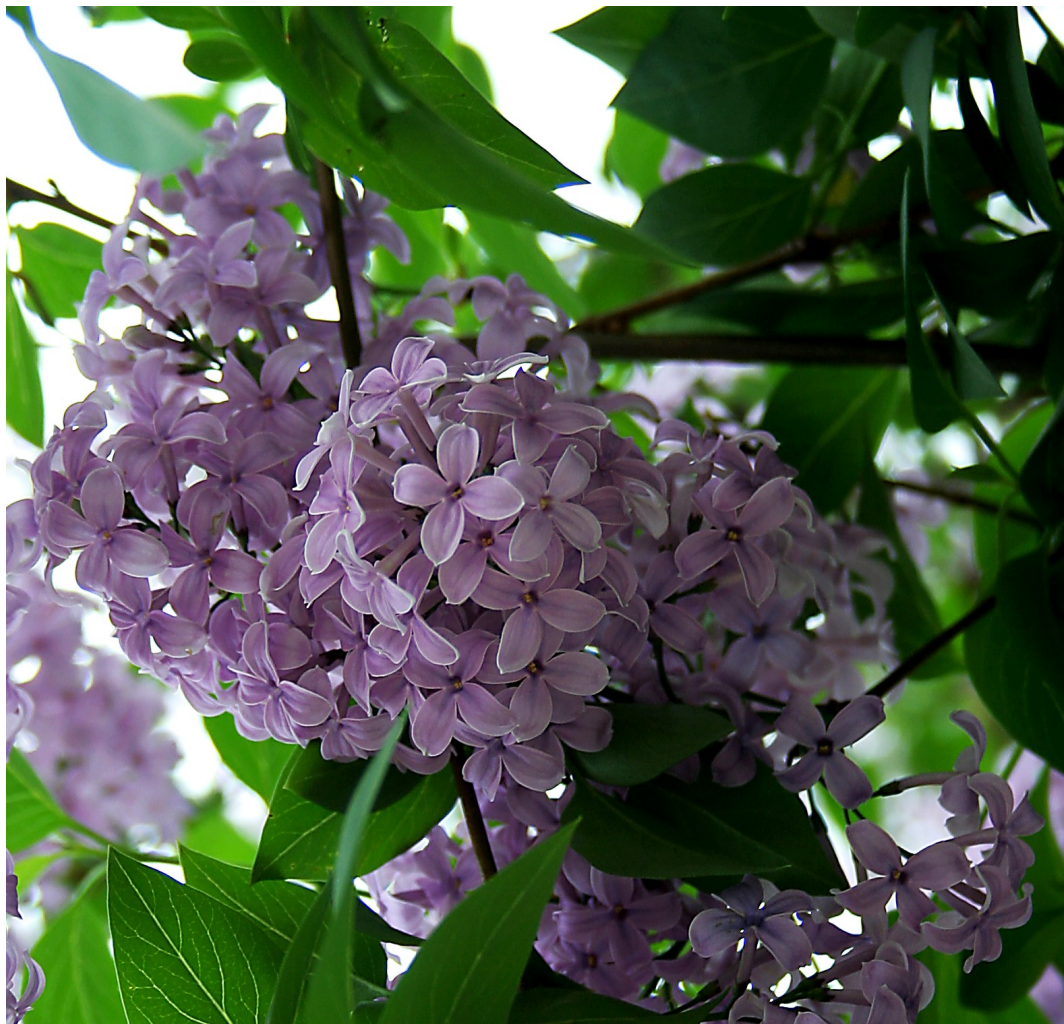


Photo by Naomi

Nose

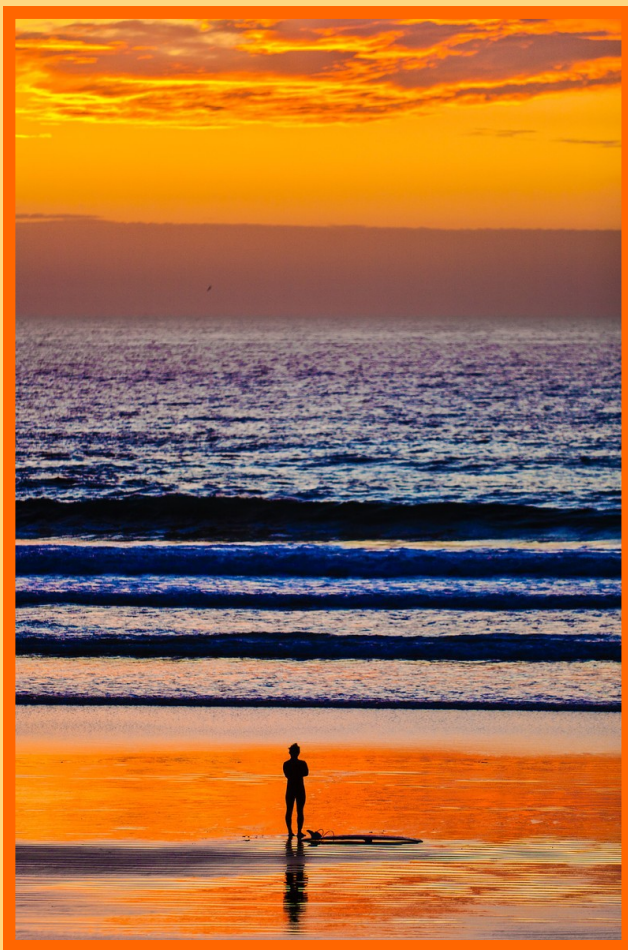
Dear Jesus,

Thank You for my nose and the good things that I can smell. I like the fresh morning air and smelling a beautiful flower. It's always nice when I'm healthy and can breathe easily too.

You've given me the gift of smell to help me in many ways. I can tell if there is a fire nearby, or if there is something on the stove cooking, or if something smells right, before I eat it.

Please help me to be healthy and safe, and protect me from dangers. I'm glad for the amazing ability You gave me to be able to smell, it can make me feel happy as well as alert me and keep me safe.

Amen



Eyes

Dear Jesus,

When I first wake up and I open my eyes in the morning, that is one of the first miracles of the day—that I can see! Not everyone can do that, but I'm so thankful that I can see!

I love looking at the sky and all the different things it shows. You make it change often and show gorgeous displays of light, colour and shapes. The sky can be real dark with twinkling shining stars. Or it can be light blue with clouds that are constantly changing shape.

It can be pink, orange and purple at sunset, or even totally white on an overcast day. I'm so glad for my eyes and that I can see. Please keep my eyes safe and help me to choose to look at the kinds of things that will make me feel happy inside—the good, the beautiful, the inspirational, and things that are helpful to know.



I'm glad I can use them to read books and look at pictures. I'm able to learn about different people that have lived and see what it's like in different places around the world, or even in space.

