

~ Flames of Faith Ascending Prayers ~



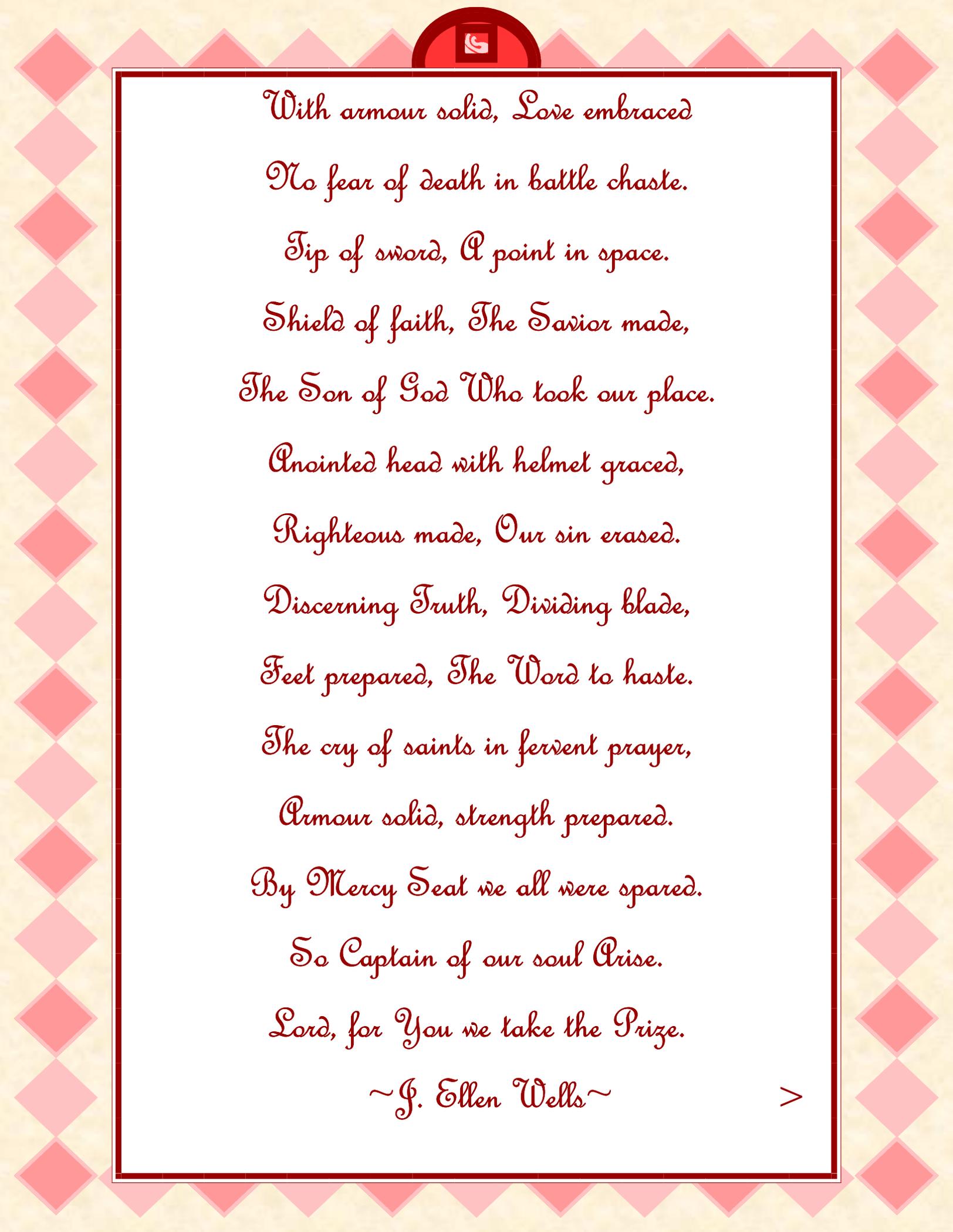
January 30, 2014

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are called to be servants of God according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledging of the truth, which is after godliness; In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began. This is the opening statement by the Holy Spirit in the Book of Titus (verse 1-2). It is an admonition from our Lord. First of all, He tells you that you are called, called to be a servant of God and this is according to faith. And not just any faith. It is according to the faith of God's elect. >

So we are servants of God according to the faith but also according to the acknowledging of the truth. And the acknowledging of the truth is after godliness; and we do this because of the hope we have of eternal life which is what God promised before the world began.

