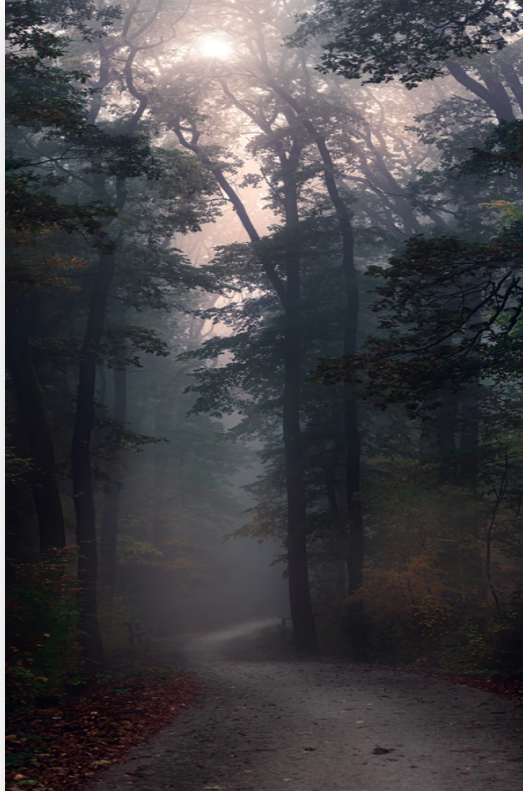


Whispers of Hope:

Prayers from the Heart of Living



Pastor Mark Anderson

The words we offer in prayer are a beginning, points of departure out of the reality of living. We pray from the trenches, from the battle lines, and from the mountaintops. The language may be quite formal and traditional. At the same time, our words may reflect the informality and deep feeling aroused by honest, serious living.

Some of the prayers in this book were born in the crucible of living, kindled by the trials, fears, and struggles that we all know too well. Others came from a deep sense of assurance and gratitude, out of the knowledge of God's faithfulness and goodness.

Our prayers reach their goal in the Word who became flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. And because our Lord was in the flesh for us, we may open our trembling hearts and pray with confidence in every season of living. For there is nothing in our tumultuous human experience that is alien to God. The Holy Spirit advocates for us, offering intercessions with silent power, carrying our whispered breaths and heavy longings into the heart of God's mercy.

Pastor Mark Anderson

O Lord,

“Strengthen my faith and trust in you.

In You I have sealed the treasure of all I have.

I am poor,

You are rich and did come to be merciful to the
poor.

I am a sinner,

You are upright.

With me there is abundance of sin,

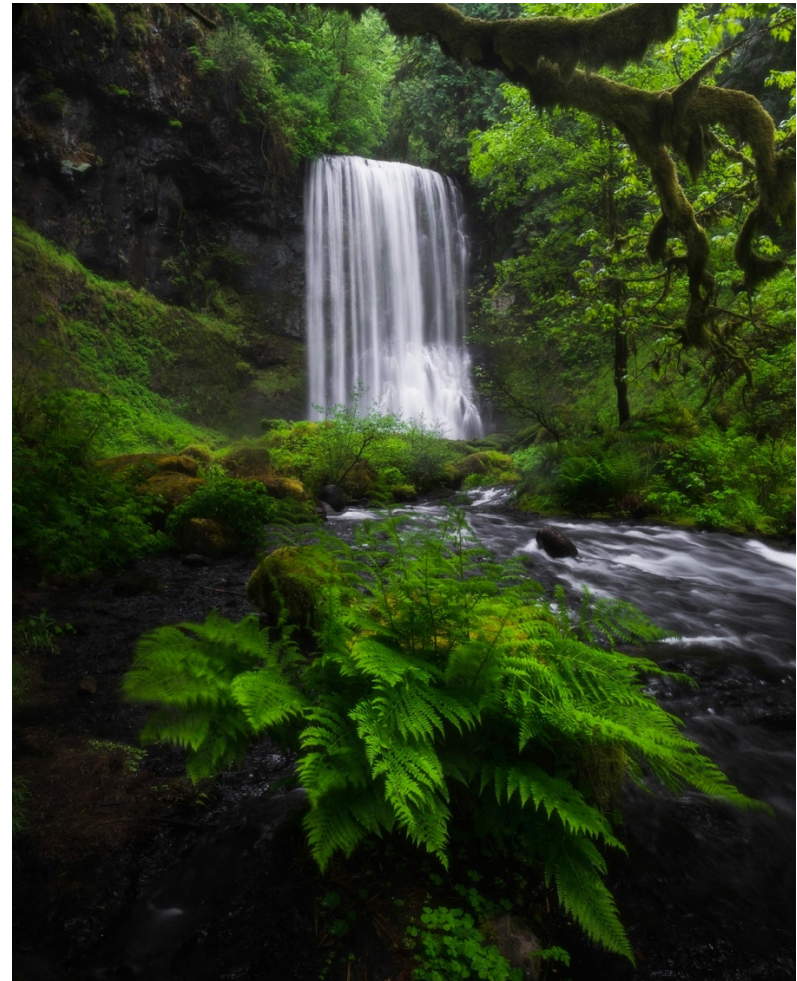
With you is an abundance of righteousness.

