



# God Chats in the Closet

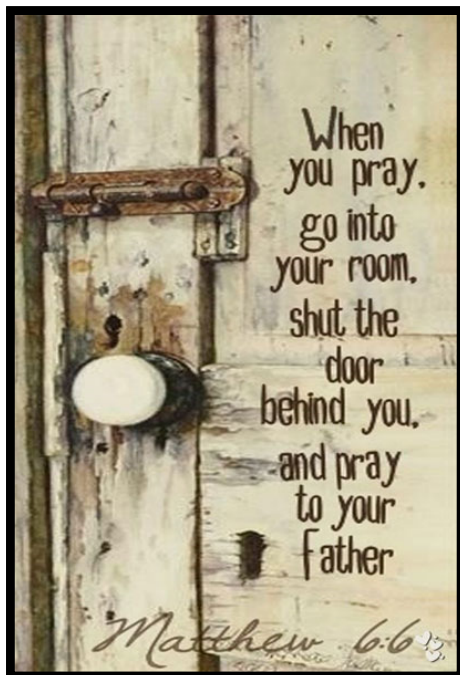
By – Max Lucado



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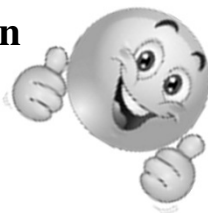
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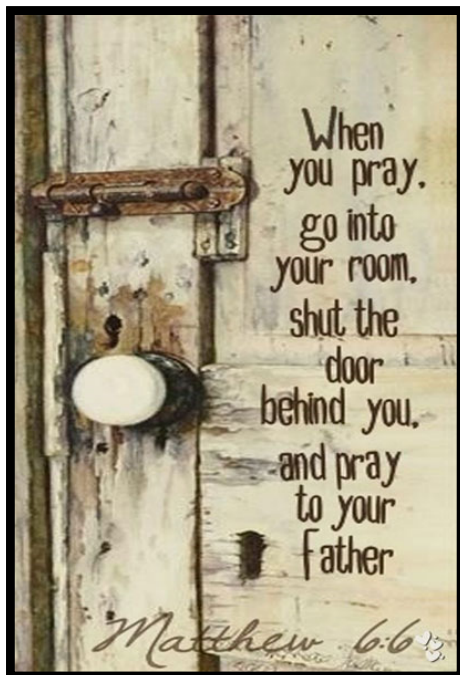
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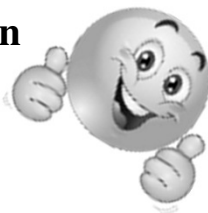
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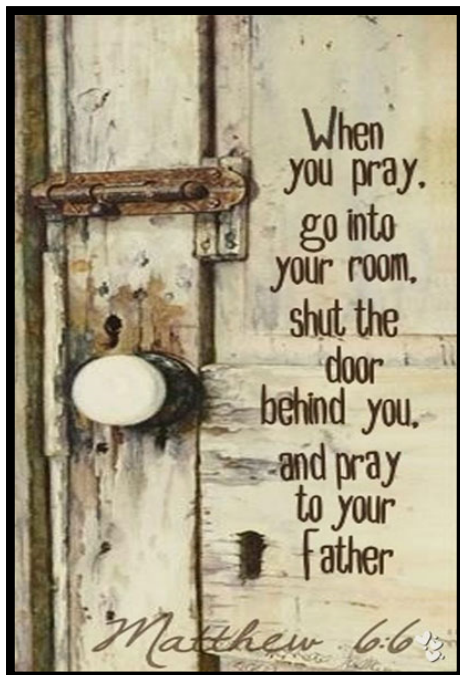
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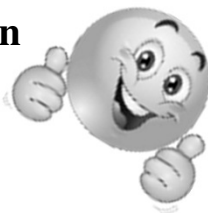
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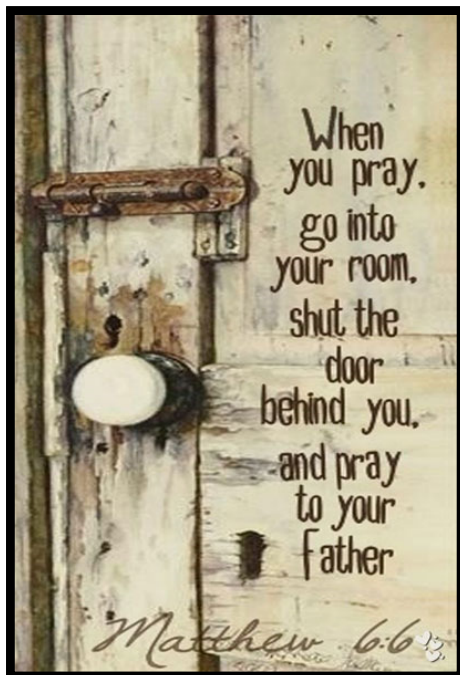
