

Groomed  
For  
God's Greatness



Groomed For God's Greatness

A November Prayer Book

By

Linda Hostetter

Copyright 2011 Prayer Stations For The Nations

Introduction

The date is October 2, 1978. My due date. The pregnancy has been perfect. Now, the time has come for Wally and me to meet our gift from God. I actually started into labor Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> on our way to Edinburg, Mississippi, a small, rural community about ninety miles up the Natchez Trace from our apartment at Reformed Theological Seminary where Wally was studying for his Masters of Divinity. We called the doctor. Since the contractions weren't close together, he assured us that we could continue the trip. Wally preached that morning. We had a delicious lunch as usual at the McMillan home. Wally preached the evening service, and then the congregation surprised me with a wonderful shower. Still, the contractions were at a good distance from each other.

Arriving home late that night, we decided to go to the hospital. Admitted, I remained in labor until Monday evening. At that time, the surgical nurse checked my vital signs, only to inform us that things were very bleak. The doctor came in and told Wally that he didn't think either the baby or I would live. He then proceeded to immediately place me on a gurney to go into surgery. It was too late to do a C-section.

This was my first pregnancy. Many of the married women at the seminary had delivered several times, and they were full of godly wisdom for our first. As I gleaned from their knowledge, some very "profitable" plans were laid up as treasures for us. We followed two significant steps of instruction to the tee. Both included reliance upon God

before man for a beautiful delivery. Grace Smith, a fellow student's wife and mother of four, told me to memorize a Psalm to repeat as needed. She also advised Wally and me to pray out loud with each contraction. We were obedient to Grace's instructions.

I chose Psalm 117.

“Praise the Lord, all you nations;  
Extol Him, all you peoples.  
For great is His love toward us,  
and the faithfulness of the Lord  
endures forever.  
Praise the Lord”

These were short, sweet, powerful words that filled my being. I was totally sustained through God's Word actively ministering His Spirit to my spirit. Oh, what a mighty God we serve!

Peace lived in our delivery room. Hope birthed itself in me even after the doctor's disastrous news. We were yet to enter into our joy.

On that gurney, I turned to Wally and told him, “Everything will be fine.” God wasn't done with me yet. Squeezing my hand tightly, he agreed. I remember thinking that he looked pretty funny with his green scrubs on.

Traveling down the corridor on my way to surgery, I heard a loud bang from doors being thrown open. As I lifted my head up to see what all the commotion was about, a man's voice was yelling, "I will come in here. God has sent me to pray with that woman." The man then pulled away from the nurses and ran toward me, yelling again, "Stop that gurney!" As he came closer, I could see that it was Dr. Elmer Dortzbach, one of Wally's favorite professors.

They did stop the gurney. Dr. Dortzbach quickly laid his hands on my belly, looked me in the eyes, and prayed. I wondered how in the world he knew I was in distress. Later, he told Wally that he had been at home praying. God told him to come to Women's Hospital. When he saw my name on the delivery list, the Holy Spirit instructed him to find me, lay hands on me and pray.

Thank God that he listened and obeyed.

I could go on with some gruesome details as October 2, 1978 drew to a close. But, what I really want to do is thank God for His beautiful gift, Katherine Elisabeth Lowe Hostetter, better known as Katie Beth in our circle of friends. Katie Beth suffered much from her birth day. Since I was in labor for 36 hours, she did not receive enough oxygen to her brain. As a result, anoxia caused her expressive language to be delayed. Smart, smart kid, unable to get the words out. Again, we sought the Lord for seventeen years for her speech to be "normal." It came in her junior year of high school. God broke through.

Today Katie Beth teaches high school at Southfield Christian and is the founder of Urban Arts, a ministry to at-risk kids in inner city Detroit. She is also a beautiful woman of God who uses her talents to bless Him. The CD you received with this book is comprised of three hymns she arranged and performed on her violin while accompanied on the piano by a dear friend, Christi Lomax.

My hope is that you will thoroughly rely on God as you pray this month, knowing that He is sovereign and always there for you.

What did I learn from my near death experience? TRUST HIM MORE THAN LIFE ITSELF. May He bless you and equip you while you keep your eyes on Our Lord. Remember, everything is possible with God. And that means, nothing is impossible with Him!!!

