

The Canton Christian

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How to Come Before God

By Michael Grigsby

The same God who formed every grain of sand and formed you in your mother's womb loves to hear your voice and loves it when you come before Him. People typically hear the phrase "coming before God" in church, when the pastor says, "Let us come before God in prayer," or in James 4:10: "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up." "Before the Lord" does not just mean praying to Him; it means entering God's presence. This can be prayer, of course, but also includes acts of worship or moments when you find yourself seeking His guidance.

What Does God's Presence Look Like?

When we pray, we typically don't feel an extraterrestrial presence or hear God's voice to be sure He is listening. However, God is constantly listening to us, even in our heads. "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" —1 Corinthians 3:16. When Jesus conquered sin on the cross, the barrier between humans and God was destroyed, meaning that the Holy Spirit (God) lives within us. So, if God is always with us, how do we enter His presence?

When a Christian has a deep desire for healing, wisdom or connection to God, the intentionality of entering the presence of God is to feel His goodness and speak to Him more intimately than a prayer in the car on the way to work or quickly asking Him for a good grade on a test.

How to Seek God's Presence

Here are some helpful steps for entering God's presence. Use these tools as a broad guide for proper biblical prayer, and with practice, they can become a habit that helps you encounter God in a more special way that glorifies Him.

- **Meditate on God's presence:** Take a moment to study Scripture on God's character and power as you quiet your mind from the distractions of the outside world.
- **Show thankfulness:** Acknowledge God's

Continued to page 6

Prayer is the Way

Steve Driskill
Amy Warner
Melvin Warner
Dwight Lunsford
Bob Ogle
Barbara Mason
Arta Waltman
Greg Hargrove
Brian Wilson
Tim Chaloupek
Jeremy Walker
Phil Wathier
Joyce Galer
Bobbie Westfahl
Patty Walters
Terri Walters
Cheryl Classen
Cheryl Martin
Juanita Rauh
Dan Pier
Cindy Wilson
Tim Kirk
Nicole Bowman
Emma Burich

Levi Hunt
Connie Johnson
Shirley Moore
Josephine Gonzalez
Tammy Long Qualls
Raymond Barnes
MaryAnn Phillips
Ty Gardner
Carolyn Nelson
Zollie Broomfield
Zahcary Trace Ramay
Amy Hood
Sheila Nuzum
David Dunson
Jimmy DeVage
Brandon Guest
Becky Gonzales
Blake Boulard
Kaylynn Philpot
Ashley Crews
Jim Rose
Steve Bond
Ron Waltman
Dave Schwind

Gayle Roberts
Regina Ray
Josh Blevins
Duane Barker
Roy Maybe
Julie Marks
Blakely McKammey
James Harmon
Ronnie Gould
Rick Smith
Jim Chaloupek
Larry Stephens
Courtney Dawson

Family of George Highfill
Family of Cole Wilson
Family of Harry Meister
Family of Josh Thompson
Family of Leatha Summers
Family of Briar Reihm
Family of Charles Waldo
Family of J.D. Hodges

Note: To call out a prayer need during the week, contact Laberta at 580-886-5225.

God loves the way you trust Him.

*"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish;
no one will snatch them out of my hand."*

