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**Your Father**  
**Knows**

**#1330-A**

**Series: Prayer: God's "Secret" Weapon**



**DISCIPLESHIP TAPE MINISTRIES, INC.**  
**INTO HIS LIKENESS RADIO**

# Your Father Knows

Let's begin with prayer,

*Our loving, gracious, wonderful Father, Creator-God, sustainer God, loving God, we worship You.*

*We pause, Heavenly Father, to look into Your eyes this morning and see returned to us a measure of that infinite love, and we are overwhelmed. And though the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches and the lust of other things entering in choke the Word in our lives, we come back to You this morning and acknowledge that as sin.*

*We ask You to remove the barriers in our hearts and minds and set us free to be fed by Your Spirit. Your Spirit must be our teacher, Your Word must be our authority, and Your Glory must be our goal. To that end we surrender and humbly ask You to teach us.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*

Bobby's dad had been out of town for nearly two weeks. It was a necessary business trip, but nonetheless it seemed like forever to Bobby. The youngster had a problem at school, and he was sure nobody understood. The problem was in his math class, and it seemed that there was a concept the teacher was trying to impart that the young boy just couldn't understand.

The harder he tried, the more confused he became. The teacher tried in vain to explain it. Unless he understood this, the rest of the semester was going to be almost impossible, indeed. It was late Friday evening when Dad arrived home. Bobby was in his room, not just a little depressed over the 62 he had received on his math quiz the day before.

He heard a knock on his bedroom door. It was Dad. After the customary hugs and greetings, Dad handed Bobby a package and said, "I was in a book store in Sacramento yesterday and saw this. I thought you might like to have it."

Bobby opened the package. It was a book explaining in detail

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the very mathematical concept Bobby couldn't understand. It was filled with pictures, explanations and test questions to be sure you understood each step. Tears began to flow down the lad's cheeks. "Dad, I never told anybody about the problems I was having in math, not even Mom. How did you know?"

"Oh, Son," his Dad replied, "When I was your age, I had a terrible time with that concept, and I had nobody to explain it to me. It seemed to me that it ought to be about time for you to be studying that, and as I prayed about what to bring you, this just seemed right." Bobby felt a load lifted. He thumbed through the book and seemed confident that he could learn it at last. "I still don't understand", he said, "but I sure am glad." "It's just one of those things a father knows," Dad said, as he walked out the door. "It's just one of those things a father knows."

Just three weeks later, Bobby's grades had skyrocketed in math, and he was a happy lad, indeed. But as he came in from the football game late this Friday, his Dad called him aside. "Son, remember that book I knew to buy you because I knew you might need it?" "Yes, Dad," the lad replied, "Why?"

"Well, something tells me you didn't go to the football game tonight. I don't know what you did, but something tells me you were somewhere you shouldn't have been." The boy's face turned beet red. For a moment, it seemed as though he was going to faint. "How did you know?" he said as he hung his head, "How did you know?"

"Oh, Son," his Dad began, and suddenly the boy joined in and they said in unison, "It's just one of those things a father knows." His father knew his needs even without his having asked, and his father knew of his transgressions, even though the boy thought no one knew. There are just some things a father knows. Indeed there are.

Transferring this concept to the realm of the spirit, what things does our Heavenly Father know? He knows what we need even before we ask, but He also knows of our every transgression, even those that only take place in the mind. He knows, and the fact that He knows ought to make a difference in why we pray and how we pray.

Jesus knew that, so as He proceeded to teach His disciples to pray, He made what the Father knows a major issue. He had just explained to the disciples that when they prayed, they ought always to enter into the secret place where no one could see them or hear them and where the fact that they were praying wouldn't

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call attention to itself. He told them to enter their closet and shut the door. And having done that, *then they could pray*.