## A Little Background

The first selection on the CD accompanying this prayer book is Purify My Heart (Refiner's Fire), written in 1990 by Brian Doerkson, a Canadian singer-songwriter who was a part of the Vineyard movement. Brian and his wife, Joyce, have six children. He is currently on staff with Integrity, Hosanah Music. Some of his famous worship pieces include: Come, Now is the Time to Worship (1998), Hope of the Nations (2003), and Your Love is Amazing (2001). Praise God for Brian's gift and desire to lead us into God's presence.

The third and last selection, Great is Thy Faithfulness, was composed as a poem by Thomas Chisholm (1866-1960). His life was filled with poor health, but that didn't stop him from writing more than 1,200 poems and hymns. His friend, John Runyan liked this poem so much that he composed the music for it. Moody Bible Institute made this hymn their unofficial theme song, and George Beverly Shea introduced it through Billy Graham's Evangelistic Crusades.

I have chosen to use the lyrics from these musical selections as springboards for each day's time of prayer. May you be blessed as you enter into your portion of daily prayer this month, and know that I am praying for you and with you.

Love, Mama Linda Hostetter

## Purify My Heart (Refiner's Fire)

Purify my heart  
Let me be as gold and precious silver  
Purify my heart  
Let me be as gold, pure gold, Lord

Refiner's fire  
My heart's one desire  
Is to be holy  
Set apart for You, Lord  
I choose to be holy  
Set apart for You my Master  
Ready to do Your will

Purify my heart  
Cleanse me from within and make me holy  
Purify my heart  
Cleanse me from my sin, deep within

## Purify My Heart

November 1

“You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.” Psalm 90:8

Heavenly Father,

Thank You that You know everything about me and still love me with an everlasting love. I am asking You to purify my heart. I am turning to You for my needed renewal. Forgive me for all past or present offenses, ungodly attitudes, stubbornness, and rebellious acts that have separated me from a clean heart. I am more than sorry. I have true remorse. Deliver me from cherished sins, those that I choose to repeat. Cleanse me from an uncircumcised heart.

You expect me to walk with a contrite heart. May I always submit myself to You for your approval. Make every day in You the first day of my life with a fresh, pure heart that exemplifies your desire for me to be fully submitted to You. I love You, Lord, and am so glad that You hold the key to my heart.

In Jesus Name,  
I am eternally grateful,  
Amen

## Let Me be as Gold and Precious Silver

November 2

“Look! I am sending my messenger, and He will prepare the way before me. Then the Lord you are seeking will suddenly come to His Temple. The messenger of the Covenant, who you look for so eagerly, is surely coming says the Lord of Heaven’s armies. But, who will be able to endure it when He comes? Who will be able to stand and face Him when He appears? For He will be like a blazing fire that refines metal, or like a strong soap that bleaches clothes. He will sit like a refiner of silver burning away the dross. He will purify the Levites, refining them like gold and silver, so that they may once again offer acceptable sacrifices to the Lord.”

Malachi 3:1-4

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for my position in your royal priesthood. I accept my physical body as your holly temple, blessed to be refined as precious silver and gold by You. Take the dross away. May my sacrifice be acceptable in your sight. The privilege this accomplishes is almost incomprehensible. I am but dust being converted beyond silver and gold. In my weakness, You make me secure, yet pliable. May the beautiful chain You designed between You and me never be broken. Hallelujah-it can’t be, because of my Jesus.

In Jesus Name, I am eternally grateful, Amen

## Purify My Heart

November 3

“Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.” Proverbs 4:23

Heavenly Father,

You have given me a perpetual, life-long assignment to guard my heart. Holy Spirit, I need your ever flowing assistance to remember this directive. You say I am to do this above all else. The benefits from this must be deeper and wider than the deepest sea.

By choosing to abide in You, I know that You will empower me. And, the course of my life will focus on the center of your will. To consistently retain a guarded heart depends on me. Please fill me with this desire for the remainder of my life. Prepare me with the best instruction, so I will be found with a heart that is purified by You.

In Jesus Name,  
I am eternally grateful,  
Amen

Let Me be as Pure Gold, Lord

November 4

“I love all who love Me. Those who search will surely find Me. I have riches and honor, as well as enduring wealth and justice. My gifts are better than gold, even the purest gold.”  
Proverbs 8:17-19

Heavenly Father,

I praise You for your unyielding, unending love for me. I am so glad that my searching for You has brought me into your truth.