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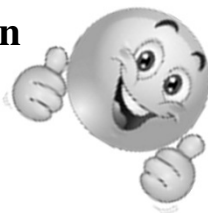
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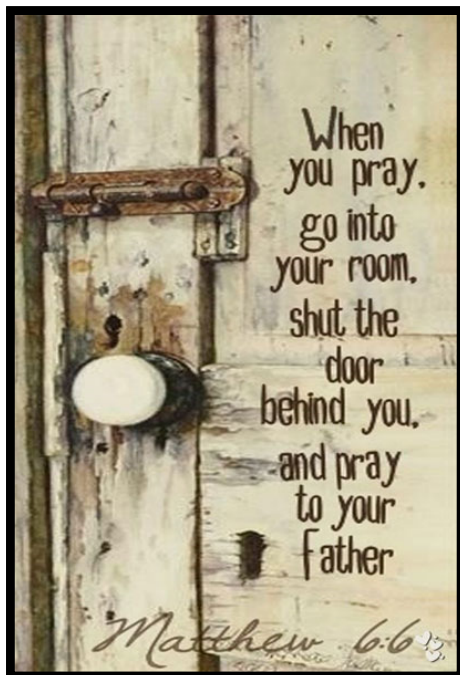
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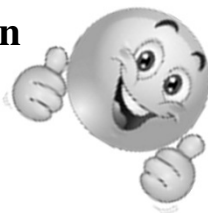
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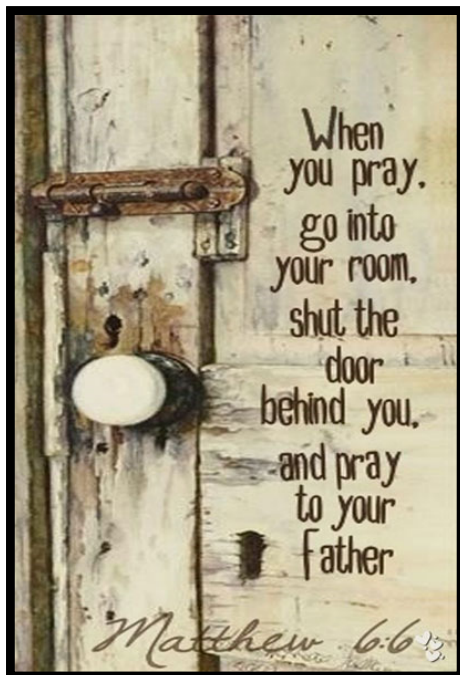
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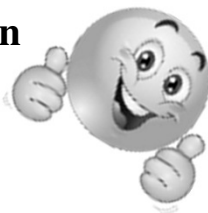
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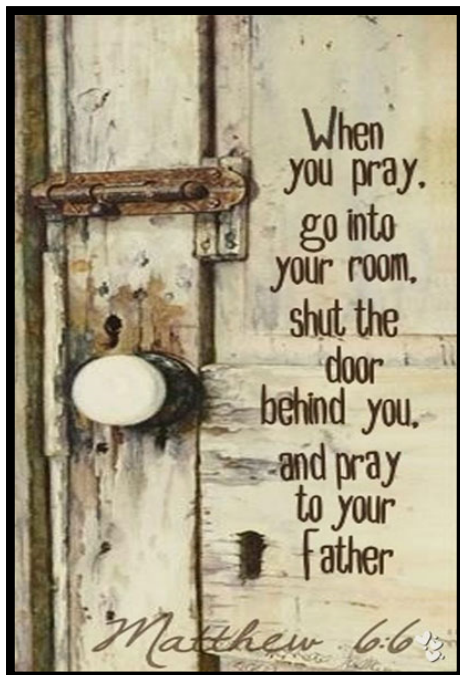
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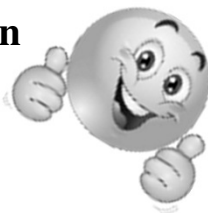