His next point would be equally important. It went like this:

But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. (Matthew 6:6-9)

The Master is teaching His disciples how to pray. He has made it clear that giving and praying were private matters between a man or a woman and his or her God. It was to be done in “secret”, and a Father who sees and hears in secret will reward appropriately. Jesus will proceed to apply the same principle to fasting as well. But before He does, while He is on the subject of prayer, He decides to give one more warning about how not to pray, and then to give a pattern for them and for us so we will know *how to pray*.

He gets underway by talking to his disciples about babbling saints and an omniscient God. Both subjects were timely, both for them and for us. He began:

When you pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do. (Matthew 6:7)

Vain repetitions. That phrase has never really made much sense to me. I know it isn't a warning not to pray the same prayer more than once, because we just watched Jesus do that in the garden. No, it must have a much deeper meaning. What is it?

The principle of vain repetitions has to do with three things:

- 1- Putting the focus of the prayer on its length or intensity or wordiness rather than on the purity of the heart.
- 2- Thinking that God doesn't understand the issues and we need to repeat it over and over until He gets it.
- 3- The possibility that God did not hear us the first or second time we prayed, so if we keep at it, we won't get a busy signal.

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It was a pagan custom to work up a frenzy and scream repeatedly so their god, whoever or whatever it was, would wake up and respond. Baal worshippers give us a clue in I Kings 18.

Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.

Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under:

And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.

And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire under.

And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made.

And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.

And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.

And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded. (I Kings 18:22-29)

They were frantic. Their prayers were not based on the integrity of their god. They were not even sure he could hear them. Nor did they have any mercy or grace assured to them that would justify their praying. So they leaped on the altar, cut themselves to show their intense concern, and cried all day over and over to their god, but nothing happened.

Elijah injected a little sarcasm. "Maybe your god has gone on vacation. Try calling him in the Bahamas. Or wait until his Visa card is full and he'll come back. (They don't take American Express.) Or

maybe he's on the other line and doesn't have call-forwarding. Or maybe he fell asleep. False gods do that. Just work up a sweat and create an emotional atmosphere, and he'll have no choice but to do your bidding," Elijah chided them.

They were sure their god wouldn't know what to do unless they gave him or it instructions, and either it wasn't listening or it was out of range. Like a cellular phone, maybe their god was out of reach of the signal. So they turned up their amplifiers and screamed louder and louder and louder. But, of course, nothing happened. They thought by the use of vain repetitions, they might get his attention. The word "vain" means meaningless. The word "repetitions" means a repeated effort to accomplish the same thing. They were caught up in meaningless, self-centered attempts to get their god to do their bidding.

Some of this would carry over into the Christian faith. Believers would be tempted to turn prayer into repetitive chants where they simply said the same words over and over until they had no meaning at all. At the other end of the spectrum, believers would come to believe that God only heard when they worked up enough emotion to create a circus-like atmosphere where God would be pleased with the enthusiasm and the out-of-control attempts to communicate, so He would answer.

Both extremes would prove deadly. The meaningless repeating of printed prayers would take the heart out of praying. The frantic emotional approach to praying would take sanity and order out of praying, and ours is a God of order. So Satan would work at both extremes and attempt to capture the body of Christ in one camp or the other, then try to promote contention and pride in each camp so they would throw stones at each other. Thus, the battle over *how to pray* would cloud the issue and destroy the very essence of prayer itself. And to a large degree, he has succeeded.

"When you pray", Jesus said, "don't think that you will be heard because you are using words you have always used that you memorized as a child. And don't think you will be heard because you have worked up an emotional high. That's not what prayer is. Prayer can be direct and to the point, and prayer can be void of deep emotional expressions. It is a conversation between a Bridegroom and His bride. It is meant to be understandable, concise, and filled with intelligent love.