Riches, honor, enduring wealth and justice are simply by-products compared to who You really are-my God, my Lord, my Redeemer, my Savior, my Friend.

These titles present me with an awesome presentation of your manifest love. God, that I would remain as pure gold shining brightly with purity is my desire. Nothing is too difficult for thee. Please, Lord, consider me as a worthy follower who desires to make You smile.

In Jesus Name,  
I am eternally grateful,  
Amen

## Refiner's Fire

November 5

“Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but a person is tested by being praised.”

Heavenly Father,

When praise rolls off someone's lips in my direction, let me always reflect it back to your throne room. You, Lord, deserve all the praise for anything I have accomplished or even completed. It's through your generosity that so many see Christ in me. Forgive me for taking credit for your provision of ideas and successes.

May I be the first to give You praise before believers and non-believers so that my witness will reflect total dependence on You. Thank You. Thank You. Thank You.  
May I also pass this test with great zeal.

In Jesus Name,  
I am eternally grateful,  
Amen

## My Heart's One Desire is to be Holy

November 6

“And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice-the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” Romans 12:1-2

Heavenly Father,

You have done so much for me. Here I am praying, asking that my whole being change into a sacrifice, living wholly holy-the kind you will find acceptable.

Romans 12:1-2 teaches me that this is the way I can truly worship You. Behavior and customs of the world, fall away from my life's motives as well as my aspirations. God, I am looking forward to the transformation of my thinking so I will know your good, pleasing and perfect will for me.

In Jesus Name,

I am eternally grateful,

Amen

Set Apart for You, Lord

November 7

“And may the God of peace Himself sanctify you through and through [separate you from profane things, make you pure and wholly consecrated to God] and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved sound and complete [and found] blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” I

Thessalonians 5:23 (The Message)

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for being my peace. Even when all is at enmity with me, my sustained peace from the Holy Spirit will witness to others as a confirmed testimony of your sanctification. Separation from profane things is so difficult today. Even television ads profess the profane. Please clarify my spiritual vision and hearing to turn away from sure destruction. My relationship with You is paramount.

Every day is a new opportunity to walk with a pure heart and clean hands. Thank You, Jesus, for making this possible on the Cross. May my mind, body and soul be preserved as You would have them: sound, complete and blameless. For this to happen will take much effort on my part. My opportunity is now. Your strength in me is sufficient.

In Jesus Name, I am eternally grateful,  
Amen

## I Choose to be Holy

November 8

“He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and He shall be My son.” Revelation 21:7

Heavenly Father,

Without You, how can I overcome? You are my Surety. You are my Solution. You, Dear God, are my Abba Daddy.

Your Word in Revelation 21:7 promises that I will inherit all things as your child. There is a condition to this promise. I must become an overcomer. Thank You for telling me that this is more than a hope, this is more than a dream, this is what I will become as I listen to your counsel and follow your directions. I am thankful for your Holy Spirit. He guides me into all truth. He knows exactly what I need to see me through as your child. Your discipline is a sweet reminder of how much You love me as your child. Lord, I am so blessed to know that You love me beyond my own understanding. For this alone, I shout, “Halleluiah.”

In Jesus Name,

I am eternally grateful,

Amen

## Set Apart for You, My Master

November 9

“Whatever may be your task, work at it heartily (from the soul), as [something done] for the Lord and not for men. Knowing [with all certainty] that it is from the Lord [and not from men] that You will receive the inheritance which is your [real] reward. [The One Whom] you are actually serving [is] the Lord Christ (The Messiah).”

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for being my gentle taskmaster. I am choosing to work heartily from my soul as doing everything for You. I am so excited that my inheritance from You is waiting for me. When men or women disappoint me or treat me unfairly, I will remember that I am actually serving You.

You will relieve me of my weariness with tiresome people and situations. Please, give me rest. Teach me to be humble and gentle at heart. You are such a wonderful Master, and I desire to be your wonderful servant.

In Jesus Name,  
I am eternally grateful,  
Amen

## Ready to Do Your Will

November 10

“But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the Lord charged you: to love the Lord your God and to walk in all His ways and to keep His commandments and to cling to and unite with Him and to serve Him with all your heart and soul.” Joshua 22:5

Heavenly Father,

To do your will is what You require of me. Thank You that I am united with You, able to serve You. I walk in my love for You. You have empowered me to fulfill Joshua 22:5. Your salvation is my shield and your right hand supports me. Your gentleness has made me great. You hold me steady. You have infused inner strength into me. Now I am able to say that I have the trusting confidence that only You can infuse into your children for each of us to do your will. Glory to God in the highest!

