

Bestselling author of *Jesus in Me*

# ANNE GRAHAM LOTZ

## *The* LIGHT *of* HIS PRESENCE

PRAYERS TO DRAW YOU NEAR  
TO THE HEART OF GOD

**SNEAK  
PEEK**



**SAMPLE  
ONLY**

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# THE LIGHT OF HIS PRESENCE

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PRAYERS TO DRAW YOU NEAR  
TO THE HEART OF GOD

ANNE  
GRAHAM  
LOTZ



MULTNOMAH



THE LIGHT OF HIS PRESENCE

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*Dedicated to those who struggle in prayer  
yet who long to draw near  
to the heart of God*

One thing I ask of the LORD,  
this is what I seek:  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD  
and to seek him.

Psalm 27:4

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## *Introduction*

**P** RAYER HAS BEEN ONE OF THE GREATEST CHALLENGES OF my Christian life. While I know I'm commanded to pray, encouraged to pray, invited to pray, and often compelled to pray, I have still struggled with prayer. My struggle has centered primarily on three areas.

First, I have struggled with concentration—why is it that as soon as I bow my head to pray, my thoughts start to scatter? Instead of truly communicating with God, I think about what I need to fix for supper or what I'm going to wear to a special event or when I can schedule coffee with a friend. Or I'm so tired that I simply doze in the quietness of the hour.

The second area I have struggled with is consistency—making time daily to meet with the Lord in prayer. How often I have been distracted by my chirping phone or interrupted by my dog needing to go out or so busy I jump out of bed at the last minute and into my day with-

out any real prayer at all.

And I have struggled with content—just knowing what to say and how to say it.

As I have sought victory in these three areas, I have asked God to give me solutions. And He has! Setting my alarm for an earlier time—allowing me to meet with the Lord before I begin my day—has helped with consistency. And writing down my prayers has helped not only with content but also with concentration.

In this volume you'll find some of the prayers I have written. These prayers do not cover every crisis or cry, desire or delight, longing or lack, struggle or success, or a myriad of other issues I have taken to the Lord in prayer over the years. But I hope you'll find these prayers a helpful resource to refresh your own conversations with God. Especially if you, too, have struggled with prayer.

While I can't help you set your alarm, I wonder whether reading some of the prayers I have written will help you with your own concentration and content in prayer. As you read them, you may want to make note of the four elements I try to include in my prayers: *worship*, *confession*, *thanksgiving*, and *intercession*.

I have made a habit of beginning my prayers by worshipping God for who He is, because as I focus on Him, it's amazing how my own needs and problems are reduced in size compared with who He is. Then I look at myself and confess the sin that now seems obvious, revealed by the light of His holiness and glory. God has used a list of sins to effectively guide me deeper into confession. I

have included this list as a resource for you in Appendix B. I do not beat myself up over my sin, but instead, once I have named it for what it is, I move into thanksgiving to the One who has forgiven and cleansed me. At this point, I am ready to present my requests and intercede for others. While every prayer does not include each of these four elements, you will recognize the pattern. I have left some of the pages in this volume blank so you can write down your own prayers, using this pattern if it's helpful.

And remember, the purpose of prayer is not just to get answers. The purpose is to develop an intimate, personal relationship with the One who loves you, gave Himself for you, and longs for you to live in the light of His presence.

My prayer for you as you read this volume is that God will use my struggle with prayer to help you overcome yours. And that, as a result, you will be drawn nearer to the heart of God.