—JOHN 10:28

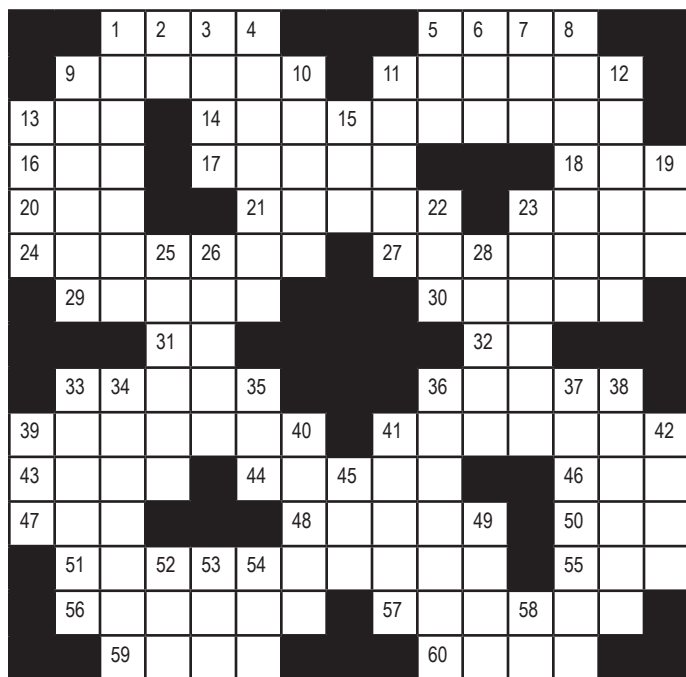
Do you ever skip to the last page? Ever just have to know how it all ends? Did the butler really do it? Did the guy get the girl? But even when you know the end, you still don't know the middle—the hows, whens, and wheres.

Kind of like life, isn't it? You can know the end because God promises His children a happily ever after. But the middle is part of the mystery of life. Mystery calls for trust. And when you trust your life to God, no one can *ever* snatch you out of His hand.

18 Inn	57 Daniel	28 Prune
20 Kid	59 Lied	33 Tenons
21 Water	60 Hand	34 Asareel
23 Case	ANSWERS-Down	35 Deu
24 Enemies	1 Founder	36 Shittah
27 Sopater	2 Ed	37 Retired
29 Grind	3 Agar	38 Eshcol
30 Trees	4 Renewed	39 Den
31 An	5 Let	40 Stead
32 Us	6 Eph	41 Sarid
33 Tamed	7 Ehe	42 Heed
36 Snare	8 Satiare	45 Ham
39 Desires	9 Lowing	49 Hena
41 Sheresh	10 Demas	52 Hai
43 Enan	11 Cotes	53 Ere
44 Uthai	12 Senses	54 Led
46 The	13 Yoke	58 In
47 Nor	15 Tit	
48 Earth	19 Ner	
50 Ice	22 Rot	
51 Nehelamite	23 Caesar	
55 Rod	25 Miamin	
56 Seared	26 Inner	

October 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Curt Shepherd	2 Donnie Jinkens Michael Grigsby Patrick Kenrick	3 Bob Baird
4	5 Sharon Pratt <i>Michael & Jaime Grigsby</i>	6 Donna Hoskins Emma Schultz Kiesha Tidball	7 Amanda Hill	8 Johnny Hoskins	9 Chase Cantellay	10
11 Joe Cantellay Eddie Jenkins Kassiday Nelson	12	13	14 <i>Mike & Delanna Canada</i>	15 <i>Larry & Ruth Stephens</i>	16 Kohl Murray	17
18 Darren Cavett	19 Lindsey Smith	20 Charlene Heath <i>Tommy & Kara Mitch</i>	21 Dawn Heath	22 Keith Long Jayne Reichert Evin Swartwood	23 Rhonda Lance Kara Mitch	24 Betty Rooker Holland Hankins <i>Joe & Alex Blaylock</i>
25 James Chaloupek	26 Brett Murray	27 Karen Robinson Rachel Farrow	28	29	30	31 Happy Halloween! 
			<i>Debbie Chaloupek - October</i> <i>Becky Garriott - November</i> <i>Evin Swartwood - December</i> 		NOTE: Please notify us if a name needs to be removed or added. Contact Toni Goforth at: tonigo4th@hotmail.com or you may text or call 580-822-5109.	



ACROSS

- 1 "God hath not given us the spirit of ____" (2 Timothy 1:7)
 5 "Punish the men that are settle on their ____" (Zephaniah 1:12)
 9 "If she have ____ strangers" (1 Timothy 5:10)
 11 Simon Peter (John 1:42)
 13 Opposite of *me*
 14 "Abiezer the ____"
 16 Have possession
 17 Forgive
 18 Motel
 20 Goat baby
 21 "See, here is ____; what doth hinder me to be baptized" (Acts 8:36)
 23 "Ye shall in no ____ enter" (Matthew 5:20)
 24 "Till I make thine ____ thy footstool" (Luke 20:43)
 27 "____ of Berea" (Acts 20:4)
 29 "It will ____ him to powder" (Luke 20:18)
 30 "____ whose fruit" (Jude 1:12)
 31 "Forasmuch as ____ excellent spirit" (Daniel 5:12)
 32 We
 33 Subdued
 36 Trap
 39 "He shall give thee the ____ of thine

heart" (Psalm 37:4)

