



June 2024

Dear Christian friends,

Greetings to you all in the Name of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

Debi and I will be taking off after church on June 9th for the Land of 10,000 Lakes. We'll be gone for three weeks or so, spending time with family and friends. Special events will include high school graduation for our grandson Steven Griffin Dimmel, high school graduation for our granddaughter Grace Jean Erickson, and a 50th wedding anniversary celebration for Debi and me.

We were married at Graebner Memorial Chapel, Concordia College, St. Paul, May 25th, 1974. Together we read from the Love Chapter, I Corinthians 13:

**4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; [b] 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
8 Love never ends.**

This passage reminds us of how beautiful our life together is when we receive, enjoy, and live in God's love. God's love for us is patient and kind and does not keep a record of wrongs. Here are four additional prayers I wrote with grandchildren in mind:

Prayer For a Gentle Spirit

Gracious God, today I pray for Glory Rose and all those young ladies out in the real world who have gentle spirits. Send Your angels to be with them, Lord, that they could live lives full of peace and quietness. Bless them with a good family life and loyal friends who will go through the ups and downs of life with them. Help them not only to survive the storms of life, but to be a source of strength and steadiness to others. Give them wisdom from on high, that their faith would be strong and growing, that their cheerfulness would be contagious, and their gentle spirits would be trees of life. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

A Prayer for God's Spirit to be Their Teacher

Dear Father in heaven, You know better than any of us the ups and downs of life, as Your beloved children make all kinds of bad decisions and stray from Your good and gracious will for

our lives. Today, I pray for the moms and dads who are in the midst of raising up their children, that You would help them to keep the big picture in mind, that they would never forget “the one thing needful,” and that You would help them to know when to be when to be proactive with their discipline, and when to let sons and daughters learn the lessons of life by trial and error.

Dear Jesus, You learned obedience to Your Father through suffering - all the way to death upon the cross. Help our children and grandchildren learn humility in their days of trouble and grace in their days of success.

Holy Spirit, help parents and children rest in Your promises through all the ups and downs of life. Be their Teacher in times of confusion, their Counselor in times of difficult decisions, and their Encourager in days of sadness. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.

A Prayer for Spiritual Endurance

Gracious God, today I pray for our grandchildren who have been baptized into the Name of the Father and Son and Holy Spirit and brought up to know You, Jesus, as Savior and Lord. Each one of them must fight their own fights and run their own races. With that in mind, Lord, I pray that Your Holy Spirit would work in their hearts a strong and resilient faith. I pray that they could hold onto and treasure Your promises of grace and mercy they have been taught from their mother’s knees. I pray that You would work through the trials and troubles they face and that their faith would be tested and refined as the years go on. Help them not to grow weary and to always know that You are with them, for them, and alongside them. Permit whatever You need to permit and do whatever You need to do in their lives to hold them close to You and Your Word. May they always see the local fellowship of believers and Your written Word as sources of refuge and strength. Help them to be faithful to You throughout all the seasons of life, that they might eventually be welcomed into Your presence for time and eternity. In Jesus’ strong Name. Amen.

A Prayer for Inward Confidence

Gracious God, today I pray for Payton, Jaxon, Treyson, and all our grandchildren, that they will learn and never forget the beauty of leading a disciplined life.

I pray that You would develop in them an inward confidence that is rooted in their God-given identity. Help them to be bold leaders in their circles of friends. Help them to always know how deep and how wide and how long is Your love for them. Help them to rest in knowing that You, Jesus, are with them always, that You are for them, You are out in front of them, You are alongside them, and You are behind them to help pick up the pieces when they fall.

Holy Spirit, be their Counselor, their Teacher, their Guide, and their Helper in all the seasons of life. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.

Together in Christ,

Pastor Larry J. Griffin