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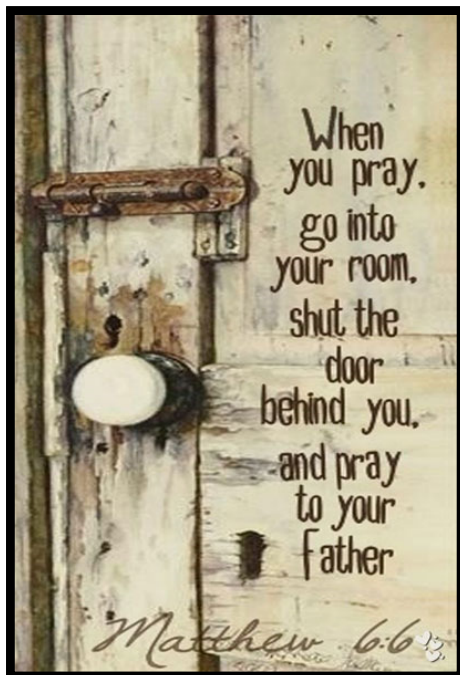
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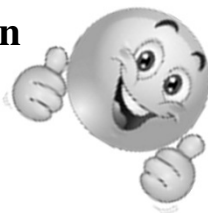
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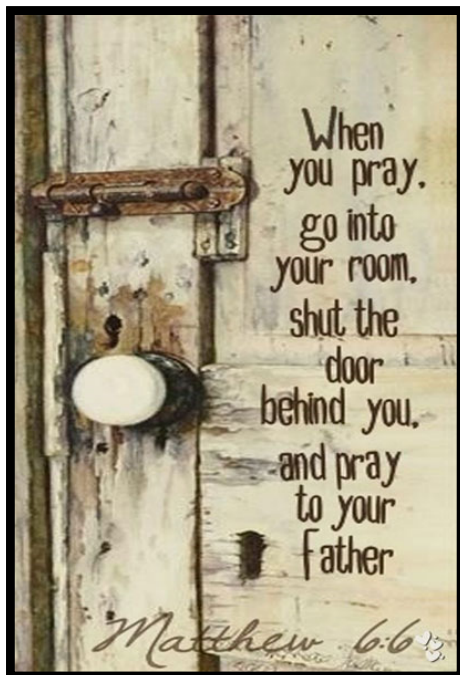
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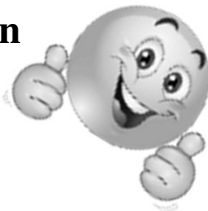
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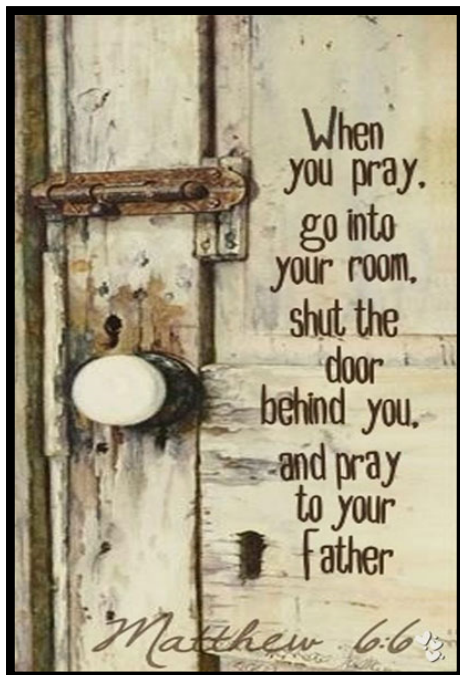
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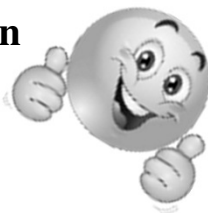
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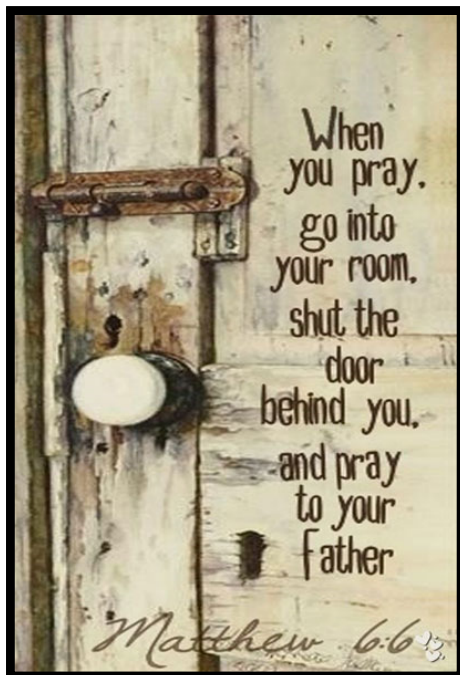
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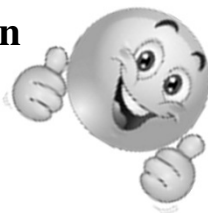
