# Skyline Family News June 29th, 2026

**Pastor David's Weekly Devotional**

I am often on the lookout for, and in need of, something to help my prayer life. To be sure, the prayers found in the Scriptures are the greatest prayers to pray. Here are several passages of Scriptures that can be used to easily shape and guide our prayers: 1Chron.16:8-36; Ps.5; 8; 51; 86; 92; 139; 145; Jon.2; Matt.6:5-14; Acts 4:23-26; Eph.1:15-23; 3:14-21; Phil.1:9-11; 2Thess.1:3-12 (see "Praying the Bible" by Donald S. Whitney).

Outside of the Bible, one book that has enriched and improved my prayer life more than any other is the collection of Puritan prayers titled "The Valley of Vision." Where my prayers can tend to be simple and shallow, the prayers in "The Valley of Vision" are Biblically based, doctrinally sound, profoundly deep, and poetically written. Other resources I have found helpful are "At the Throne of Grace" by John MacArthur, "Praying with Paul" by D.A. Carson, and "The Prayer of the Lord" by R.C. Sproul.

Recently I found an old hymn on prayer written by James Montgomery (1771-1854), who wrote over four hundred hymns including "Angels from the Realms of Glory", "Stand Up and Bless the Lord", and "Go to Dark Gethsemane." This hymn, titled "Prayer is the soul's Sincere Desire" (1818) powerfully describes the very essence and essentiality of prayer.

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, unuttered or expressed,
the motion of a hidden fire that trembles in the breast.

Prayer is the burden of a sigh, the falling of a tear,
the upward glancing of an eye, when none but God is near.

Prayer is the simplest form of speech that infant lips can try;
prayer the sublimest strains that reach the Majesty on high.

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath, the Christian's native air;
his watchword at the gates of death; he enters Heav'n with prayer.

Prayer is the contrite sinner's voice, returning from his ways,
while angels in their songs rejoice and cry, "Behold, he prays!"

The saints in prayer appear as one in word, in deed, and mind;
while with the Father and the Son sweet fellowship they find.

Nor prayer is made by man alone, the Holy Spirit pleads,
and Jesus, on the eternal throne, for sinners intercedes.

O Thou, by whom we come to God, the Life, the Truth, the Way;
the path of prayer Thyself hast trod: *Lord, teach us how to pray*.

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David
(6/29/26)

***Scripture Readings for the Week*** *(Monday – Sunday ~ Week #26):*
*Leviticus 7-9; 1 Kings 19-22; Psalms 75-77; Proverbs 7; Ezekiel 13-18; Luke 15-16; Philippians 1-2*
***Recommended Reading****:*
*"A Year of Prayer: Approaching God with an Open Heart Week After Week" by John MacArthur*