The apostle Paul prayed for the Ephesian followers of Jesus, and I have prayed these words for you:

For this reason

I kneel before the Father,

from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

I pray that out of his glorious riches

he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

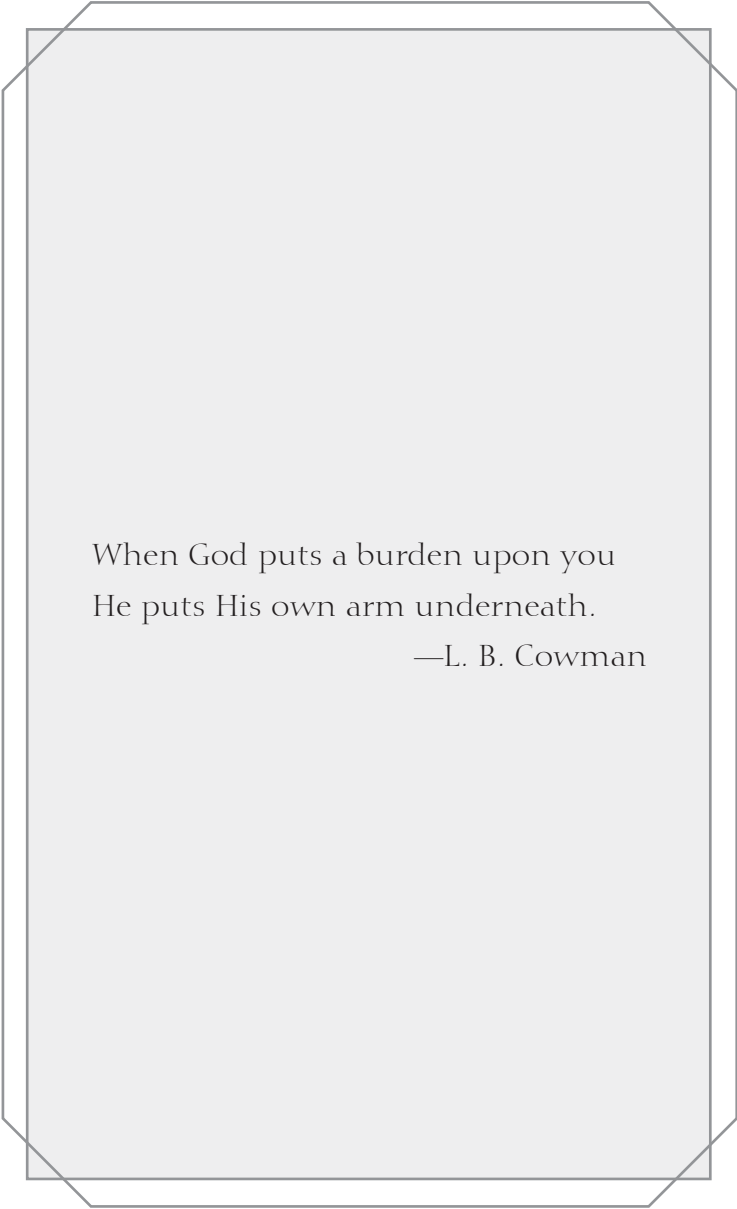
so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.  
And I pray that you,  
being rooted and established in love,  
may have power,  
together with all the saints,  
to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love  
of Christ,  
and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—  
that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of  
God.

Ephesians 3:14–19

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Anne Graham Lotz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.



# THE LIGHT OF HIS PRESENCE



When God puts a burden upon you  
He puts His own arm underneath.

—L. B. Cowman



## *A Prayer of the Weary*

**G**REAT, PERFECT HIGH PRIEST,  
I worship You, the One who understands  
the feeling of my infirmities.<sup>1</sup> You are tender. Gentle. A  
bruised reed You will not break. Smoking flax You will  
not quench.<sup>2</sup> You never grow tired or weary.<sup>3</sup>

I confess that sometimes I do feel weary. Breakable.  
Lonely as I stand for You and speak out for You when so  
few others do. You don't blame me for my weariness and  
weakness. Instead, You sympathize with me. Yet I remem-  
ber that You have said You set the lonely in families.<sup>4</sup> So I  
thank You for Your family, for my Christian brothers and  
sisters who stand beside me shoulder to shoulder and heart  
to heart, as together we continue to live for You in this  
increasingly dark, dangerous, and hostile world.