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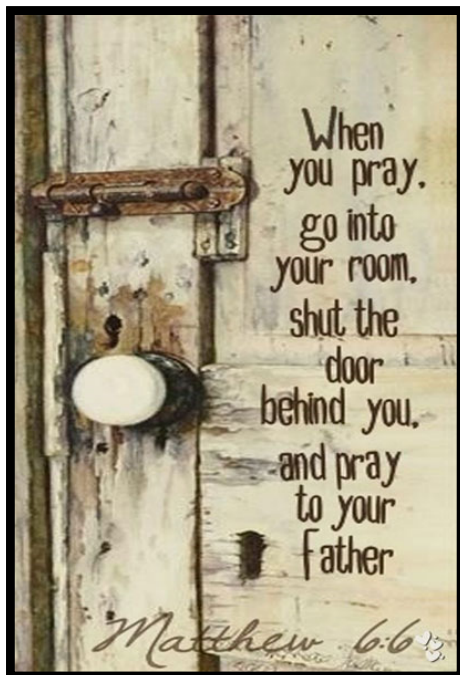
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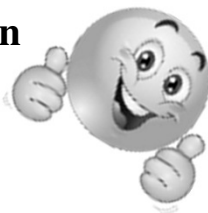
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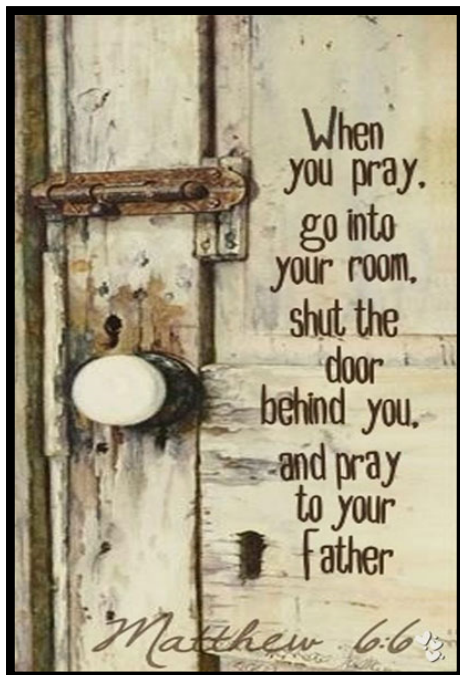
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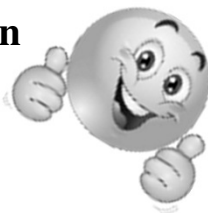
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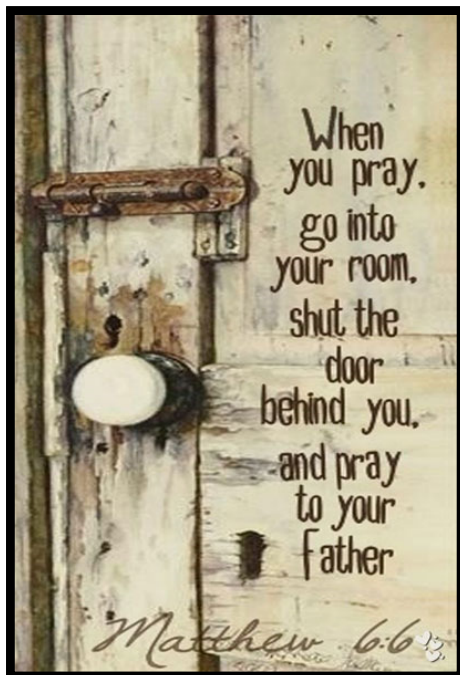
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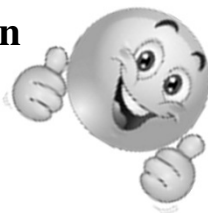
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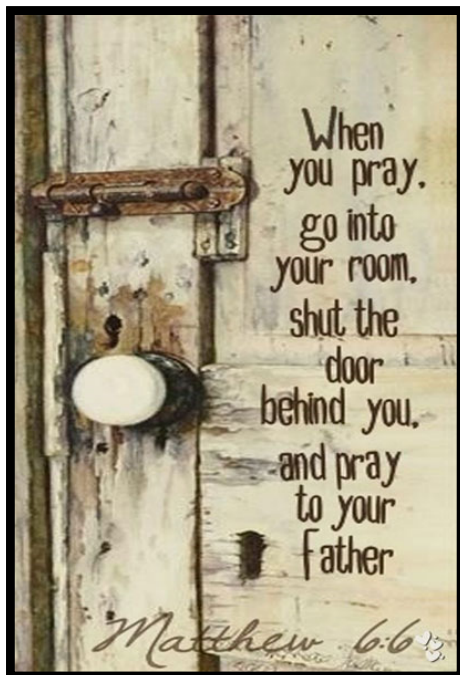