Just like my eyes like to look up to the marvellous sky, Jesus please help my heart to look up to You and to know that You are always looking down at me. There is never a time when You can't see me. "The eyes of the Lord are in every place," Your Word says. (Proverbs 15:3)

I want to look to You, so I can learn how You want me to be and what would be the best thing to do. Just like someone looks to their guide when they are exploring in a new place or climbing a mountain, if I look to You in prayer and read Your Word, You will help to guide me through my life too.

Amen



Ears

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for my ears. I like to listen to the sounds of nature. I like to listen to my mummy or daddy singing to me. I like to hear what's going on around.

If there is a neat vehicle driving past, or a song bird, or a thunderstorm, or a friend at the door, my ears let me know. Please help me to take good care of my ears, so they will work well for a long time. Guard them from anything that will make them sick, or hurt.

I want to use them for things that will benefit me—like listening to songs that build up my faith and give me joy, or audios of people talking and reading helpful and inspirational things.

I can learn so much when I am listening to the right people, or programs, or a good book being read.



Photo by Jon Berg

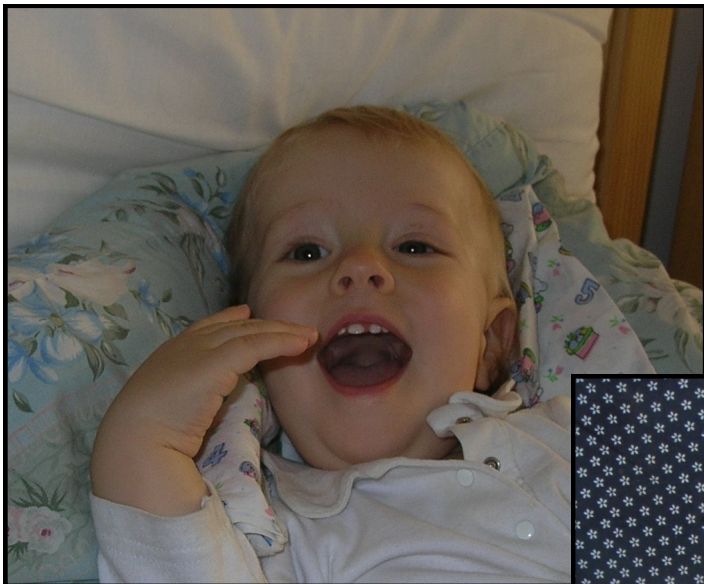
Being able to hear is a special gift that I really appreciate having. Help me to not only listen to what is good on Earth and around me, but to also listen with my heart; to hear and know what You, Jesus, want to tell me.