In Jesus Name,

I am eternally grateful,

Amen

Veteran's Day  
November 11

Heavenly Father,

Today is Veteran's Day. Men and women have faithfully served this nation. May they be honored by man and blessed by You. Psalm 91 is applicable to their lives. Please provide all they need as your soldiers.

For any who have been maimed emotionally or physically, please heal them. Let each of them know how much their years of service are appreciated by our country. Provide remarkably for their wellbeing.

In Jesus Name,  
I am eternally grateful,  
Amen

Purify My Heart, Cleanse Me from Within and Make Me Holy  
November 12

“And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death to present you holy, blameless and irreproachable in His sight-if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard.”  
Colossians 1:21-23

Heavenly Father,

Bless You, Lord, for grounding me in my faith, so I will not move away from the hope of your gospel. Through You I have been cleansed. Through your blood bought sacrifice holiness can be mine.

I am an encouraged student, ready to do your will. Singing the words to this praise song is not enough. Line me up with purity whenever or wherever I am tempted to fall into a sinful snare.

Freedom is mine in Christ Jesus. I praise You for your steadfast ability to help me withstand double-mindedness. I am choosing this day whom I will serve.

In Jesus Name,

I am eternally grateful,

Amen

Purify My Heart, Cleanse Me from My Sin Deep Within  
November 13

“[Be] confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 1:6

Heavenly Father,

You are my confidence, and I am feeling eternally secure in your promise to continue to do a phenomenal work in my life. Righteousness, faith, love, and peace are written on my mantle as I walk with a pure heart. My life's focus will be to give You my best. Then, when my days are completed here, and I come to my eternal home, my life will have been worth living. Thank You for receiving me today just as I am. We both know that I am a work in process.

In Jesus Name,  
I am eternally grateful,  
Amen

Great is Thy Faithfulness  
Public Domain

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.

Great is Thy faithfulness, Great is Thy faithfulness,  
Morning by morning new mercies I see,  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me

Summer and Winter and Springtime and Harvest,  
Sun, Moon, and Stars in Their Courses Above  
Join with All Nature in Manifold Witness  
To Thy Great Faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.

## Great is Thy Faithfulness, O God My Father

November 14

“Know, recognize and understand therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, Who keeps covenant and steadfast love and mercy with those who love Him and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations.”

Deuteronomy 7:9

Heavenly Father,

Deuteronomy 7:9 is an instructional verse for me to live by. I am to know, recognize, and understand that You are:

1. God
2. A faithful God
3. A covenantal God
4. A God filled with steadfast love
5. A God who shows steadfast mercy

Because I love You and keep your commandments, You are faithful in our covenantal relationship. If, however, I am not fulfilling my part in this covenant, please forgive me and help me to do a yeoman's job.

In Jesus Name,

I am eternally grateful,

Amen

There is No Shadow of Turning with Thee  
November 15

“Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me, for in You my soul takes refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.” Psalm 57:1

Heavenly Father,

Disaster is such a foreboding word. Its very definition conveys the onset of fear through unforeseen, heart wrenching difficulties. Yet, you teach me that good will come even from such events. You also provide me with great promises that can only occur when I choose to abide in You. Thank You for your shadow as I dwell in the secret place of the Most High. I am learning to depend and trust in You. Deliverance is mine! Fear will flee. You, God, are my Defender!

Thank You for my angels. I pray for their well being as they accompany, defend and preserve me. I praise You for their constant diligence and perseverance.

Today, I am calling on You, knowing that You will never forsake me. You will be satisfied through my trust in You as I walk in the satisfaction of your salvation.

In Jesus Name, I am eternally grateful,  
Amen

## Thou Changest Not

November 16

“But because Jesus lives forever, He has an unchangeable priesthood.” Hebrews 7:24

Heavenly Father,

Jesus' unchangeable priesthood presents me with manifold blessings. Today, I am choosing to hope in your sure love to the unlovely, experience your joy, proclaim your peace, gain your understanding, share your kindness, live with your patience...the list of life's blessings goes on and on. You have made me a Kingdom stock holder. I place all that I am, all that I have in your competent hands. I may be overdue in telling you this. But today is my day to shout to the Lord. I am turning everything over to you. What freedom I now own. You are guiding me into the holy realization that what's mine is all yours. Knowing this frees me. I can be a cause agent for your cause-to see others freed and blessed.