Dear Father God, I ask that You would use me to  
encourage others—and bring into my life those who will  
do the same for me. Let us build one another up. Strengthen

one another. So that when the Enemy comes in like a flood, assaulting us from every side, on every level and from every angle, we still stand. With spirits battered, maybe. With hearts wounded, maybe. But with sword raised in victory!<sup>5</sup> May we continue standing firm!

For the glory of Your great name—*Jesus*,  
Amen.





Men ask for a rainbow in the cloud;  
but I would ask *more* from Thee.  
I would be, in my cloud, myself a  
rainbow—  
a minister to others' joy.

—George Matheson



## *A Prayer for Stormy Days*

**A**WESOME, OMNIPOTENT CREATOR GOD,  
I worship You, the One . . .  
who “laid the earth’s foundations,”  
who “marked off its dimensions,”  
who “shut up the sea behind doors when it burst  
forth from the womb,”  
who “made the clouds its garment,”  
who “fixed limits for it,” and  
who said, “This far you may come and no farther;  
here is where your proud waves halt.”<sup>1</sup>

I think of when Your disciples struggled in the storm on Galilee, then called out to You, and You commanded the wind and waves to be still. And they obeyed!<sup>2</sup>

As the storms of life assail me, as those I love face waves that threaten to submerge them in despair, I ask You to look on us with mercy. I cry out to You, knowing that just as the wind and waves know Your voice and respond,

so too are all the forces of this world subject to Your power. I ask that You would speak into our lives the words *Peace! Be still!* Please. For the glory of Your great name.

I ask that You would keep Your promise: “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.”<sup>3</sup>

You are Immanuel. God with us. Facing every storm that comes my way, I cling to You in trust.

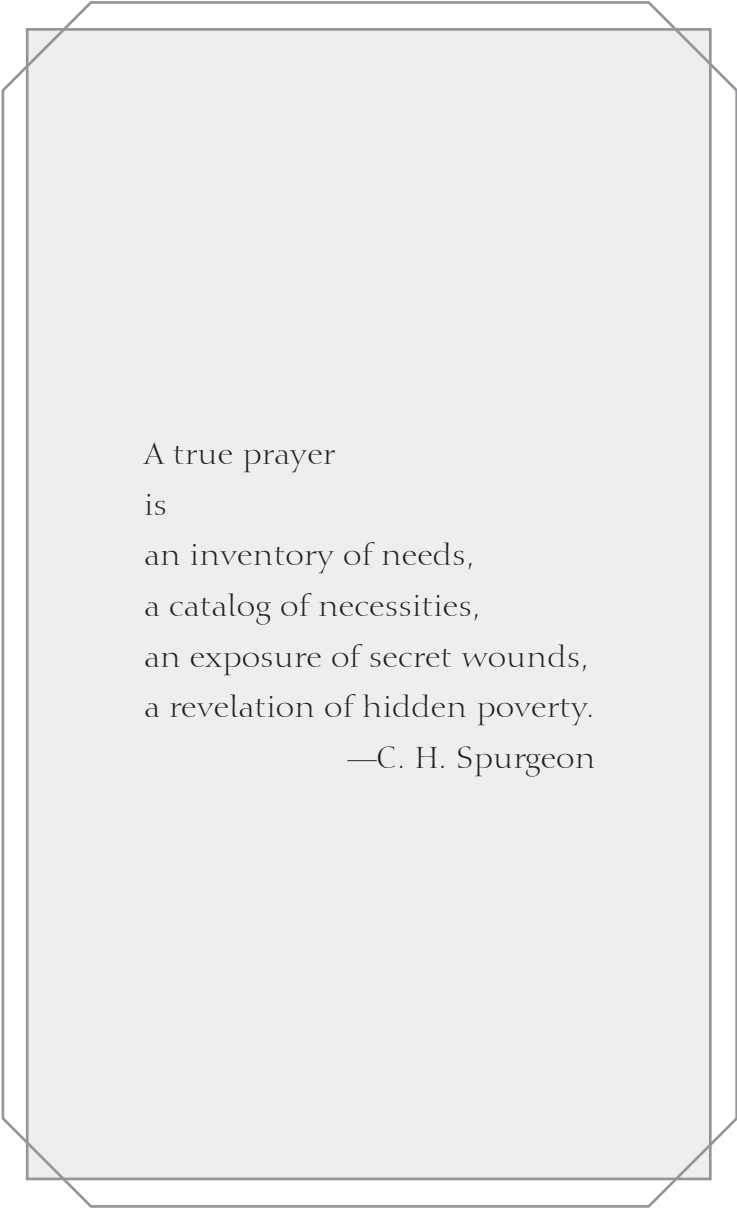
In the name of the One whom the waves and wind still obey—*Jesus*,

