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*"Christ caring for People
through People"*

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Prayer is simply defined as 'talking with God.' Some prayer conversations may focus on:

- A – adoration
- C – confession
- T – thanksgiving
- S – supplication (asking God to meet our needs)**
- I – intercession (Prayer for others)

Dear Friends;

Imagine for a moment the kind of trust that a child has in a kind and loving parent. Having learned to depend on their parents for food, clothing, shelter, and the tender kiss that heals each bump and bruise, would they ever hesitate to ask for any need to be met. Or would that parent ever turn away at a time of that child's asking. The relationship is such that it is even a joy for the child to ask and an equal joy from the parent's perspective to be so trusted that the little one comes whenever there is a need to be met. So it is with God. Even though the parent, or God, may know in advance what is about to be asked for still there is a pleasure and joy in knowing that the child is trusting enough to approach with the need, and to ask.

Sometimes the wisdom of the past experience of the parent causes them to use judgement regarding the way in which the request may be responded to still the request is never ignored. Sometimes the child may feel they didn't get the answer they wanted yet they hopefully continue to trust in the love of the parent and to ask again when there is another need to be met.

I recall a time when I was working to complete my B.A. degree by correspondence and summer courses. (It took 9 years to get a degree that way.) I had a goal of going on to complete a theology degree when the arts degree was finished and I had read that it was recommended that persons with such plans should complete a course in Biblical Greek during their arts programme. But no such courses were being offered by either correspondence or by summer programmes. What to do, what to do? In frustration and juvenile boldness I laid it out in prayer. "God, if you want me to study theology and to become a minister I have to have this Greek course. I leave it your hands." Within the next 15 minutes my phone rang and a friend who knew I was looking for such a course asked, "Have you read the fall calendar for Queen's? They are offering a Greek course." WOW. I applied for and took the course. But as reality would have it, language not being my strong suit, I failed miserably. I just couldn't learn Greek without the benefit of a live teacher showing me how these strange letters and words sounded out loud. Later I was to learn that completing the course was only recommended during the arts program, not required, and I was able to take it during my theology programme (with a live instructor). Thus it was confirmed again to me that God not only loved me, but that he knew what was best for me (and that He had a great sense of humour).

Trust God to meet your needs, and don't be afraid to ask. He'll answer in the way that is best.

Blessings (and chuckles) (Rev.) John McGurrin