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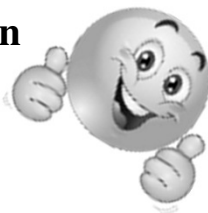
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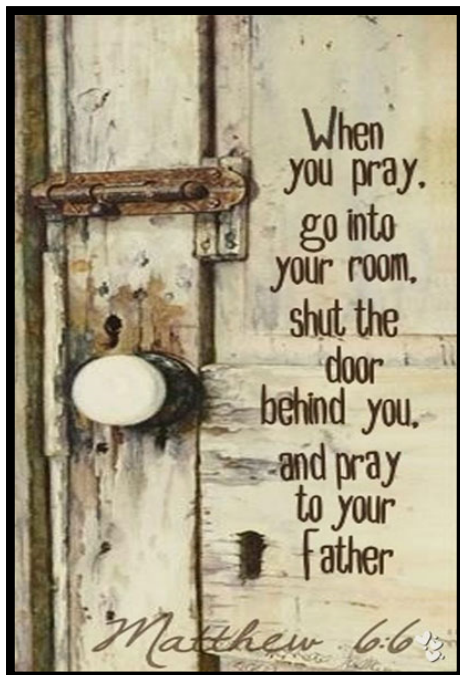
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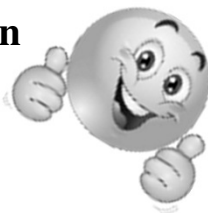
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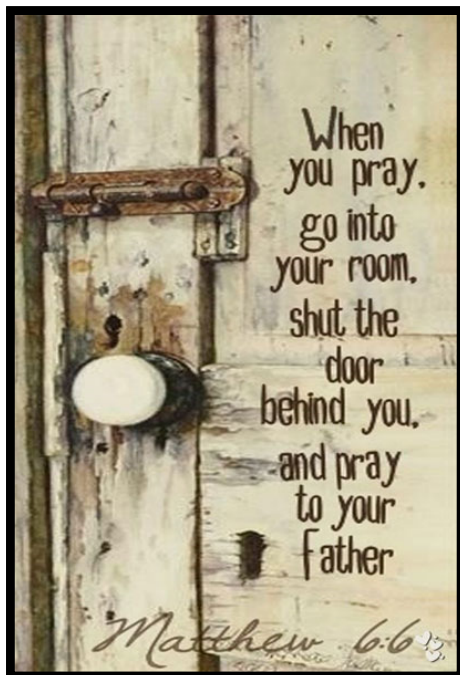
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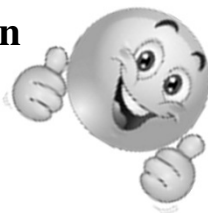
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- Q: What do you call an alligator in a vest? A: An investigator
- Q: What did the watermelon say to the cantaloupe? A: You're one in a melon