Amen.

## *Personal Prayer*

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God has said,  
"Never will I leave you;  
never will I forsake you."  
So we say with confidence,  
"The Lord is my helper;  
I will not be afraid.  
What can man do to me?"  
—Hebrews 13:5-6



A true prayer  
is  
an inventory of needs,  
a catalog of necessities,  
an exposure of secret wounds,  
a revelation of hidden poverty.

—C. H. Spurgeon



## *A Prayer in the Hardest Times*

**M**AN OF SORROWS,  
As I watch the devastation and heartache in the lives of those around me, my spirit cries out, “No. No! No!” How can this be? How can You look on and allow such suffering? *Why?*

I will stand at my watch and look to see how You will answer me.<sup>1</sup> In the silence, I seem to hear Your soft whisper echoing what You have said to me before when unexpected and unexplained crises have erupted. Your answer seems to be the same: *Trust Me when you don’t understand.*

O God, You have been our Help in ages past. You are our Hope for years to come. And You alone are our Shelter from this stormy blast.<sup>2</sup> You alone are our Refuge and our Strength. You are the Good Shepherd, who will lead us safely through this valley of shadow.<sup>3</sup>

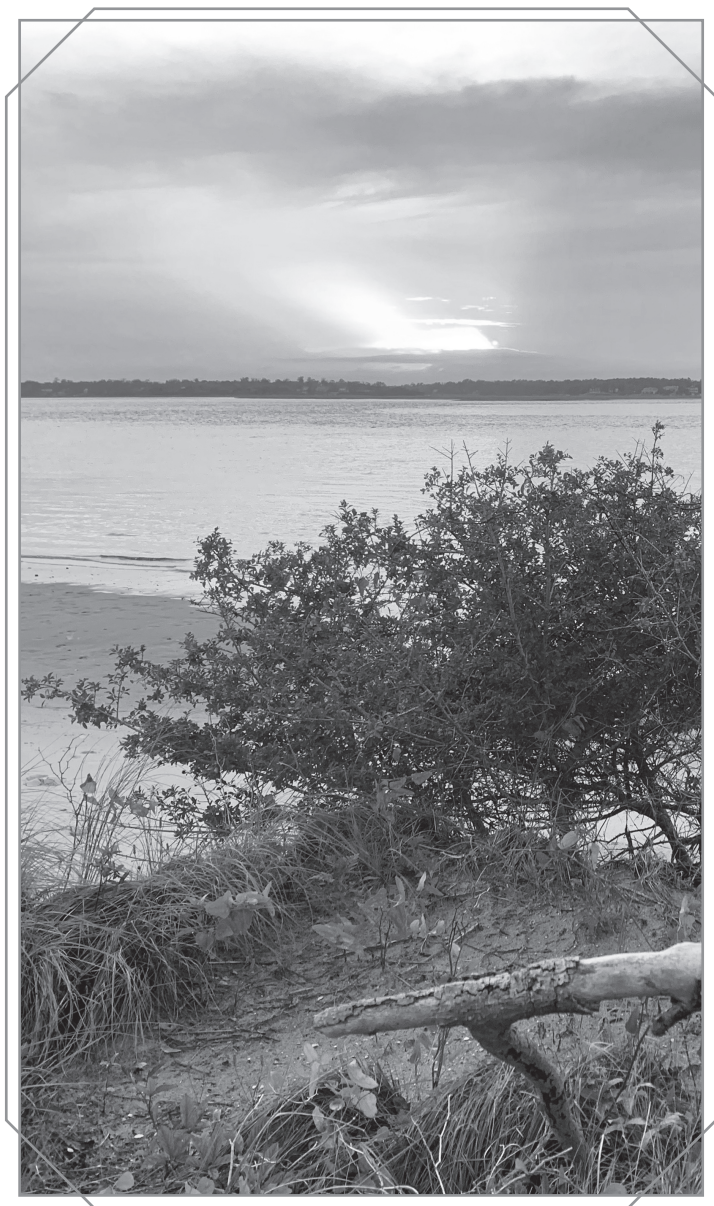
As I reflect on the One whom I am asked to trust, my soul finds rest. You are my great High Priest, who under-

