



Wednesday Prayer

Transfiguration Sunday – What might happen when I pray?

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white.

**Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!”
Luke 9:28-29, 35**

You just don't know what might happen when you pray. In Luke's story of the Transfiguration, unlike the accounts in Matthew and Mark, the action starts with Jesus and three of the disciples going up the mountain to pray. God's revelation of the divinity of Jesus not only comes as the result of prayer, but also comes with a directive to the disciples to listen and to follow Jesus.

Clearly prayer is much more than verbalizing our wish list to God, which is often the way it's portrayed in our culture. God knows our hearts' desires without our submission of a laundry list. When we pray "in Jesus' name", we should be challenged by the transfiguration story to a higher purpose than uttering our wishes to God. When we pray, we open ourselves up to participating in the transforming power of God in our world. When we listen to Jesus, as the voice of God directs in this passage, and follow in his ways, we are the ones transformed so that our words and actions toward others bring the dazzling light of God into the world.

Prayer is one of the foundations of the primary prevention model of Cherish All Children. As we pray for the children and youth in our communities and congregations, let's be mindful of the Transfiguration of our Lord. Let's allow the transformation of our hearts and hands and minds and voices to shine God's light into the dark corners of our world as we support and advocate for those at risk and in the grips of sex trafficking. Pray daily, pray fervently, pray with openness to God's redeeming power, because you just don't know what might happen when you pray.

Holy God, you are beyond our human ability to know and understand, yet we see your glory in the face of Christ. Transform us into the likeness of Christ in all that we say and do so the world, and especially those held in the darkness of exploitation and trafficking, can see hope in the dazzling light that comes only from you. Amen.

Next Wednesday begins the Lenten season. Share our [Lenten Prayer Series](#) with your church leaders and others so we may keep all children and those who care for children in our prayers.

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