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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)

My fellow shut-ins;

I know firsthand how frustrating it can be to want to be out and about, to take a long walk in the park, to ride my bike while listening to the birds and other sounds in nature, or to bend over and plant some flowers or vegetables or even pull some weeds – but to have my physical limitations restrict me from all such pastimes. Such restrictions remind me of how it must seem similarly impossible for us as finite humans to actually communicate our thoughts, emotions, needs and wants to our Divine Creator. Surely it can’t just happen? And if it were to really be possible – what a list of sorrows, angers, jealousies, hurts and generally imperfect matters I would need to share with Him.

Jesus invites us to talk to God just as simply as a young child might talk to a loving parent. But I need to begin by confessing my unworthiness, my prideful actions, my imperfect and impure thoughts. I need to ask forgiveness for my misdeeds and maybe then I might become a little more worthy of God’s attention. But no, ... “While were yet sinners, Christ died for us”... not after we managed to reform our personalities.

Why then do we need to confess? It helps us to understand exactly how flawed we truly are and how generous and gracious God is. It is for our benefit not God’s record book. Confession helps us to realize the marvellous blessing of a forgiving Father and the wonderful work Jesus completed at Calvary. My heart leaps for joy when I reflect on the revealed truth that God intended for us to be in relationship with Him. It was part of His design and purpose from the beginning. Confession only deepens my amazement at this and helps me to accept that each of us has real value in God’s heart and an important purpose, whatever our circumstance, shut-in or not.

Confession is *not* something we do to create a relationship with God. Rather it helps us realize the tremendous gap He has already bridged that we might call Him Father.

Thanks be to God.

(Rev.) John McGurrin