stands. You are well acquainted with grief. Suffering.<sup>4</sup>

So please, look on all those I love who are in pain, in fear for their future. *Please*. Draw near to them. As they become more focused on the reality of their stark situations, I ask You to balance their feelings of devastation and loss with the comfort of Your presence. Your peace. Your love. Wipe the tears from our eyes. Turn our faces to Yours. Cause us to choose to look up. To look to You. With trust.

I pray this in the name of the One who has given His word, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”<sup>5</sup>  
*Jesus.*

Amen.





Let the morning bring me word of your  
unfailing love,  
for I have put my trust in you.  
Show me the way I should go,  
for to you I lift up my soul.  
Rescue me from my enemies, O LORD,  
for I hide myself in you.  
Teach me to do your will,  
for you are my God;  
may your good Spirit  
lead me on level ground.

—Psalm 143:8–10



## *A Prayer of Surrender*

**F**AIREST LORD JESUS, RULER OF ALL NATURE, LORD of the nations,<sup>1</sup>

I humbly bow before You and give You honor, praise, and glory for the countless blessings You continuously pour out on me. You demonstrate Your compassion through the ordinary people You use to bless me each day. And I glimpse Your love through circumstances that reveal You are gracious, abounding in loving-kindness and truth.<sup>2</sup>

I confess that all too often I overlook Your good and perfect gifts. Instead of rejoicing in Your strength made glorious in my weakness,<sup>3</sup> I am tempted to pride myself on being self-sufficient. I do not glorify You, my God, nor give thanks to You but live as though I have no accountability to You. God of mercy, I confess my desperate need of You. I grieve for the times I have walked away in pride, behaving as if I am in charge of my own life.

You have said in Your Word that if we don't just

confess sin with our mouths but truly turn away from it and return to You, You will return to us.<sup>4</sup> In this moment I return to You—I run to You!—and beg You to return to me. I ask You to stir within me a desire for what is true and good. Take from me any tendency toward self-reliance. You have said in Your Word that You are our Rock. Our Shield. Our Stronghold. Our Refuge.<sup>5</sup> When I am tempted to lean on my own strength, teach me instead hide to in You.

In the strong name of Jesus,  
Amen.

## *Personal Prayer*

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The best disposition for praying  
is  
that of being  
desolate,  
forsaken,  
stripped of everything.

—Augustine

The LORD bless you  
and keep you;  
the LORD make his face shine upon you  
and be gracious to you;  
the LORD turn his face toward you  
and give you peace.

—Numbers 6:24–26



## *A Prayer for Peace and Protection*

**G**OD OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND JACOB,  
You are the eternal I AM. The One who is age to age the same. There is no shadow of turning with You. You are fully present in every generation—past, present, and future. You are the Almighty. Your power has not been depleted over the millennia of human history. We know that You so loved the world that You gave us Heaven’s treasure when You sent Your only Son over two thousand years ago to be born as a baby, wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger. Thank You for the gospel, which tells us that everyone who places faith in the baby—who grew, lived, then died as our Savior . . . who now sits on Heaven’s throne . . . who is soon to return and rule the world—will not perish but have everlasting life.<sup>1</sup> Heaven’s miracle available to little dust people!