In Jesus Name,

I am eternally grateful,

Amen

Thy Compassions They Fail Not  
November 17

“Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; He rises to show you compassion.” Isaiah 30:18

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for your longing to be gracious to me. Your mercies are new every morning. Your grace and mercy are steadfast gifts that I shouldn't take for granted. Please, don't let me be a prodigal who turns my back on your bountiful provision of compassion.

If I say, “My foot slips,” your mercy, O Lord, will hold me up (Psalm 94:18). I have this confidence. Your Son took my sins upon himself. With this confidence I am assured to receive mercy and find grace to help me in my time of need.

In Jesus Name,  
I am eternally grateful,  
Amen

As Thou has been, Thou Forever Will Be  
November 18

“The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.” Deuteronomy 33:27

Heavenly Father,

My finite mind cannot begin to fathom how expansive your arms are. Thank You for supporting me with the same strength yesterday, today and forever. When I examine the possibilities of the harvest from your refuge storehouse, I become elated. You, God, provide all I need. I will serve in You. Thank You, God, you provide, because You love me. You strengthen me unto my difficulties because You love me beyond human possibility. You speak my language-every language. You just love me!!

In Jesus Name,  
I am eternally grateful,  
Amen

Great is Thy faithfulness

November 19

“O Lord, You are my God; I will exalt You and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness You have done marvelous things, things planned long ago.” Isaiah 25:1

Heavenly Father,

Perfect faithfulness is your mantra, and I praise You for perfecting everything that concerns me. Marvelous adorns You as You allow me to experience your presence. This day was made by You for me, thanking You that my spiritual hunger is fed from your banqueting table.

Today, I will share myself with You in a new way by:

asking You to go everywhere I go,  
asking you to join with me doing the things You  
planned for me long ago,  
asking your advice more than man's,  
seeking your comfort,  
rejoicing with You over our victories,  
praising You for the unexpected-good or bad,  
teaching others your truths,  
giving me encouraging thoughts to speak into  
others.

Your Word instructs me to ask. Let today be the first day of the rest of my life that I “ask” believing for the rest of my life

that we will become best friends, walking this life together,  
hand in hand, with perfected faithfulness.

In Jesus Name,  
I am eternally grateful,  
Amen

Morning by Morning New Mercies I See  
November 20

“Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” Lamentations 3:22-23

Heavenly Father,

What is pushing me into a place of consumption? Show me. My life is open to your scrutiny. 2 Chronicles 16:9 is a phenomenal verse of encouragement. It reinforces your desire to set me straight. How I need your leadership. As your eyes range throughout the earth, find my heart fully committed to You. Your strength is what I need. Not my own, but yours. In You, I can succeed.

Speak to me about my habits that cause me to exit from your presence. Your compassion was, is and ever shall be available for me to reflect a heart that was bought with an indescribable price. Oh what joy I feel. You are here for me, and I am learning to be here for You.

In Jesus Name,  
I am eternally grateful,  
Amen

All I have Needed Thy Hand Hath provided  
November 21

“Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them-the Lord, who remains faithful forever. He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.” Psalm 146:5-7

Heavenly Father,

Just as Jacob wrestled with You, I have done the same so many times. No, not physically, but assuredly mentally. You always win. Your score is perfect. To think that I have received the same help Jacob did. That makes my score perfect. The maker of heaven, earth, the sea and everything in them has faithfully been my helper. Thank You! You perfect my score. May I join with You as You uphold the oppressed and the hungry. Their needs are many. I would love to see them revived and, as I serve them with You, I would be so honored to have the privilege of leading them into a deeper relationship with You. This prayer is necessary for me not to wrestle with You. You win, and I win as we link arms to see others obtain their victory in Jesus.