Imagine, ladies, assuming that your husband will only hear you

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if you repeat the same thing over and over and over again. I think it's called "nagging". Or imagine that the only time your husband, the bridegroom, will hear you is when you cry and scream and create an emotional battlefield. If you think either of those extremes is the way to communicate with someone you love, you've missed it. No, communication comes when two people are able to share their hearts with each other in a concise, gentle, but direct conversation. There may be emotion involved, but the emotions are expressions of affirmation, not the basis for the communication itself. It ought not to be necessary to repeat the same phrases over and over until your loved one gets so weary he or she gives in grudgingly and gives you what you want, even if it isn't what you need.

Don't use vain repetitions as the heathen do. Amen. Why not? "Because," Jesus went on, "your heavenly Father knows what you have need of, even before you ask." What does that mean? And what does it mean to you personally? Good questions. The answers to those questions will form the final half of this study.

I believe Jesus was saying that if you get the balance between God's omniscience and man's need to ask, you will begin to see prayer in its proper perspective. Once again, Satan works to draw us to an extreme. If we assume God already knows so why bother to pray, we miss the meaning and purpose of prayer. If we place all the emphasis on our asking, we take the focus off of who God is and place it on what we can do to bend His heart. Both extremes are wrong. The truth is God is omniscient. There is nothing He does not know. He knows our needs before we ask. Then why ask? That's the other half of the equation, and it is just as vital. Learn the balance, and you learn one of the secrets of the kingdom.

What does God know? He knows everything. He knows everything and everyone in heaven, on earth, or even in hell.

He knoweth what is in the darkness. (Daniel 2:22)

He never misses anything. Nothing, however small, ever escapes His all-knowing glance. Psalms tells us He knows where we go, what we think, and what we say, every single word:

Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thoughts afar off.

Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.

For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, Thou

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knowest it altogether.

(Psalm 139:2-4)

There are no surprises with God. There is nothing you can tell Him about yourself that He does not already know. He knows about that argument you had with your loved one. He knows about that not-so-honest deal you pulled off at work that no one else knows about. He knows you cheated on that test at school or on your income tax return. He heard the foul language you used while driving down the freeway. He heard it even if no one else did. In fact, He heard it before you said it. As you thought it, it was spoken to Him.

Do you want to talk to Him about the doctor's report? He knew about it before the worlds were formed. Long before the doctor knew; certainly long before you knew. So you needn't tell Him to *inform Him*. You may share it with Him so you can discuss it with Him and seek from Him what He wants to do with it in your life, but you need not educate God. Not ever.

Do you want to pray about your financial problems? Good idea. But bear in mind as you approach God, He already knows. And He knows what caused it. He knows what you did that you could have avoided doing. He also knows about those things that were completely beyond your control. He knows. *And He allowed them to happen to bring about His kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.*

In heaven, all of the angelic host praise Him, morning, noon, and night. That's what He wants you to do. With this kind of financial crisis in the balance? Yes, if you want His kingdom to come and His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. In heaven, He is always praised. He wants you to talk to Him about it. He even wants you to ask Him to enter into the problem and either remove it or solve it or give you the grace to endure it, *whichever of those solutions would most honor His name*. But as you approach Him, remember, He already knows about it. And He already knows how you have responded to it. So don't play hypocrite and act as though you're living in victory when you're not. He knows. He would rather you be honest and tell Him how much you're hurting than to pretend to be spiritual while you are bitter and angry underneath. He can't help if you're not honest.

He knows all about your every need, the needs of your heart and the needs of your physical world, as well. He knows when someone crushes your spirit through rejection. He knows, and it grieves Him. It grieved Him when they spit on His dear Son and mocked Him and gambled for His clothes; but He did not intervene, not because it



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caught Him off guard, but because He had a deeper plan. He knows.

He knows when the vicious pangs of pain are wrenching your body and exhausting your emotions. He knows about the sleepless nights. He knows. He knows about the loss of that loved one, about the demotion at work, about the commotion at work, about the frustration at work. He knows. He knows and He cares. When you cry, He weeps, too. When you are grieved, He longs for your heart to find comfort. But as you enter the secret place to lay your head upon His shoulder, remember: He already knows that you are crying and why you are crying; not only that, He knows how it will turn out. He knows the beginning from the end. Before the foundation of the world, He is. Therefore, nothing is news to Him.

