

Be Merciful

Oh Lord, my God, again today I ask that You would **be merciful to me, the foremost of sinners**. I praise and I worship You, Lord, that **You have already been so merciful to me** that—**before the foundation of the world**—You chose me in Your Son, my Lord Jesus Christ, to be adopted as a son into Your family and to secure my place in His coming Millennial Kingdom. I praise and I worship You for **delivering me from the domain of darkness and transferring me to His Kingdom—by drawing and leading me to trust in Him as my Savior**—so that **now I am united to Him and forgiven of all my sin**. Oh Lord, I thank You for revealing to me so clearly that **I need Your mercy EVERY SINGLE DAY of my life**—and so, Lord, **I ask for that mercy again** as I step into this new day which You have now given to me.

Untying and Raising the Sails



Heavenly Father, I'm so **deeply grateful** for another day of life. I **love** You, and I **thank** You for **saving me**.

Father, I know ... as I wake up today ... that **I battle with sin** every single day of my life – and so I am asking again, Lord, for You to **forgive me** for all my failures.

And **Lord Jesus**, if there is anything that is going to hold me back from **following You** – and from **listening to You** today – I'm so sorry, **Lord**, and as You bring it to my mind ... I now commit myself to **confessing it immediately**. But amidst everything **I cling to Your grace – to You, Jesus** – asking that You **forgive me** when I fall short through my failures and sin.

Lord, with a heart of repentant confession I recall yesterday's sins of _____ and I submit again my entire life to You today.



And now, **Holy Spirit**, I ask You to **fill me** and to **empower me** for this new day. May I be **sensitive to Your leading** today – may I **listen to Your whisper** – may **I do what I should do**.

I submit myself to Your guidance today.

And I ask You to **protect me** from the evil one ... **protect me** from the temptations of this world.

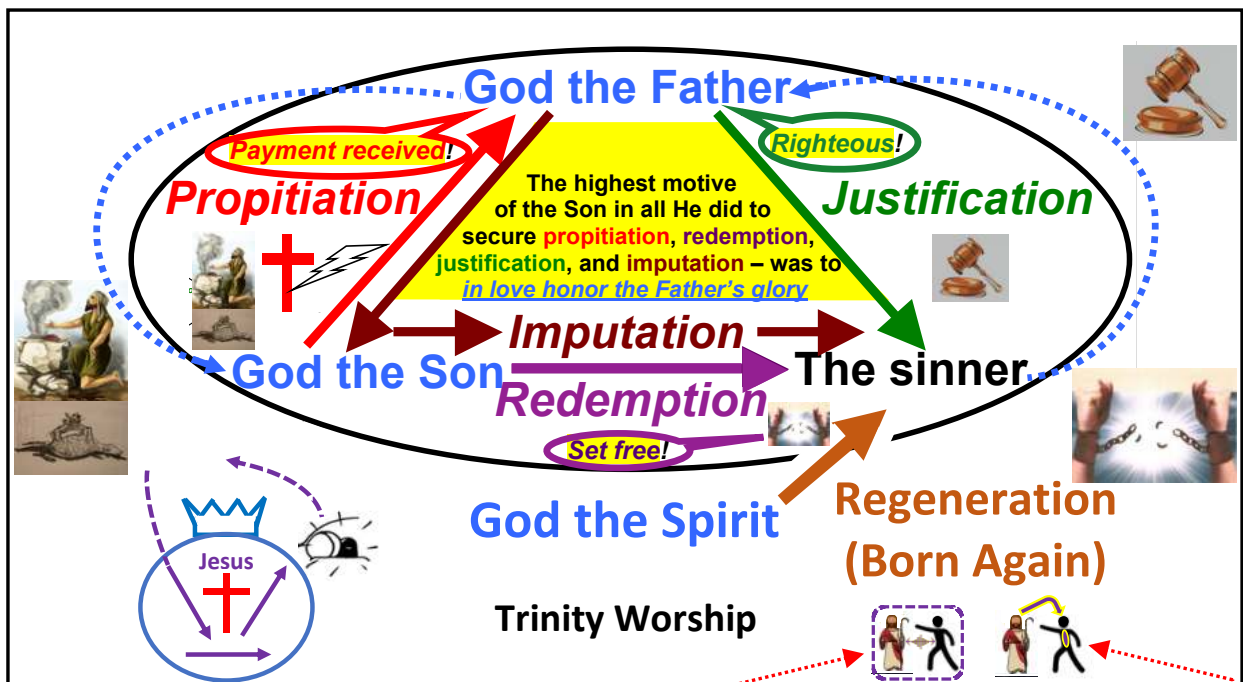


May I be a **shining light** to others **of You** ... and **for You**.