One day I'll be able to talk to You face to face, just like I do with my friends. But until then, I still can talk to You each day, and learn to hear Your words.

Even though I can't see You or hear You with my ears, out loud right now, I can still talk to You, and most of all listen to You.

Thank You for being so near to me. I love you!

Amen



Mouth

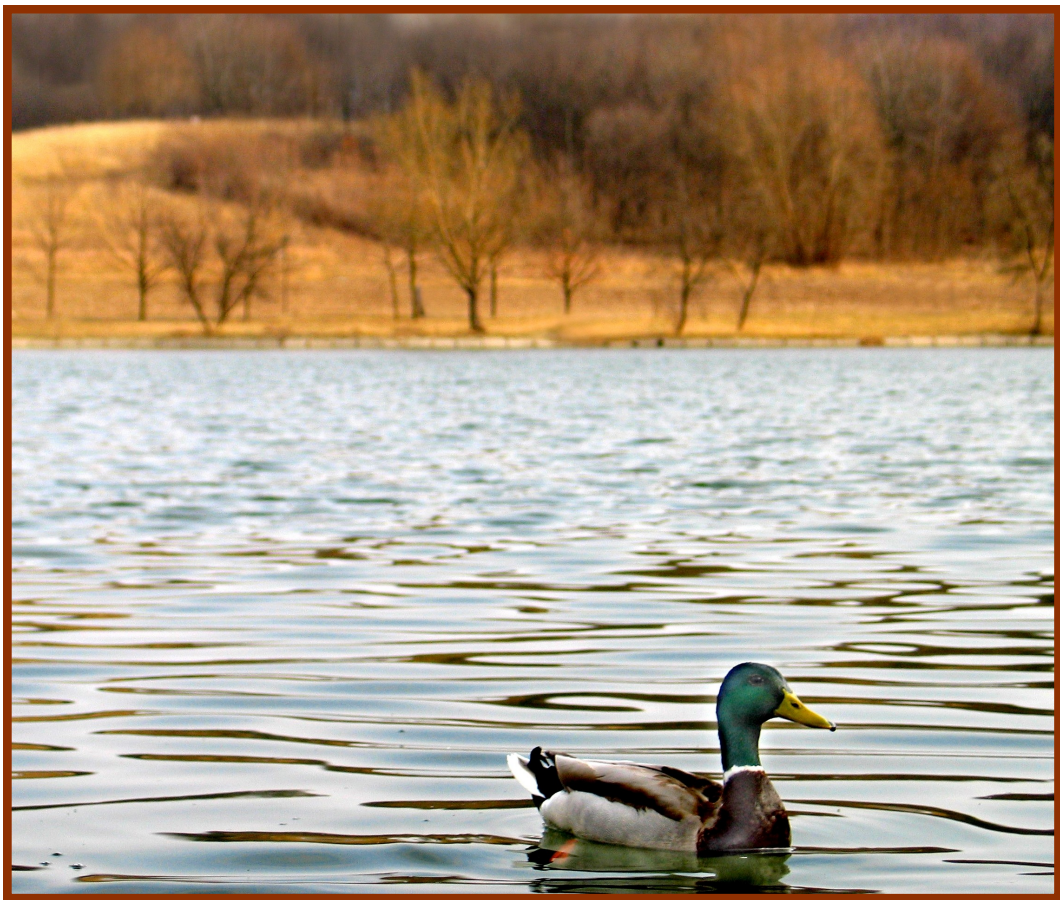
Dear Jesus,

I like that verse in the Bible that says, "With my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness!" (Psalm 89:1)

I think that is one of the best uses of my mouth, to say words that tell others about the great things You did and can do. When I just say what first comes to my mind, the things I say aren't always the best.

But if I stop to notice the good that is around, the things that You supplied for me and the many ways that You care for me and others, then there is always something good to say.

Just like I need to choose to eat the right foods, and to not put dirty things in my mouth if I want to stay healthy, I need to choose the right words to say as well. I'll stay stronger in spirit when I do that.



Photos by Francesco Moldavian

It's a funny thing, but the feelings in my heart, and the thoughts in my mind seem to eventually come out of my mouth.

