

## **GETTING TO KNOW GOD BETTER:**

Here Jesus tells us how to Pray to God the Father. Pray secretly in a private Place and when you finish, be quiet and listen for the Father's response!

### **Matt 6:8**

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

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

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

### **WE SHOULD BE AS STRANGERS HERE ON EARTH:**

As our Forefathers did, we need to become as “Strangers” (guests) and “Pilgrims” while here on Earth. Therefore, do not get caught up in the things of this World, but desire a more Heavenly Place. (1 Peter 2:11-12)

### **Heb 11:13 & 16**

**13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were Strangers (guests) and pilgrims (aliens and/or resident foreigners) on the earth.**

**16 But now they desire a better (nobler) country, that is, an Heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be Called their God:...**

### **WE ARE A CHOSEN GENERATION:**

We are a Chosen Generation, a Royal Priesthood, and a Holy Nation! Therefore, let us show forth our Praises of Father God through Jesus His Son, who Saved us from “Darkness” and brought us into His light!

### **1 Peter 2:9**

**9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar (purchased) people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath Called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:**

**Eph 2:12 (1 Cor 1:23-24 1 Cor 12:13 Gal 3:27-29)**

**12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens (separated) from the commonwealth (citizenship) of Israel, and Strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:**

### **IN CONCLUSION: PRAISE THE LORD!**

Now through Jesus Christ, we have access to God the Father by the Holy Spirit and we need be “Strangers” no more! (John 14:17)

### **Eph 2:18-19**

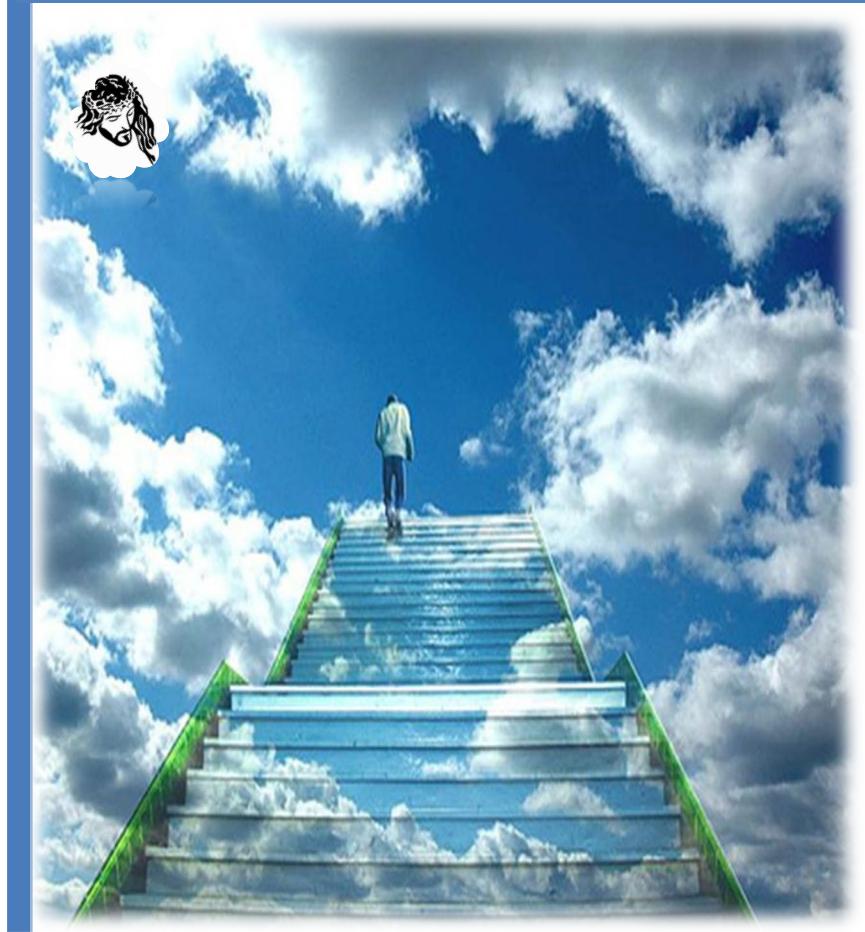
**18 For through him (Jesus) we both have access by one (the Holy Spirit unto the Father.**

**19 Now therefore ye are no more Strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens (fellow Christians) with the Saints, and of the household (Family) of God;**

**AMEN!**

**TIMOTHY II**

# **A STRANGER IN PARADISE!**



**I saw your face and I ascended!**

## A STRANGER IN PARADISE:

Some of you may recall a Song that was titled “A Stranger in Paradise”. It was sung by a very popular singer Tony Bennett, and written by Henry Binns & Osmond Wright. This Song was about a “Stranger” who was lost in a wonderland known as “Paradise”. As the “Stranger” looked up, he saw the face of an Angel, and he began to ascend upward. He then asked the Angel to answer his fervent prayer and not to send him into dark despair (which is a place devoid of light and with no hope). He then asked if he would open up his Angel’s arms and tell him that he need be a “Stranger” no more!

