Matthew 6:5-8 (NRSV)

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

















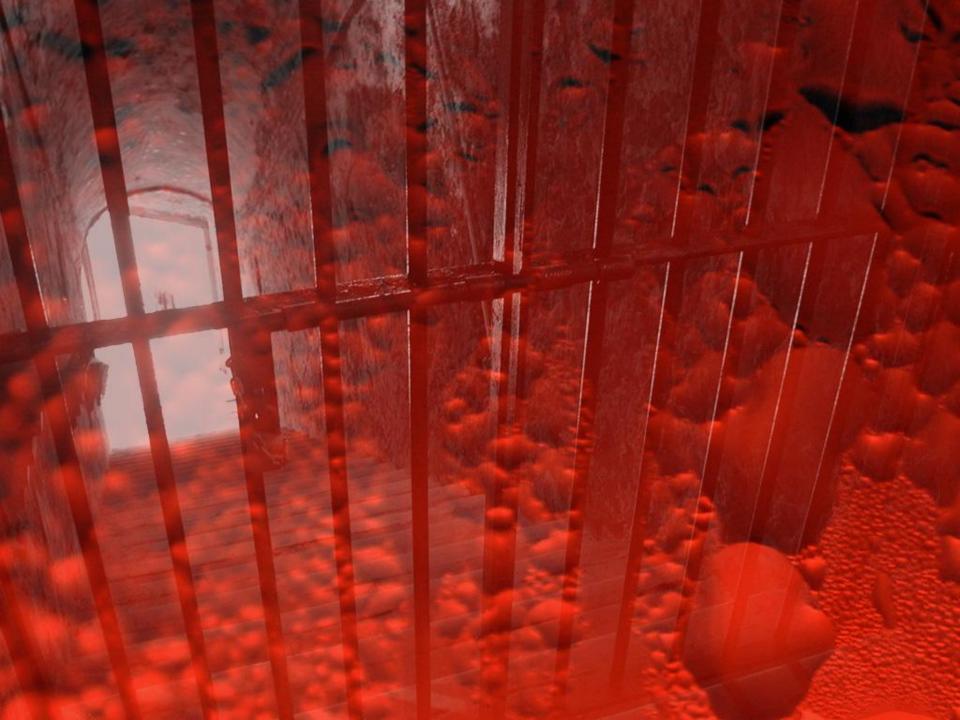
















And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us: The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him; His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure, One little word shall fell him.









Our Gracious Daddy, whose throne is in heaven, though you dwell among us in glory and honor and the praise I offer; though my offering falls often short of what you deserve; thou my life seldom reflects your calling. Lord, so let your glory and grace fall upon us that your will and not ours is complete; that your love and not ours is shared; that you, not us are glorified; may our hunger and thirst be only to know you better;

fill us with your word that we may be strengthened; may our cravings be for communion with you. Lord, though we stumble and sometimes fall, pick us up, show us the error of our past, and gently heal our wounds. As we seek your forgiveness, let us also offer the same to those around us. Help us keep our eyes on you, our focus on your call, that our vision not be clouded by this world. Glory and honor to your name, for you are eternal. Amen