

PRAYING *the*  
ATTRIBUTES  
*of* GOD



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*A Guide  
to Personal  
Worship  
Through  
Prayer*

Rosemary Jensen

*Praying the Attributes of God: A Guide to Personal Worship  
Through Prayer*

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# FOREWORD

It is possible for even Christians to take for granted the presence and greatness of God. We are often beset by distractions, with our work and with the demands of life. Indeed, such are our preoccupations that it is possible to attend worship services, sing the songs, hear the sermons, and leave, still unmindful of the greatness and grace of God.

But Christ summons us to live a God-centered and God-focused life. This is not a burden that weighs us down and bends our backs. Quite the reverse. Nothing is so liberating as the knowledge of God. It liberates us from the incessant tyranny of our own selves, from the captivity to the follies that assault us in the workplace, in the movies, and on television, demanding that we fall into line if we are to be regarded as “normal.” It liberates us to find the original purpose of our creation, to see beyond what is immediate, urgent, and pressing to what is actually important and enduring. It is this knowledge that gives to life depth, integrity, direction, and stability amidst all of the storms and catastrophes.

I, therefore, welcome Rosemary Jensen’s book because it is a useful guide in helping us to think about God, to seek after him in prayer, and to nurture in our lives the spiritual priorities that should result because of who God is. It is in thinking about him in his greatness, in the full array of his attributes, that our minds are enlarged, our lives are reoriented, and our thirst for him is deepened.

The psalmist, who knew so much less than we know about God’s disclosure of himself in Scripture, nevertheless likened

FOREWORD

the longing of his soul for God to that of the deer who “pants for flowing streams” (Ps. 42:1). May our thirsting for God be like that!

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# INTRODUCTION

How can anyone write a book about the very character of God? The truth is, I didn't start out to write a book at all. It just happened.

When, at age sixteen, I came to faith in Christ, God put into my heart the desire to teach others about him. At seventeen I knew I wanted to teach others in the foreign mission field. I didn't know enough about God, however, to teach anybody! But I did know that the Bible is the source of knowledge about God.

So I began a program of daily Bible reading that has persisted throughout my life.

That habit only heightened my desire to know God more fully. John 17:3 says that eternal life consists of knowing God and his Son Jesus Christ. So I set a goal to read through the entire Bible and write out the verses that exemplify or explain God's attributes. As the list of attributes grew, I decided to stop at thirty-one and focus on one attribute a day as I worshiped God for a month.

I spent more than three years reading and writing the verses. Going over the verses month after month, I learned much about God—knowledge that I could pass on to others. As Executive Director of Bible Study Fellowship (BSF), I shared these verses with the staff and leadership and was encouraged by their response.

But more importantly, my knowledge of God led me to praise and give thanks each day as, through the actual words of Scripture, I meditated on his specific attributes. As I concentrated on God himself, the Holy Spirit led my prayers of petition to be more

God-centered. And I prayed that others would benefit from knowing God in these specific ways.

The format of *Praying the Attributes of God* is that of the acrostic ACTS (adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication), and I believe its primary value lies in personal devotions. It would also be good to use as an annual prayer diary. This is not a how-to book. It is designed so that the words from Scripture sink into your mind and then into your heart. The Holy Spirit will then lead you into the action he wants you, as an individual, to take.

At present this material is being used by many BSF students throughout the world and in ten countries in Africa where the Rafiki Foundation has seminary students. This new edition is using the English Standard Version in order to accommodate the readers in Africa. It has also been translated into Spanish.

All proceeds from the sale of this book go to the Rafiki Foundation.<sup>1</sup>

I am grateful to my family and the staff of Rafiki and BSF for their encouragement. In particular, I thank Mary Ann Oatis, a BSF teaching leader who insisted that this book be published—and went to the trouble to see that it was.

The book is dedicated to my husband, Bob, who went home to be with the Lord on December 5, 2014. He encouraged me for sixty years to fulfill God's calling and provided me with his love and support in doing so.

My prayer for you, the reader, is that, as you use this book, you too will be filled with the love of God and the knowledge of his fullness.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information, write The Rafiki Foundation, 23315 CR 44a, Eustis, FL 32736.

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# ACCESSIBLE

## *Adoration*

Deuteronomy 4:7: For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is to us, whenever we call upon him?

Psalm 27:4: One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: 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 inquire in his temple.

Matthew 6:6: But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

John 14:6: Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Ephesians 2:13: But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Hebrews 4:16: Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 7:25: Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 10:22: Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

James 4:8: Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

### *Confession*

Lord, I have not taken full advantage of the access that you have given me to you. Please forgive me for not praying often enough, for not looking to you for everything, for not even wanting to come to you when you have made yourself available every moment of the day. I have been negligent and am truly sorry and repent.

### *Thanksgiving*

Thank you for being accessible.

Thank you that you are near whenever I pray (Deut. 4:7).

Thank you that the one thing I should seek is to be close to you, to gaze at your beauty, to worship you, and to fellowship with you (Ps. 27:4).

Thank you that when I go in my room and close the door and pray, you will reward me (Matt. 6:6).

Thank you that I know that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, and that I can come to you through him (John 14:6).

Thank you that although I was once far away, now I have been brought near to you through the blood of Christ (Eph. 2:13).

Thank you that I can approach you with confidence and receive mercy and find grace to help me in my need (Heb. 4:16).

Thank you that you save me completely because Jesus intercedes for me (Heb. 7:25).

Thank you that I can draw near to you when my heart is sincere and I come in faith (Heb. 10:22).

Thank you that when I come near to you, you will come near to me (James 4:8).