I guess that's the first place to start, if I want my words to bring good health like King David said. I need to keep my mind on the positive and good, and my heart filled with love and faith. These things will then bubble out in the words I say.

Please teach me patience, Jesus, so the words I say will be kind. Please teach me how to be an encouragement to others. To not only notice the great job they are doing, but to take the time to put those kind thoughts into words.

Please teach me how to pray, so that I can use my mouth to help others, many others, both near and far. I want to please You with my words. When I do, I know that it will make good things come into my life in return as well.

Amen



Photos by Fleur Celeste (main) & M. McNally (small)

Christmas

Dear Jesus,

We sang some songs today about Your birth on Earth, and that special night so long ago when you were sent to bring us God's love.

I hope there are many, many around the world celebrating Your birthday—the real meaning of Christmas. Sometimes I wish You would just appear with us here, right now.

If You could, I would sit close to You and ask You so many questions. I wish I could watch a show of the real way it all looked—the town of Bethlehem, the star that the kings from the East saw, and how you looked as a tiny baby.

One day I hope to see it all. But it was fun thinking about it while we sang songs to celebrate You and Your arrival on Earth.



Photo by Curtis Peter van Gorder

Happy Birthday, Jesus! I hope this year You have the best and most fun birthday ever.

I hope there are piles and piles of gifts given to You, of the kinds of gifts that You like the best—people coming to know You; people showing love to others and giving to those in need; people listening to You and reading Your Word; and people, like me, stopping to talk with You.

Help us not be too busy to stop and take time to make You, Jesus, happy.

You are the reason for all these festivities!

I love You so much!

Amen



Photo by M. McNally

Easter

Dear Jesus,

I'm so glad for the gift of Salvation, and how we get to celebrate Your life and love today. You chose to come to Earth to bring us a priceless gift—Your love brought to us personally.

There are so many things that Easter makes me think of, and each one of them makes me feel happy inside. I'm glad that I can look forward to Heaven and living forever with You!

I'm glad there isn't anything that is too hard for You to do. You can heal and help us no matter what, because You can even bring life again, just like You rose up alive again and will live forever.

Easter makes me think of Your disciples and how they had to let You go, and You then weren't with them in a visible form like You were before.



But they were brave and continued to do what You needed them to. I'm glad they did, and that they told as many people about You as they could. Because of that, I know You are always with me. That's why we have heard the good news today, and can celebrate Easter.

I hope that many people around the world today can get to hear the story about Your life and Your love and how You are with us forever. Then they too can live forever with You, Jesus, if they believe in You, and receive Your gift of forgiveness and love.

Please help me to do my part too, and to reach as many as I can, in whatever way I can, with Your love and truth.

And here's a big hug for You, Jesus, to tell you, "Thank You," for all that you have done for me. You make me so very happy!

Amen



Birthday

Dear Jesus,

Thank You that it is my birthday today! I've lived a whole other year. Each day is a gift from You, and I'm glad to know that You are with me always. Please help me to make wise and careful choices in this next year.

I want to do things that will make You and others, and even myself glad that I did them. When this next year is over, I want to feel pleased that I used the time for all the best things.

I need You, Jesus, to keep me safe and to teach me all the many things that I still need to learn. Please help me to notice all the things that You are trying to show me, as I live each day.

Show me what goals to reach for, and give me determination to make progress in each area of my life.



I want to live a healthy and good life, and I want to have good habits of happy living in this new year.

Not everything was easy for me last year, and there were many things that I didn't understand and that were hard to experience, and there were some things that I really wish didn't happen. But I know that no matter what happened, You can wipe away the tears and make me a better blessing and a more compassionate person as a result.

I want to live this next year with as much joy as I can have. To do that, I need You to wipe away the sad feelings and hurts of the past year. Please help me to forgive those who I have bad feelings towards, and please fill that part of my heart with Your peace and faith and love instead.

I'll need as much of those qualities in my heart and mind as I can for the coming year. They are like stocking up on good supplies for a trip.



Photo by Naomi

I know there will be tough challenges and times when I'll cry or I won't like the way things are. But if I have gotten a whole lot of Your spirit in me and I've let go of the past hurts from my heart, then I think I'll be able to have a great year, no matter what happens.

Together with You, I know this year will be a good one in so many ways.

I'm looking forward to all the new things that I can learn and will get to experience for the first time. Each day is fun, because each day I can learn things that I never had the chance to learn before.

Please let me walk closely to You, Jesus, today and every day of this new year. I love You, Jesus! You are the best gift I could have on my birthday—to know that You love me, care for me, and that You will always stay very close to me.

Amen

The End