

## **INTRODUCING PSALMS: THE BIBLE'S PRAYER BOOK**

Hebrews 4:16; Psalm 145:18; Romans 8:15-16; Galatians 4:4-6

### **HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO THE TRUTH THAT GOD IS WITH YOU?**

Eric Pickersgill's candid: <https://www.businessinsider.com/removed-photo-project-eric-pickersgill-2016-5>

Psalm 145:18 *"The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth."*

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."*

John 15:4 *"Abide in me, and I in you."*

### **AMERICA: AMONG THE HARDEST PLACES TO PRAY**

### **AS CHILDREN OF GOD, WE NATURALLY LONG TO COMMUNE WITH GOD**

Romans 8:15-16 *"The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." <sup>16</sup>The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."*

Galatians 4:4-6 *"But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. <sup>6</sup> Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir."*

### **UNDERSTANDING PRAYER AS A TOOL MADE UP OF WORDS**

*"Animals get by without tools, and angels get by without tools, but humans need tools. We live well or badly by means of the tools we have and how well we use them. Prayers are tools, but with this clarification: prayers are not tools for doing or getting, but for being and becoming. At the center of the whole enterprise of being human, prayers are the primary technology. Prayers are tools that God uses to work his will in our bodies and souls. Prayers are tools that we use to collaborate in his work with us." —Eugene Peterson*

### **THE PRAYER BOOK OF THE BIBLE: THE PSALMS**

*"Most Scripture speaks to us; the Psalms speak for us." —Athanasius (4<sup>th</sup> century)*