I love You ... and I thank You,
my **Great Triune God – Father, Son, and Spirit**.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV personalized)
For my sake You—God the Father—
made my Lord Jesus
to be sin who knew no sin,
so that in Him—I, Dan Smythe—
might become the righteousness of God.

2 Peter 3:18a (ESV personalized)
For Christ also suffered
once for sins,
the righteous for the unrighteous
—for me, Dan Smythe—
that He might bring me to God.



Heavenly Father, who so graciously united me to Your Son through my God-given faith in Him—thereby **imputing** His righteousness to my sinful life so that I might be **justified** before You, **I pray that in this new day I will live joyfully and honorably in Your presence—and please You more and more.**

Lord Jesus, who so graciously came from the Father and **LIVED A SINLESS LIFE** on my behalf ... **for my justification**— and **DIED A SACRIFICIAL DEATH** on my behalf —**propitiating** the Father's holy wrath against my sin— ... **for my redemption**—which He confirmed by Your resurrection—**I pray that in this new day I will take up my cross and follow You as my King.**

And **Holy Spirit, who so graciously regenerated** my dead spirit and stone-hard heart **back to life so that I could then engage my God-given faith in Jesus** and be brought **into eternal life, I pray that in this new day You will fill me with Yourself—and cause Your fruit—which my Lord Jesus displays in eternal perfection—to ripen in my life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.**

Colossians 2:6–7 (NIV1984)
⁶ **So then, Dan—**
just as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live in Him,
⁷ **rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.**



Colossians 3:1–4 (NIV1984)
¹ **Since, then, Dan—**
you have been raised with Christ, set your heart on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.
² **Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things.**
³ **For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.**
⁴ **When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.**

Spirit-Filling for Love

Father, **thank You for Your grace** that has preserved my life to this moment. I ask that You now give me **all of the love** that I need for this day—an abiding awareness of **love from You** (so I'm not living in fear or out of drivenness), a welling up of **love for You** (so I'm not proud or selfish), and a resulting **love for others** (so I'm not cold or distracted—but sensitive to their needs). **Fill me with Your Spirit** again today and have Him **illumine my mind** and **enlarge my heart** for all of these relationships. **My desire** throughout this day is that I would **walk in the Spirit—keep in step with the Spirit**—and **avoid in any way grieving the Spirit**. Toward that end, prepare me for this new day by **opening my eyes to the preciousness of Your Word**—and **feed my heart, soul, mind, and spirit with its glorious truth**. And because **perseverance**—and not merely '**starting the journey**'—is crucial to the life of faith, I ask that You would continue to **fuel my life by Your grace** until You have led me into **my eternal-full-communion with Your Son, Jesus Christ, my Lord—who is Himself the very source of Your grace to my life**—so that **I may see His beautiful and great glory**. **Open my eyes also** to the ways in which—through Your providential leading—You are going to bring into my experience today **those whom You are specifically putting before me** so that in some way **I might point them to Your Son**—as well as **those whom You are putting before me** so that **they might point me to Jesus**. Give me eyes to see this.

Lord, here at the start of my day I express to You—once again—that **I exist to spread a passion for Your supremacy in all things—for the joy of all peoples, through Jesus Christ**. With that in focus, Lord, I remind myself again that **my desire**, therefore, is that **Christ would increase** in my life today—and that (as John the Baptist's did in John 3:30)—**my ministry with people would decrease—not in the sense that I would have less of an influence in awakening a passion for Your supremacy in Christ**. To the contrary, **I want to have an even greater influence in doing that**. But **I do ask You to enable me to magnify Christ** in such a way that—as **by Your empowerment I serve others—He alone would be the focus**, and never me as the one serving. **Help me, Lord, to delight in Christ more and more** so that **my joy** would be **in seeing Him adored and magnified**—and not in '**being made much of**' myself because of any way in which You may **graciously** choose to use me to lift Him up before others. Lord, **protect me** from **the insidious self-deception** that would assume that I was 'loving You'—when **actually** what I was loving was **being told by others that in their view**—I was 'loving You.' Forbid, Lord, that **my being thanked or appreciated** would ever become in my life the bottom of **my joy!** Rather, may the bottom of **my joy only be rooted** in how **Christ is being praised**—and then **through Him—MY GREAT GOD, Father, Son, and Spirit—One God—Three-in-One**.

GOD IS MOST GLORIFIED IN ME ... WHEN I AM MOST SATISFIED IN HIM!

And Lord—just as last night I laid down to sleep and rose again this morning only by **Your sustaining grace**—keep me in a **joyful and steady and deep awareness** that **whatever happens today**, I will someday know my final rising—**the pre-tribulation rapture when 'the dead in Christ will rise first and then those who are alive'**—because **Jesus Christ laid down in death for me, and rose for my justification. In His name I pray**—and **now enter into my meditation upon His precious and faith-building Psalms**. Amen.