The Greek word for “acknowledging” found in Titus means to be fully acquainted with, by recognition and discernment of the truth. Titus 2:11-13 tells us that the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us to “deny” ungodliness and worldly lusts, and that we should live soberly in this present world: Looking for that blessed hope, and appearing of our Great God and Saviour Jesus Christ.

I will not cease to remind you as the Lord has commanded me to do. It is according to His mercy that He has saved us. Acknowledge Him in all your ways and He will direct your path. ~ Jewells ~ >



With armour solid, Love embraced
No fear of death in battle chaste.
Tip of sword, A point in space.
Shield of faith, The Savior made,
The Son of God Who took our place.
Anointed head with helmet graced,
Righteous made, Our sin erased.
Discerning Truth, Dividing blade,
Feet prepared, The Word to haste.
The cry of saints in fervent prayer,
Armour solid, strength prepared.
By Mercy Seat we all were spared.
So Captain of our soul Arise.
Lord, for You we take the Prize.

~ J. Ellen Wells ~

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The
Gardener's
Heir



J.E. Wells

Chapter Five
Preventing Heir Pollution

When I began to sift through the collection of pages, notes, and reflective revelations from the Holy Spirit, I thought I knew where this composition was going to take us. But as I look back I am amazed at the diversity of God's word. This is especially true when He changes the path and the assembly of these thought-provoking scriptures. Yes, I am laughing again because He is teaching me while I am teaching you. It is an incredible experience and I love Him even more for it.

We are going to shift for a little while and talk about the enemy. He has been around a long time. He has seen countless generations pass through the eons of time on this earth. I would call it a time of learning what works and what doesn't work. All one has to do is flip through the pages of time and look at the detailed history of mankind to see the havoc that this twisted serpentine creature has wrought upon the earth. The greatest wonder in the midst of all his endeavors is that he is the ultimate failure. When you see the destruction you might not think he has failed but upon greater observation we discover that the Accuser of the Brethren has never been able to fulfill his objective.

Praise the Lord Jesus forever!

One of the greatest truths put forth by our omnipotent Creator transverses all generations throughout time and is full of incredible understanding. Every creature on the face of the earth is subject to this law of existence. It gives us insight into everything we face. And guess what? It is found in the creation and all the principles established in the Garden of Eden. We must not miss it. It is the most vital part of our warfare against the enemy and it is this:

Galatians 6:7

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

I would say to you and to me; this is a good place to stop and consider what the Spirit of the Lord is saying to us.

The word “***reap***” in the Hebrew language is interesting. Strong’s #7114 provides a pretty extensive list with a variety of translations but the one I have focused on is: ***to harvest***. It is to our benefit to heed God’s word in every area of our life because we are sowing seeds whether we realize it or not. There is always a harvest. God does not want us to be deceived about this absolute truth. There is no way around it and we have an enemy that understands this as well. Jesus delves deeper and expounds upon this topic in Mark Chapter 4. It is simply stated and yet profound in its application.

Our Lord began again to teach by the seaside and there was a multitude around Him. So many that He had to get into a ship and teach as He sat in the sea. He taught them in parables (stories that tell a truth). Jesus spoke to them about “a sower that went out to sow.” He told them the entire story. Afterward, when the disciples were alone with Him, they asked the meaning of the parable of the sower. He was gracious to explain it but this is what He said to them just before He gave them the understanding:

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Mark 4:13

And He said unto them, Know ye not this parable? And how then will you know all parables?

We will talk about this parable later but for now this shows us how important the sowing and reaping truly is. For some of us, this concept has become routine and so we don't pay as much attention to it as we once did. This is also a trick and deception from the enemy because if you pay more attention to what you sow chances are you will reap of the Spirit of God and you will walk with more confidence in the power of your inheritance. Yes, I said "your" inheritance.

Romans 4:16

Therefore it is of faith, that it (the promise of righteousness) might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to "all the seed"; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all.