In Jesus Name, I am eternally grateful,  
Amen

Summer and Winter and Springtime and Harvest,  
Sun, Moon, and Stars in Their Courses Above  
Join with All Nature in Manifold Witness  
To Thy Great Faithfulness, Mercy and Love.  
November 22

“The Lord is your keeper: The Lord is your shade at your right hand. The Sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul. The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in. FROM THIS TIME FORTH, AND EVEN FOREVER MORE.” Psalm 121:58

Heavenly Father,

Psalm 121:58 offers me a cause to jump up and down with excitement. You are:

1. My Helper Forever
2. My Shade Forever
3. My Preservation Forever

Christ made the way for me to live out my life with the assurance that You, Holy Spirit, will bear me up. I have You, Holy Spirit, filling me to overflowing. I'm pressing into You and your truths.

YOU ARE FOR ME!! Who can be against me? The more I love YOU, THE MORE INTIMACY WE WILL SHARE. Sweet intimacy with You is undeniably the best.

In Jesus Name, I am eternally grateful, Amen.

Pardon for Sin  
November 23

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

1 John 1:9

Heavenly Father,

I am examining myself today. Do I have a plank in my eye blinding my vision? Please don't let me try to correct this surgical procedure in the flesh. Jesus, receive my confession through your precious Spirit. Holy Spirit, move on my spirit with a fresh anointing. May your cleansing fire cauterize me. Pride, go in the name of Jesus. Flesh, die in the name of Jesus. Self, obey in the name of Jesus. Purify me, so that my life reflects You from the inside out.

Thank You, God, for releasing me from a harvest of unrighteous mammon. I am ready to be fit for your purposes. Send your revelatory power, Lord, so that the course that I run is divinely destined to reap a rich harvest for your glory!

In Jesus Name,  
I am eternally grateful,  
Amen

Thanksgiving  
November 24

“Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before Him with thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song.” Ps.95:1

Heavenly Father,

Here we are-another year to celebrate Thanksgiving. Hopefully, everyone will get along with each other this year. It's a lot of work to get the food on the table. Maybe someone will pitch in and help with clean up. Macy's Christmas Parade has captured our hearts for generations. Santa has to make his annual appearance. And, let us not forget, the football games. Um...um. Thanksgiving Day-Turkey, stuffing, pumpkin pie- maybe even a nap on the couch-all of this to our glory. Wait a minute. Thanksgiving Day, a compound word, simple but profound. Giving thanks. Lord, this is the day You have made and it's set apart as a national holiday to remember how You deserve all of our singing, shouting, praising and thankfulness. May our family and friends gain a special relationship with You and each other while we celebrate You today! Knit us closely together, as we lovingly enter into your glorious presence.

In Jesus Name, I am eternally grateful, amen.

## A Peace that Endureth

November 25

“...but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6b-7

Heavenly Father,

Leftovers for lunch and supper today. Yesterday is done. It went by so fast. Thank You for a special day to spend with family and friends set apart to be thankful to You. Now, it's You and me, able to peacefully focus on my prayers and petitions. Before I begin with those, I want to say thank You for the promise that verse 7 gives me. To know that You will guard my heart and mind no matter how difficult my circumstances become, brings me great hope. I need your intervention for me to be an overcomer. Do not allow my negative emotions to run my life. May my mind be fixed on You. Col. 3:2 teaches me to train myself to dwell on heavenly things, not earthly ones. Eph. 4:32 and Luke 6:27-29 are great tools to help me understand your position. I am to:

1. Be Kind
2. Tenderhearted
3. Forgiving
4. Return good for evil

Lord, believe me, these instructions counter my natural bent. But, Holy Spirit, as my Comforter and Counselor, I will set my

face like flint and depend on You to lead me into your attitudinal behavior.

It's time for me to consider others more highly than myself. As I pray, bring to mind anyone I should intercede for. May I be found praying for individuals who need your help the most.

In Jesus Name,  
I am eternally grateful,  
Amen

Thine Own Dear Presence to Cheer  
November 26

“You have made known to me the path of life; You will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.” Psalm 16:11

Heavenly Father,

Your path of life for me is filled with joy in your presence, providing me with eternal pleasures. As I walk on this path, I ask that my pilgrimage be obedient to your will. I Peter 2:9 and Titus 2:14 explain that I will appear quite peculiar in the eyes of the world. My desires should be to conduct myself as a follower of Jesus. My mouth should carry on conversations that reveal my relationship with Jesus, showing others that I am a Christ follower. My energies need to go toward Godly works. These are your strong directions, totally countered within our culture.