The words of this Song brings into mind that although most Christians believe that they will enter into Heaven (“Paradise”) when they pass on through death, or through the Translation of the Church; they seldom spend time thinking about it. The results of this may well be that when they do enter into Heaven (“Paradise”) they will find themselves in unfamiliar surroundings as well as a lack of familiarity with God the Father.

After over 30 years in Ministry, I was recently close to death in a hospital. At that time I felt God the Father speak to me and say that He was pleased with the Ministry work I was doing, but He was not pleased with my personal relationship with Him. Thus, God the Father revealed to me that no matter how much we accomplish here on earth, if we do not spend more time with Him and getting to know Him more personally, we could end up as “A Stranger in Paradise”!

As Christians, this Tract is a reminder from God the Father that He would like you to get to know Him better. You can start by Praying the Lord’s Prayer. (Matt 6:9-13) Also, when you Pray, be sure to wait and listen to what God Himself has to say! If you are in Ministry, don’t get so busy doing the Ministry, that you forget why or who you are doing it for! Remember; always keep your heart, mind and soul on Him!

The following are some of the Scriptures that relate to these concepts:

### WHAT IS A STRANGER? (The Dictionary States:)

1. One who is Strange such as a foreigner. 2. One in the house of another as a guest, visitor, or intruder. 3. A person or thing that is unknown or with whom one is unacquainted. 4. One who does not belong to or is kept from the activities of a group. 5. One not privy or party to an act, contract, or title. 6. One ignorant of or unacquainted with someone or something!

### CAN A STRANGER GO TO HEAVEN?

Being a “Stranger” in this Tract does not mean that you are not Saved. What it does mean is if you are not prepared, you may be surprised much like a “Stranger” when you arrive in Heaven. Since these things are revealed by the Spirit of God why not ask Him to reveal them to you now? (1 Cor 2:9-12)

### SALVATION AND WORKS:

We are Saved through Faith and not by Works; but our Works are proof of our Righteousness and Salvation! However, do not let your Works interfere with your time with the Lord! (Eph 2:8-9)

### James 2:24

**24 Ye see then how that by works** (deeds or acts) **a man is justified** (shown or regarded as just, innocent and righteous), **and not by faith only.**

### James 2:26

**26 For as the body without the spirit is dead** (a corpse), **so faith without works** (deeds or acts) **is dead** (a corpse) **also.**

Therefore, if our Works are not approved by God they are a waste of time!

### 1 Cor 3:13-15

**13 Every man's** (and woman's) **work** (deeds or acts) **shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire;** and the fire shall try (test) **every man's work of what sort** (manner) **it is.** **14 If any man's** (person's) **work abide** (endures or remains) **which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.**

**15 If any man's work shall be burned** (wholly consumed), **he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved** (delivered, protected); **yet so as by fire.**

Judgment will begin at the House of God so we need to get ready; and since the Righteous are scarcely Saved (Not easily Saved). Beware, time is short!

### 1 Peter 4:17-18

**17 ...Judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?**

**18 And if the righteous scarcely** (with difficulty or hardly) **be saved, where shall the ungodly** (irreverent, wicked) **and the sinner appear?**

### THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST:

As Christians we will all appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ. When we do, we will receive the things we have done in our bodies both good and bad! The bad could be from a poor relationship with God the Father. (Rom 14:10)

### 2 Cor 5:10

**10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good** (of benefit) **or bad** (flawed, an imperfection, or weakness).

### 2 Cor 5:8-9

**8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present** (to be at home) **with the Lord.**

**9 Wherefore we labour** (are eager to emulate), **that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted** (fully agreeable and well pleasing) **of him.**

### THE INTRUDERS:

Although this Tract is mainly for Christians, there are some that may think they are Saved, but are not! These people will not appear at the Judgment Seat of Christ, but will be cast into “Outer Darkness”! Read!

**Matt 8:11-12** (The Unbelieving Jews)

**Matt 22:11-13** (No Wedding Garment)

**Matt 25:24, 25, 30** (The Unprofitable Servant)

## **A STRANGER IN PARADISE**

Take my hand I'm a stranger in Paradise

All lost in a wonderland

A stranger in Paradise

If I stand starry-eyed

That's a danger in Paradise

I saw your face and I ascended

For mortals who stand beside an angel like you

Out of the commonplace into the rare

Somewhere in space I hang suspended

Until I know there's a chance that you care

Won't you answer this fervent prayer

Of a stranger in Paradise?

Don't send me in dark despair

From all that I hunger for

But open your angel's arms

To the stranger in Paradise

And tell him that we need be

A stranger no more

### **SONGWRITERS**

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