



OPENING PRAYER



Glorious God, Kind Father,

We confess that we often fail to see your glances. We can easily miss your gentle whispers. Unstop our ears so we may hear you; open the eyes of our hearts that we may see you. Give us the courage to follow you each day we live. We confess that often as we pray, nothing seems to happen. Yet, we know that as we remain in conversation with you, you do more than we can ever think or ask. We do ask that you do a new work in us, making us a part of your new creation, bringing us into your Kingdom.

God, remind us that you are present not merely in those times when we sense your presence. Help us to know you are present even in times when we fear you are absent. You are present always. No where can we go where you are not there. You are the God who comes near. You are the God who gives us breath. You are the God who is closer than our next breath. You are the God, in whom we live, and move, and have our being. You provide the rhythm of life in our inner most spirit. When we are out of sorts, bring us into harmony with your purposes and will. We invite you as did the psalmist: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

We accept your invitation, beloved Jesus, to come and learn from you and find rest in our souls. We come to learn and to lean. We come to love and to be loved. Jesus, may we truly discover you in life. Lord Jesus, we come! Amen.

"JESUS IN LIFE" Opening prayer written by: Pastor Bob Casady