# God Chats in the Closet

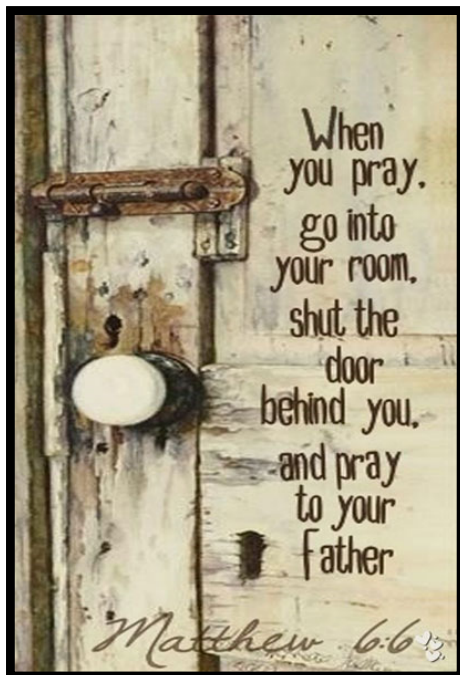
By – Max Lucado



Religious leaders loved to make theater out of their prayers. The show nauseated Jesus. In Matthew 6:6 He said, *“When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who cannot be seen. Your Father can see what is done in secret, and He will reward you.”*

The words surely stunned Jesus’ audience. The people were simple farmers and stonemasons. They couldn’t enter the temple. But they could enter their closets. The point? He is low on fancy, high on accessibility. You need not woo him with location! Or wow him with eloquence. It’s the power of a *simple* prayer.

Prayer isn’t a ritual that depends on closing our eyes and putting on holy faces. We don’t have to kneel or sit. We can pray while walking, driving, or working. God responds to a two-word cry for help in the middle of a busy afternoon, just like He does to a focused prayer time after reading Scripture in the morning. Praying doesn’t have to be complicated. God delights in any simple words we offer Him.



## Responsive Reading: Psalm 1:1-3a

1-10: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  
11-20: or take the path that sinners tread,  
21-31: or sit in the seat of scoffers;  
1-15: But who, instead, find their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
16-31: and on his law, they meditate day and night.  
1-10: They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
11-20: which yield their fruit in its season,  
21-31: and their leaves do not wither.



## Lesson: Jeremiah 31:31-34

*“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD.*

*“This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD.*

*“I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD.*

## Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

The Pharisees...gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked Jesus a question to test him: *“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?”*

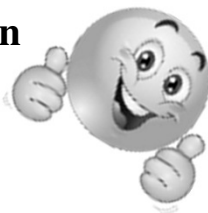
He said to him, *“‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”*



# SALEM FAMILY EVENTS



Hooray! Erin Pearson has accepted the position of treasurer of Salem Lutheran Church of Oxford!!! THANKS, ERIN!!!



Salem YouTube channel (where the videos from Sundays will be posted)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxF4qMkRspB-vDDafLJSodQ/>

New email address for Pr. Rob -- (robatsalem@gmail.com)



Last Week

Please talk to Nick if you would like to serve your community by proclaiming the lesson or helping with ushering/setting up the services.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

We could have Sunday School if we have teachers - any one interested?



- On our commute to work, my husband stopped at a convenience store for coffee. As he got back into the car, I noticed something odd. "Turn your head and look at me," I said. "You have a Q-tip sticking out of your ear." As he pulled it out, he replied, "No wonder the guy in there asked me if I was getting good reception."
- Excuses for not paying rent -- "I have to make payments on my BMW and iPhones." • "You are too wrapped up in the whole concept of 'money.'" • "So ... you're talking to me only because the rents not paid? Is that all I am to you? A tenant?"
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