Yet I see around me a world that is increasingly desperate! Evil seems to be unrestrained. Babies are aborted, and pieces of their bodies sold. Sex trafficking is thriving. Nations are unraveling. Wars are raging, and it seems that daily I hear rumors of more wars breaking out. I cannot help but feel a sense of turmoil and agitation that surely is a reflection of the war being waged in the invisible realm.

I humbly turn to You now. You alone are the One who makes us dwell in safety. You alone are the One who makes us secure. You alone are God. I turn to You, deeply aware that, in myself, I am unworthy to address You yet confident of access into Your most holy presence through the blood of Your Son and my Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

I ask that the fear of the one true, living God would fall on me, my household, my church, my community, my country.

I ask for supernatural wisdom that I and those I love, especially those I serve alongside, would make decisions in line with Your perfect will.

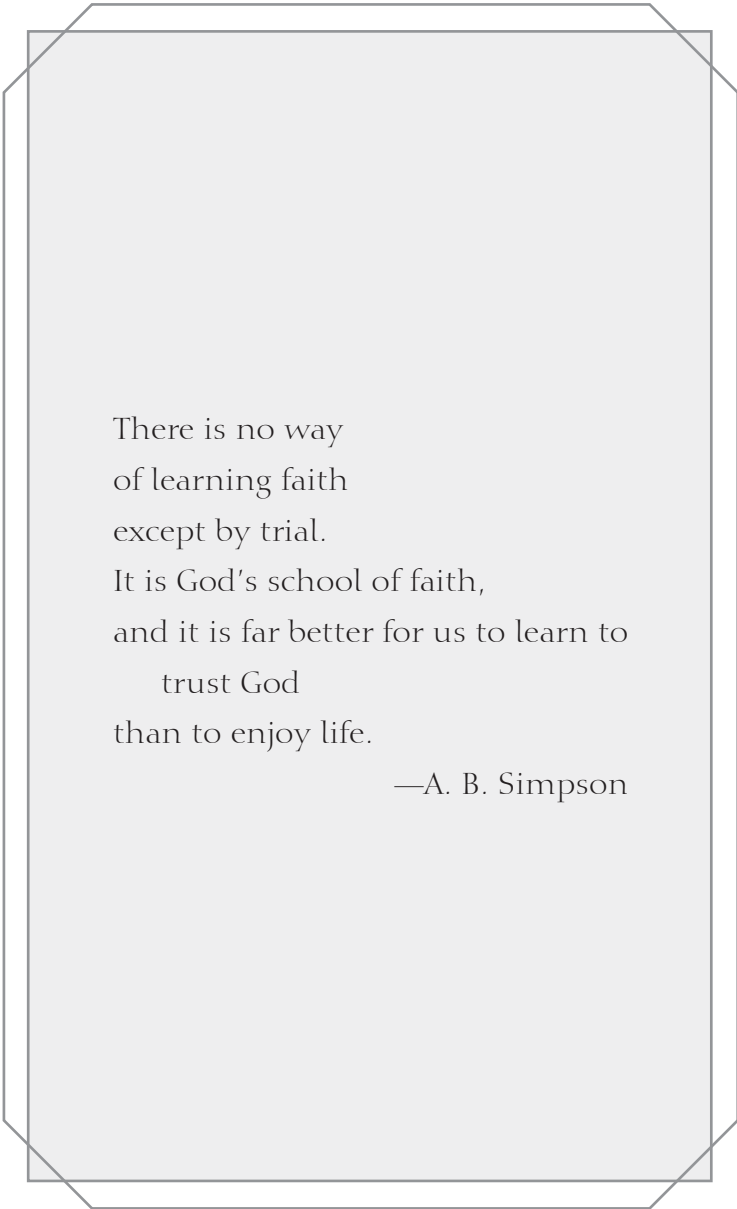
I ask especially that You would draw the leaders in my church, my community, and this country to Yourself. Cause them to put their trust in You so they experience peace both without and within.