He doesn't need to read "USA Today" or "Newsweek" to find out what's happening in the world. That invasion didn't catch God off guard. Neither did that treaty. Neither did that act of Congress, be it good or bad. That natural disaster is not news to God. His omnipotence may have been demonstrated, but His omniscience knew about it before ever the world was.

Don't you see? If God already knows your needs, why create long paragraphs of flowery phrases hoping to impress Him with your plight? Why not do as Jesus did? Just tell Him it hurts. Or it's joyous. Or it's praise time. Speak with respect, but don't try to impress Him. "Thinkest that thou shalt be heard by thy much speaking?" (see Matthew 6:7). No way. If you had a need and wanted to approach the person you know loves you more than anyone else in the world, would you take up hours of his time leading up to the real issue, blending words together so it sounded like a speech, or would you grab his hand, look into that person's eyes and tell it like it is?

If you are really close, you wouldn't waste time with meaningless phrases or vain repetitions. You would get right to the point. And if that person already knew why you were hurting, would you explain it all over again? Or would you trust him enough to know that he hasn't lost sight of why you are crying. He just wants to know how he can help.

Learn to pray honestly with God, but learn to pray concisely. I love the sheer openness with God the psalmists had and their way of telling it just like it is.

I cry to the LORD; I call and call to Him. Oh, that He would listen.

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I think of God and moan, overwhelmed with longing for His help.

I cannot sleep until you act. I am too distressed even to pray.

Has the LORD rejected me forever? Will He never again be favorable?

Is His lovingkindness gone forever? Has His promise failed?

Has He forgotten to be kind to one so undeserving? Has He slammed the door in anger on His love?

(Psalm 77:1,3,4,7-9 TLB)

I don't think Asaph was beating around the bush. He felt forsaken, lonely, rejected. He wasn't sure God would ever come to his rescue. So He told it like it was. That's good. Don't dwell on it or justify it, but tell God about it. Yes, He already knows. But as you tell Him, something incredible happens. The load you have been carrying begins to lighten, not necessarily the circumstances. The responsibility for the outcome begins to lighten. *As you tell Him what He already knows, you are, in effect, transferring the burden from your shoulders to His.*

So God knows. He knows your needs. He knows your burdens. He knows your hurts. He knows your fears. God knows. But even though He knows, we are told to ask.

Why? Well, there are at least eight reasons given in Scripture. It is important to memorize these eight reasons lest Satan be successful in his attempt to get you to take prayer lightly, because, as he would whisper to you, "Why spend so much time telling God what He already knows?"

Here are the reasons. They come straight from God's Word. Give the enemy a dose of the Word and send him on his way.

### 1- When we ask, we bring Him glory.

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

(John 14:13,14)

God has told us to ask in Jesus' name. We will be looking at what that means in a later chapter. The issue, however, is that by asking in His name, we bring glory to the Father through the Son. That is, incidentally, why we are alive—to glorify Him. So every time we go to the Father in the name of the Son and pray according to

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His will, He is glorified. He knows what we need before we ask, but our very asking brings Him glory.

### 2- Asking makes us dependent.

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. (John 15:7)

The more dependent we are, the more we are abiding, resting, trusting solely in Him in our day-to-day lives, the more likely we are to be able to ask aright. Asking creates dependence. As we seek answers to our prayers, we must become more and more humble, and more and more dependent, not on our own resources, but on His power and provision and love.

### 3- Asking produces wisdom (the Mind of Christ).

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. (James 1:5)

We will not come to know His will as we ought unless we ask Him to show it to us. He will “open our eyes that we might behold wondrous things out of His law” (Psalm 119:18), but it is predicated on our asking. Which brings about another benefit:

### 4- It produces faith.

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. (James 1:6,7)

The man or woman who learns the process of asking in faith, trusting in God’s sovereignty and love, believing God’s Word implicitly, comes to understand what faith is. It is the process of asking that brings into question whether or not we really believe God is who He says He is and that He’ll do what He says He’ll do. Think about it. Until you ask you are not exercising faith. You’re exercising presumption.