Therefore, I will remain with You of whom I can
receive.

But to whom I may not give.

Amen.”

Martin Luther





Lord,

If

You will not extinguish a flickering flame,

or break a bruised reed,

Then

I know I can trust You,

O Divine Physician and Gentle Healer,

with the fragility

and brokenness of my life.



Lord,

If

in baptism

I have died and been raised

With Christ

According to Your promise,

Then

I will trust You

Amid tears and trials,

When my heart is heavy, weary, and alone.

Hold me in Your grip, Gracious Lord.

Lead me again this day

out of death into life.



Lord,

If

breath is a sign of Your life
and wind a sign of Your Spirit,

Then

I trust You are with me
in the gentle breezes
and the tempestuous storms.

Lord,

If

a symphony orchestra can finesse

mute strings, brass, and wood

into the glorious harmonies,

rhythms, and moods of sound,

Then,

I will trust You to bring out of

the dissonance of my life

the harmonies of Your grace.



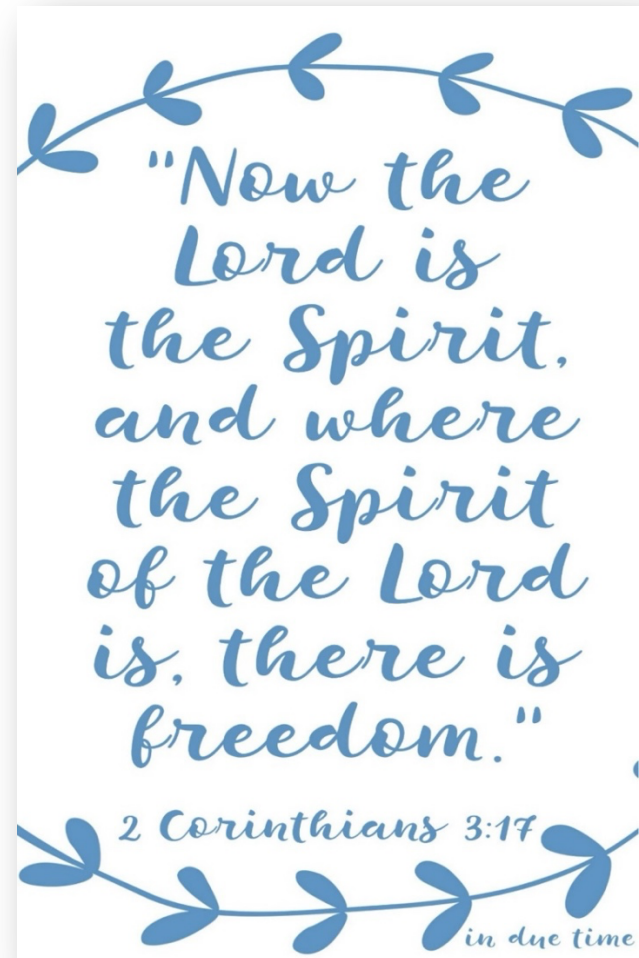
Lord,

If

You could shatter the letter of the law
and release the Spirit,

Then

Nothing will restrain Your Word
from setting me free and renewing in me
a living faith.



Lord,

If

You could rest on the seventh day,

Sit back and take it all in,

Then

I can let go of what troubles me so,

Take time to enjoy the goodness of life,

And rest inside Your perfect peace.



Lord,

If

Your creation is a glorious mixture

Of many elements,

Then,

Reveal Your Word for me

Mixed with water, bread, and wine,

The down-to-earth ingredients of Your grace.





Lord,

If

You were willing to entrust Your Word
to faithless Moses,
deceitful Jacob,
and a whimpering, complaining people,

Then

I trust Your Word
Will make its way
Through me.



Lord,

If

You could weep for a friend

And fall in a tear,

Then

I know my griefs, losses, cares, and sorrows

Are held in Your heart.

Lord,

If

You have thrown the cloak of forgiveness

over yesterday,

and filled tomorrow

with Your Word of promise,

Then

I may receive this day with joy

And simple trust,

and let it be enough.





Lord,

If

I stumble in the shadows of doubt,
And wander astray, lost in the night,

Then

guide my steps,

Show me the way,

And illuminate my path with Your Word.