- 41 Peresh's brother (1 Chronicles 7:16)
 43 Ahira's father (Numbers 1:15)
 44 Ammihud's son (1 Chronicles 9:4)
 46 Article
 47 "____ was an hair of their head singed" (Daniel 3:27)
 48 "The elements shall melt with fervent heat, the ____ also" (2 Peter 3:10)
 50 "Out of whose womb came the ____" (Job 38:29)
 51 "Shemaiah the ____" (Jeremiah 29:31)
 55 Staff
 56 Singed
 57 Biblical den dweller, for a time
 59 Told an untruth
 60 "The Lord is at ____" (Philippians 4:5)
 DOWN
 1 "His mother...gave them to the ____" (Judges 17:4)
 2 An altar (Joshua 22:34)
 3 Greek form of *Hagar* (Galatians 4:24)
 4 Made new again
 5 Allow
 6 A book of four written by Paul in prison (abbr.)

7 A son of Benjamin (Genesis 46:21)

8 "And I will ____ the soul of the priests" (Jeremiah 31:14)

9 Calling for a calf (arch.)

10 He forsook Paul (2 Timothy 4:10)

11 "____ for flocks" (2 Chronicles 32:28)

12 We have five of these

13 Wooden collar

15 One of Paul's most trusted missionary friends (abbr.)

19 Saul's grandfather (1 Chronicles 8:33)

22 Decay

23 Roman emperor

25 A son of Parosh (Ezra 10:25)

26 Opposite of *outer*

28 Dried plum

33 "Two ____ shall there be in one board" (Exodus 26:17)

34 Son of Jehaleleel (1 Chronicles 4:16)

35 This book is a series of speeches by Moses (abbr.)

36 "The cedar, the ____ tree, and the myrtle" (Isaiah 41:19)

37 Went to bed

38 Mamre's brother (Genesis 14:13)

39 "As a lion in his ____" (Psalm 10:9)

40 In place of

41 Zebulun's border was to this city (Joshua 19:12)

42 Pay attention to

45 A son of Noah

49 "____, and Ivah?" (Isaiah 37:13)

52 "Between Bethel and ____" (Genesis 13:3)

53 Before (arch.)

54 Commanded militarily

58 Indium (sym.)

ANSWERS - Across

- 1 Fear
 5 Lees
 9 Lodged
 11 Cephas
 13 You
 14 Anetothite
 16 Own
 17 Remit



Women's Conference

Register At:
OAKWOOD.CHURCH/GIRLY



SCAN ME

Friday, Oct. 9th and Saturday, Oct. 10th, Oakwood Women's Ministry will host their first annual Girly Women's Conference! Professor and Bible teacher Beth DeFazio will lead us through Scripture as we discover more deeply our identity in Christ. Together, We'll worship, pray, learn, connect, and grow as sisters in Christ, leaving refreshed and strengthened in our faith.

Registration includes Friday dinner, a light Saturday breakfast, plenty of girly snacks, and an event T-shirt. Invite a friend and sign up today!

Regular Rate - \$60 (9/15/26 - 10/8/26)

Walk-in Rate - \$70 (10/9/26 Note: May not have extra t-shirts)

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How to Come Before God

mercy and kindness that we do not deserve, and humble yourself before Him with praise. "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name." — Psalm 100:4.

- **Have faith:** No-body follows God's com-

mands perfectly, but if you trust in Him and love Him, He is more than happy to bless you and allow you to encounter His presence of peace.

Application

God's presence is food for our souls and healing for our brokenness. It is what

anchors His people to their greater purpose, one that is greater than life's daily struggles. Purposefully entering a place where you can speak to God and feel Him without distraction is the way to strengthen your relationship with Him.