### 5- Asking produces joy.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. (John 16:23b,24)

How does asking produce joy? Because only when we ask, do

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we know for sure that God is responding to His Spirit in us. When we know that, joy fills our hearts and that joy is full and rich and satisfying.

### 6- Asking motivates us to holiness.

Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then we have confidence toward God,

And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. (I John 3:21,22)

Our power in prayer will be commensurate with the purity of our hearts. When we really seek the Lord in prayer, we come to realize the things that have come between us and Him. Obedience and purity give us confidence in prayer. That confidence is bolstered as we ask God for things, *knowing He has heard us because our hearts condemn us not.*

### 7- Asking motivates us to know His will.

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us:

And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

(I John 5:14,15)

This may be one of the most important verses in all of Scripture. We will look at it later in detail, but this passage puts knowing His will as the primary prerequisite for answered prayer. If you pray according to the absolutes of Scripture, *you know God will answer that prayer according to His Word, so you know you have what you asked for.* This is crucial. Yes, He knows what you need. But until you have to ask, you don't know what to ask for. That requires you to search the Word for answers and then to ask according to that Word.

The result of your having to ask, then, is that you need to first find the will of God. So asking is essential for many reasons. Though God knows everything, He also knows that you need to ask.

God knows. That is the ultimate expression of His gentle exhortation in this passage. He is omniscient. But He wants us to ask in order to bring glory to His name, to make us dependent, to produce wisdom in us, to develop our faith, to produce lasting joy, to motivate us to holiness, and to teach us how to discern His will. No wonder He wants us to ask.

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But there is, perhaps, one central issue at the heart of this unusual combination of spiritual principles. *Though He knows the sin in our hearts, unless we ask His forgiveness, and ask immediately, the residue of the sin remains, our fellowship with Him is restricted, and we lose the power we would possess, both in our walk with God and in our ability to pray.*

God knows. He knows the secret thoughts of your heart. Think about these passages:

And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.

And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth.

And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? (Matthew 9:2-4)

And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?

But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts? (Luke 5:21,22)

For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain. (I Corinthians 3:19,20)

Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. (Hebrews 4:13)

God knows the thoughts and intents of your heart. He knows about that anger that is festering in your spirit. He knows about that jealous streak you hide behind your piety. He knows about the lustful daydreams. He knows about the overt sins you have committed that have hampered your fellowship, that no one knows but you. Oh, Beloved, you...and Him. He knows. Unless and until you go to Him in prayer, humble yourself and confess those sins, (*see those sins as Jesus sees them,*) you may steal into the secret place and say a lot of words, but you haven't prayed. Scripture reminds us:

Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

But your iniquities have separated between you and your

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God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.  
(Isaiah 59:1,2)

I wonder if the real problem in our prayer lives does not often stem from the unconfessed sin in our lives. Let's close by looking at that one issue.

First, we do not see sin as God does. We see major transgressions, such as adultery, murder, and blasphemy as sins worthy of ultimate confession. But we overlook the sins that God says are just as grievous; the very sins which, left unchecked, ultimately lead to the ones we fear.

We allow lust to fester, assuming it will never lead to overt moral impurity, but it does. God says so. And in His eyes, it is adultery. God says that, too. We don't see any problem with an angry spirit, but the Bible says it is murder. We see no problem with jealousy, discontentment, fear, or worry, as long as we "have them under control". Nonsense. The Bible says never fear. The Bible says never worry. The Bible says, "don't let the sun go down on your wrath". The Bible says, "Let *nothing* be done through strife or vainglory." The truth is we think that occasional violations are so incidental that they aren't worthy of bothering God. The next time they come to our mind, we'll talk to Him about them.