Here is where the enemy tries to fool us into believing a lie. Look for instance at his encounter with Adam and Eve (**Genesis 3**). We know first of all that the man and woman were safe in the garden. They were fenced or hedged in. This hedge was the light and life of God. The enemy could not penetrate the light or the life. The Lord God had already explained to Adam and Eve that the only thing that could disrupt the continuation of the "life and light" they were enjoying was the disobedience of eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Before this, they were without the knowledge of evil. They had never encountered it. They had never experienced it and for all intense purposes, they were totally ignorant of the reality of its consequences.

First of all, the enemy had to find a way into the garden. This means, that since he is a spiritual being, he had to embody a creature. What an interesting choice he made especially since the Word tells us ***the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field.*** >

Of course we understand that he continues on to question the woman but that is really not the point. There is nothing wrong with asking a question. The trickery came by the insinuating suggestion that something was not entirely right in the garden.

Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

This is the first time we see the serpent speak. It starts with a subtle manipulation of the truth. We see Eve answer but does she know the Word of God well enough to discern what is happening? Even so, she knows enough to understand that she isn't supposed to eat from that tree. The enemy sees her hesitancy but it is more akin to indecision. She is considering what the serpent has asked. He has her right where he wants her. The enemy is going to twist God's words a little more. She probably won't even notice. He speaks now for the second time.

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

Here, I want you to notice there is a colon punctuation mark at the end of *Ye shall not surely die (:)*. When a colon is used during a translation, the colon represents a certain meaning. In other words the original text indicates that after the serpent made the statement, "*Ye shall **not surely die**,*" there is a significant pause allowing for reflection or emphasis before he continues.

When the serpent pauses, she considers this word "surely." Then she thinks. Surely not! Why, of course not! God wouldn't let us die. "Surely not," she concludes.

Then the enemy smiles as he continues this twisted manipulation. He is just about to answer that last residual question that lingers in her mind. He can see that she is hungry for something more. She looks around at her options and he moves in for the kill. The additional emphasis is mine but this is the way I picture the encounter and what I see happening. The enemy speaks for the third time and delivers his final blow to squash the last remnant of resistance to his suggestions that God is not truthful in His words or intentions.

For God does know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. >

Listen to the tone of this voice speaking such lies. It is prideful. It is a tone that speaks as though he is the ultimate authority concerning such things (*For God does know*). He is announcing that he knows what God knows and even more than God knows.

When the enemy makes the statement “for God does know,” he is insinuating that God is selfish in His nature and that He is selfishly withholding something from them. That God is hiding something.

It is the sound of haughtiness and pomp. The voice of the enemy demeans the true authority of God in an attempt to suggest that he or anyone else can and should be exalted above all, including God (*ye shall be as gods*).

He proposes immediate gratification (*that in the day ye eat*). This is the sound of temptation. He wants them to believe that there will be no waiting for growth. He offers that if they follow his ways they will not have to learn, but will have instant knowledge and abilities. This is an erroneous attraction.

This diabolical enchantment suggests that to eat of this fruit a miracle will take place. The enemy wants the children of God to believe that he is supremely powerful. He wants them to partake of his fruit instead of the fruit of the Tree of Life. It is important to the devil’s plan to convince them that he will cause their eyes to be opened to discern good and evil. It is the enticement of the eyes (*then your eyes shall be opened*). The principle of Satan’s meager principality is “lust” and “greed.” For in the confines of lust and greed we will find every evil work and the fruit of corruption.

In the spectrum of lies there is the insidious misrepresentation of God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. And it is this; that within the immortal Spirit of the Lord God, there is darkness and evil and selfish ambition. Satan aggressively asserts among the inhabitants of the earth that Our Lord God, is not worthy of our absolute faith and trust. He has molded the framework of error that implies that all the evils of the world have been conducted by the hand of a hateful Creator bent on harming His own creation. Satan is the master of lies. And our Father has been misrepresented! >

All this is revealed in God's word to help us to recognize our enemy.

The Lord tells us, *be not conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God (Romans 12:2)*. Like Eve, we too, need to know God's word so that we will not be deceived by the stratagem of the enemy.