So, today, I have a special request of You. May my actions become centered on pleasing You more than man, out of reverence for You (Col.. 3:22). Guide me into all truth. May my standard of living reflect having heard from You. May I demonstrate a life that is more considerate of others. Reform my habits to reflect a purer lifestyle that does not include self-indulgence. May I become absorbed in doing good, dedicated to You. May I grow up to be more like Christ. As I evaluate my habits and pastimes, let me abandon

those that separate me from You. These actions on my part will allow me to be closer to You, my God. Cheer me on, Lord. This can only be done in the Spirit.

In Jesus Name,  
I am eternally grateful,  
Amen

Thine Own Dear Presence to Guide  
November 27

“Since You are my Rock and my Fortress, for the sake of your Name lead and guide me.” Psalm 31:3

Heavenly Father,

Since You are my Rock and my Fortress, for the sake of your Name lead and guide me. (This substantial request will surely profit my life.) I am rising to receive your leadership, God. You will give me the best, and we will walk this life together being like-minded. Thank You that You will sincerely care for my state of affairs. I will follow You as I seek your guidance. You will order my steps as your Spirit guides me into all truth. Your anointing is on me. Burdens are gone as You remove them from my shoulders and neck. My trust for all things is placed at your feet, expecting You to equip me with supernatural insight and life skills that will catapult me into kingdom living that pleases You. This is my prayer for today.

Who else is the Rock? Who else can be my Fortress? Only You, God, and I am assured through your Word that You have demonstrated miraculous answers to prayer as my Rock and Fortress.

In Jesus Name, I am eternally grateful, Amen.

## Strength for Today

November 28

“The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation.” Psalm 118:14

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for filling me with strength and protecting me wherever I go. To walk in your strength and under your protection places great peace in my heart. Understanding You'll provide all I need in even the most difficult circumstances makes me sure footed as a mountain goat upon the crags. I am so thankful that You will lead me safely along the tops of cliffs and prepare me for battle. (Psalm 18:32) Your salvation has made me secure.

Revelation 12:10a identifies four powerful results of your provision: salvation, strength, the Kingdom of God has come to me along with your power, Christ. To receive these totally dazed me. Thank You for captivating my life through the beauty You've painted on my life's canvas. Your words dance off the pages in Revelation, supplying me with an abundance of spiritual wealth.

May I be worthy to walk in them, enticed to fulfill my destiny with each of them. Never allow me to regret not having experienced the richness of their fruit. You are my song!  
In Jesus Name, I am eternally grateful, amen.

## Bright Hope for Tomorrow

November 29

“...and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope-the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.”

Titus 2:12b

Heavenly Father,

My desire is to become exactly as Titus 2:12 describes-a person of integrity-able to say, “Yes, Lord, I am Spirit-controlled, passionately exhibiting self-control, knowledgeable in making correct decisions, and faithfully desiring a godly life in this present age.” Produce these qualities in me so that I can transfer them to an unbelieving world. These are ambitious goals. They inspire me to be transformed as an individual who is led to the obvious choice: to wait for the blessed hope-the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow. I am blessed by You. My hope is in You. Thanksgiving is in my heart. You are, without a doubt, challenging me to create a spiritually wealthy lifestyle so I’ll progress and develop according to your perfect will.

In Jesus Name, I am eternally grateful, Amen

Blessings All Mine, with Ten Thousand Beside

November 30

“If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all His commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God.” Deuteronomy 28:1-2

Heavenly Father,

Deuteronomy 28:1-2 is right to the point. Sound instruction with powerful adjectives catch my attention. Fully obey. Carefully follow. Those words convey the “if” I will. The “then” results are optimal. You will set me on high. Blessings will come.

Today is the last day of November. This month has focused on house cleaning. I pray that I’ve done a good job. You have challenged me to change and acquiesce the cobwebbed corners of my life. I needed to lay everything down at the foot of the Cross to be blessed by my sovereign God.

You’ve challenged me as the God of this Universe to become holy. Thank You, You are my Gentle Shepherd. You want me to succeed. Let me always do what I’ve learned this month. I want to go forward with You.

When I am challenged to or fall into sin, equip me to surrender to your loving discipline. I love You, Lord. May I be eager to learn to be ever faithful.

In Jesus Name

I am eternally grateful,

Amen