If we don't confess them *immediately*, four things are likely to happen:

1- We will let them slide, because there has been no immediate discipline; and without consequences, we think God isn't concerned.

2- We will fall prey to the sins which follow those sins. In other words, they will compound themselves. We lust more. We hate more. And that new level becomes the only level we think God might care about. That's a lie.

3- We will simply forget about them. We will go to prayer the next morning and won't even recall those lustful thoughts, that angry response, that bitter spirit we nursed over being wounded.

4- We will try to ask God to forgive us by categories: "Lord, if I was short-tempered yesterday, forgive me." That's not confessing sin; that's trying to buy God off by categorizing sins and assuming you may have slipped, but doesn't everybody? Confession of sin is to be specific. The only way to deal with it and solve all four of these problems is *confess those sins the moment they happen*. If Satan attacks again immediately, *confess them again immediately*. Keep

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the slate clean. Keep the lines open.

Remember, God knows! He knows about every sin you have committed. He isn't standing in heaven with a checklist, waiting to condemn you for them. The blood of Christ has covered them, and the Lord is in heaven, ever living to make intercession for you. But He's waiting for you to confess them; and every time you postpone doing that, you set in motion the series of scenarios we just discussed. They only compound the sin and weaken your spiritual power.

God knows every sin you ever commit. He knows. His heart's desire is to cast them behind His back, never to be remembered anymore. The only thing He asks is that you ask. And asking means more than verbalizing words. It means *confessing*. That is a form of asking that requires a choice. The choice is to see that sin *just as God does*, not as the unbelieving world sees it. Not even as the church sees it, but as God sees it.

Oh, Beloved, learn to practice continual confession. And rather than justifying sin, allowing greater sins to go unchecked tomorrow than you did today, *learn to increase your sensitivity to sin so that the things you accepted today, you simply cannot tolerate tomorrow*. That, Beloved, is Christian growth.

Your Father knows what you have need of before you ask, but you must ask. He knows about every sin we have committed; but before He can do anything about restoring to us the fellowship the sin cost us, we must ask Him to forgive us and cleanse us of all unrighteousness. Don't be deceived. Your Father knows, and the fact that He knows ought to change the way we pray.

### YOUR FATHER KNOWS

Your Father knows, Beloved,  
He knows your every thought.  
He knows when you refuse to heed  
The message you've been taught.

Your Father knows, Beloved,  
Even before you start.  
Before you ever say a word,  
He knows what's in your heart.

Your Father knows your every need;  
He's equal to the task.  
He knows your hurts, your grief, your pain,  
Even before you ask.

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And yes, He knows your failures,  
The wall that's built within,  
That keeps you from rich fellowship.  
He knows your every sin.

But think about it, Christian:  
No more prayer-ific shows.  
We can just be real with Him  
Praise God! Our Father knows.

Let's pray,

*Father,*

*What a relief to be reminded that You know everything. We don't catch You off guard. You're not asleep. He that keepeth Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps. You never forget our needs. Even before we ask, You're rushing to meet those needs; but we have to ask. It glorifies You, it deepens our faith, it produces joy, it honors Your name. And only when we ask do we receive the forgiveness we need to be cleansed and purified and made whole.*

*Satan sells us a lie, Father, and says that if we can put off confessing our sins and just gather them up at one time with the ones we can remember, we then can toss them at You and everything will be okay.*

*But Your heart's desire, Father, is that we see sin as You see it, which means we can't live with it at all. So the minute it happens we have to confess it. Our hearts are broken because we've grieved You. Unless we come to that realization, Father, perhaps, we'll never understand what prayer is all about. Because like those Baal worshipers of I Kings 18, we'll be shouting, but our sins will have separated us from a loving God who wants to hear us.*

*By Your grace may we learn this morning from this lesson that our Father knows.*

*Amen.*

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