I ask that You bless our beloved nation. Protect us. Defend us. Heal us. Unite us. Please continue to use us as a force for good in the world. Keep us steadfast in our commitment to be a friend to Your people.

You are a great prayer-hearing, prayer-answering, covenant-keeping, miracle-working God. Hear my prayer and bless this nation with the peace that only the power of the gospel can bring to our hearts and lives.

For the glory of Your great name—*Jesus*,  
Amen.





There is no way  
of learning faith  
except by trial.

It is God's school of faith,  
and it is far better for us to learn to  
trust God  
than to enjoy life.

—A. B. Simpson



## *A Prayer for Unshakable Trust*

**O** GOD OF CREATION,  
I bow before You, acknowledging Your greatness and Your glory. No one compares to You. No one is Your equal. I look at Your creation and marvel at the infinite power and wisdom that are Yours. Nothing is beyond Your reach. You are the One who “brings out the starry host one by one and calls them each by name. Because of [Your] great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.” You are the One who “has pitched a tent for the sun. . . . It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is hidden from its heat.” “Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.”<sup>1</sup> There is nowhere in all the universe where You are not. Surely Your arm “is not too short to save, nor [Your] ear too dull to hear.”<sup>2</sup>

Yet I confess that as I look around at the mess our world is in—when terrorists strike; when floods, fires, tornadoes, and storms ravage our land; when national leaders don't lead; when business leaders lie; when political leaders put their own interests before the people's; when spiritual leaders contradict Your Word—I find myself asking, *What's going on? Where are You?*

The Enemy whispers lies, tempting me to think You are . . .

distracted, disengaged, distant,  
 inattentive, inactive, impotent,  
 outmaneuvered, outmoded, outclassed,  
 unable, unaffected, and even unaware  
 of our fear, our helplessness, our confusion, our  
 outrage.

Why do You seem so small while our problems, disasters, and enemies seem so large?

So I ask, almighty God, that You would strengthen my resolve to place my trust in You. Give me the courage to declare that even if “the kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD,”<sup>3</sup> I will trust in You. If “the earth give[s] way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging,”<sup>4</sup> I will trust in You.

Though “nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall,”<sup>5</sup> I will trust in You. When “the wicked draw the sword and bend the bow to bring down the poor and needy, to slay those whose ways are upright,”<sup>6</sup> I will trust in You.

*I trust You!*

In the powerful, unshakable, unstoppable name of  
Jesus,

Amen.

Do not pray for easy lives;  
pray to be stronger men!  
Do not pray for tasks equal to your  
powers;  
pray for powers equal to your tasks!  
Then the doing of your work will be no  
miracle.  
But you shall be a miracle.

—Phillips Brooks

### *About the Author*

Called “the best preacher in the family” by her late father, Billy Graham, Anne Graham Lotz speaks around the globe with the wisdom and authority of years spent studying God’s Word.

The *New York Times* named Anne one of the five most influential evangelists of her generation. Her Just Give Me Jesus revivals have been held in more than thirty cities in twelve countries, with hundreds of thousands of attendees.

Anne is a bestselling and award-winning author of eighteen books. She is the president of AnGeL Ministries in Raleigh, North Carolina, and served as chairperson of the National Day of Prayer Task Force from 2016 to 2017.

Whether a delegate to the World Economic Forum’s annual meeting, a commentator in the *Washington Post*, or a groundbreaking speaker on platforms throughout the world, Anne’s aim is clear: to bring revival to the hearts of God’s people. And her message is consistent: calling people into a personal relationship with God through His Word.