

# O Lord

O Lord, I want to praise You for who You are. But I can only tell who You are as it is reflected in what You do. I am only human and my mind is so limited. I don't know what it means when I read that You are omnipotent. I can only know in part when I see how your power has been used. The creation of the sun, the moon, the earth and stars were the result of Your great power. The law of the conservation of energy states that energy can neither be created nor destroyed. That being true, all of the energy that exists must have been created by you in six days. And the universe has been running on that power for thousands, and maybe millions of years. that is power!!! And it must have all come from You. Is there any doubt that You have the power to grant my puny request ?

You O Lord, are a God of mercy. Oh how merciful You were before the flood not to destroy the world. All of the people deserved to be destroyed. Even Noah did not deserve your mercy. How merciful You are to me!!! How I deserve death and condemnation! But You, O Lord, extend Your mercy to me. Oh how merciful You are to me! Could anyone stand except for Your great mercy? The best among us falls far short of Your standards. You, O Lord, are a God of mercy and Your mercy is shown in Your Great grace.

All of the favor that You pour out on me, even though I deserve Your wrath. Who can say of You , "God has cheated me"? Or who can say ; "I don't deserve this trouble or this sickness"? The truth is that we deserve only condemnation, but for God's great grace.

How long suffering You are O Lord. I would give up on me if I were in Your place. But you never have. You work on my

heart just as if there was some chance that I could ever live as You would have me to live. You pick me up time after time and yet I stumble over the same things again and again but you are always there. Why don't You give up on me? I would if I were in your place. But You oh Lord, are long suffering.

Thank You for the hard times, O Lord. For in them I have learned more about You and more about myself. I learned that You are always there to comfort, uphold, and direct me in the hard times as well as in the good. I also learned that I run to You, and not from You in times of trouble. The man who runs from You in the time of trouble is like the man who throws away his life jacket when the ship sinks. It makes no sense! Who is like You, O Lord? You give direction to the lost, strength to the weak, health to the sick, comfort to the distressed, and deliverance to the captive. Only a fool would turn his back on You and forsake You!

Why do You care for me O Lord? Certainly it is not a reflection of my worthiness but rather a reflection of Your great love. You chose to love me even though I didn't love You. You chose to love me even when I hated You. You chose to love me when I was a reprobate. I am no better than the lowest of sinners, I just sin in different ways. Who can hold to your standards unless you hold him? Is there any good in me that You have not put there? Is there any evil in me that I have not chosen to keep there? You, O Lord, offer me a great exchange program. You said; "Come to Me if you labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest". You offer to give me rest for my labor, peace for my turmoil, contentment for my agitation, love for my hatred, health for my sickness, rest for my weariness, and for my loneliness You said; "I will never leave you nor forsake you". All You ask is that I give You my "gift" first. I must first give You my burden and then You give me Your rest. Why, O Lord, do I hang on so tightly to the garbage in my life? You have offered treasure in exchange for it.

Why do I hang on so tightly as it rots and grows maggots when You are anxious to exchange it for jewels? Jewels that never fade or lose their value but grow only more valuable each passing day.

What does it mean, O Lord, when I read that You are omniscient? I understand that it means that You are "all knowing", but what does that mean? Surely there is no way to compare Your knowledge to ours. Even if we said that Your knowledge compared to ours is like our knowledge compared to that of an earthworm, surely we would be flattering ourselves. Oh the foolishness of those who stand in judgment of you! Those who say ;"God did this wrong", or" He should have done that" I am amazed at their arrogance and their foolishness. And yet, I myself have asked, "why" on many occasions. I have some times asked; "why have you allowed this thing to happen?" And to what purpose do I ask if not to see if Your actions meet with my approval? Am I any less foolish than the fool I have just described? Oh how deceitful is my heart! How I need Your Holy Spirit to guard my attitude.

I am like a slender vine clinging to a lattice. Your Holy Spirit is the lattice. If it is removed I would fall flat on the ground and be trampled beneath the feet of men. You, O Lord, are the one who makes me to stand. O Lord, Take not your Holy Spirit from me.

By Paul Ziegler