Knowing this, we must consider ourselves forewarned. We must without fail get to know God's word. And Romans 12:2 is our instruction. We are being told to do this. It is the first of four places in the entire word of God that speaks of being transformed. The other three tell us why! They are found in a three-fold cluster in *II Corinthians 11:13-15*.

For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, "transforming" themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is "transformed" into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be" transformed" as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

I recognize that most of this is not new to you. But if you are learning something, whether it is old news or completely new, I am more than overjoyed that this may help you. To round off this section I feel we need to go back again and take another look in the garden (*Genesis 3*).

Eve has listened to the words of the enemy of God. Verse 6 starts off like this; "*And when the woman saw.*" I pause and look at this. I know what it says next but it tells us something beyond the object that she saw. *The woman saw.* I'm glad the Lord had me stay with this because I learned something new. In Strong's #7200 the word "*saw*" in the Hebrew is translated "*perceive.*" But, what exactly did she perceive? It wasn't the tree. She was surrounded by trees. It had to be something else. This is what the verse actually says.

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And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food...

Let's stop here. The original King James Version does something unusual here. The word "was" is written in italics. Since I am not a literary scholar, I had to find out what that means. Here is what I learned. In the original KJV, if a word was not translatable from Hebrew to English the original Hebrew word would have to be reflected by use of a common English word and the italics were used to give the sway of the meaning. Okay, I really am laughing. I had to read this a few times myself to get it. So let's look again at this scripture.

And when the woman saw that the tree "was" (really was) good for food...

Does this strike you as it strikes me? This was the instant that Eve believed the enemy. In other words, she perceived that what the serpent told her was really true (although it was a lie). This was the moment of unbelief.

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes...

This is the second mention of the word "*pleasant*." The first mention is in Genesis 2:9 and states, "*out the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food.*"

The definitions of the Hebrew word for "pleasant" in this scripture is Strong's # 2530 and means; beauty, and pleasant. It expresses the love of the Lord.

But, there is a profound contrast in the way Eve saw that *the tree was pleasant to the eyes*. Strong's # 8375 reveals the word "pleasant" in this case alludes to desire and longing. These words are synonymous with "lust."

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired...

Some things in the word make me feel sad and this is one of them. The word here, "*desired*," is the first time it is mentioned in the word of God. The Hebrew meaning reveals the slippery slope that Eve was on. >

Strong's #2530 tells us the desire Eve had was to covet, to lust, a precious thing and greatly beloved.

*And when the woman saw that the tree **was** good for food, and that it **was pleasant** to the eyes, and a tree to **be desired** to **make one wise**...*

Strong's #7919 is the first mention of the word *wise*. It is intriguing that Eve is the first to use this word. It means to make circumspect and hence intelligent.

Circumspect means: cautious, prudent, careful, guarded, wary, judicious, and vigilant. These are the synonyms for circumspect and the intelligence that comes from it. These are the expressions that come from "*to make one wise.*"

She took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

And the eyes of them both were opened...

This is the sin that was passed on to all generations of man. This is how death entered into a perfect life. This is why we need a savior. There has never been a man or ever will be a man that can say that he was born without sin. That is, until Jesus, the Son of God came to the earth as a human child. He who knew no sin became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. He has paid the price. It was a high price but He has restored our place before God. He has done what we could not do. What great love is this? That we should be called the children of God?

Let our eyes be open to the truth. Let's be doers of God's word and not merely hearers of it which shows that we have deluded ourselves. I pray that we sow good seed and reap a wonderful harvest. That we are able to glorify our Father in Heaven by the choices we make.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Psalm 111:10).

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My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith works patience. But, let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that gives to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him (James 1:2-5).

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But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of them that believe not...

For God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ (II Corinthians 4:3,6).

You are in my prayers. Jody (Jewells)

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~ Flames of Faith Ascending Prayers ~



Oh Lord, God of all that is. Hear the prayer of Your humble servant and grant that which I petition of Thee. For You alone are Great. Might belongs to only You and Yet You despise no one and Nothing is trivial in Your Eyes. Grant Salvation far and wide to the peoples of this earth and let Your Mercy Endure Forever.
Amen.