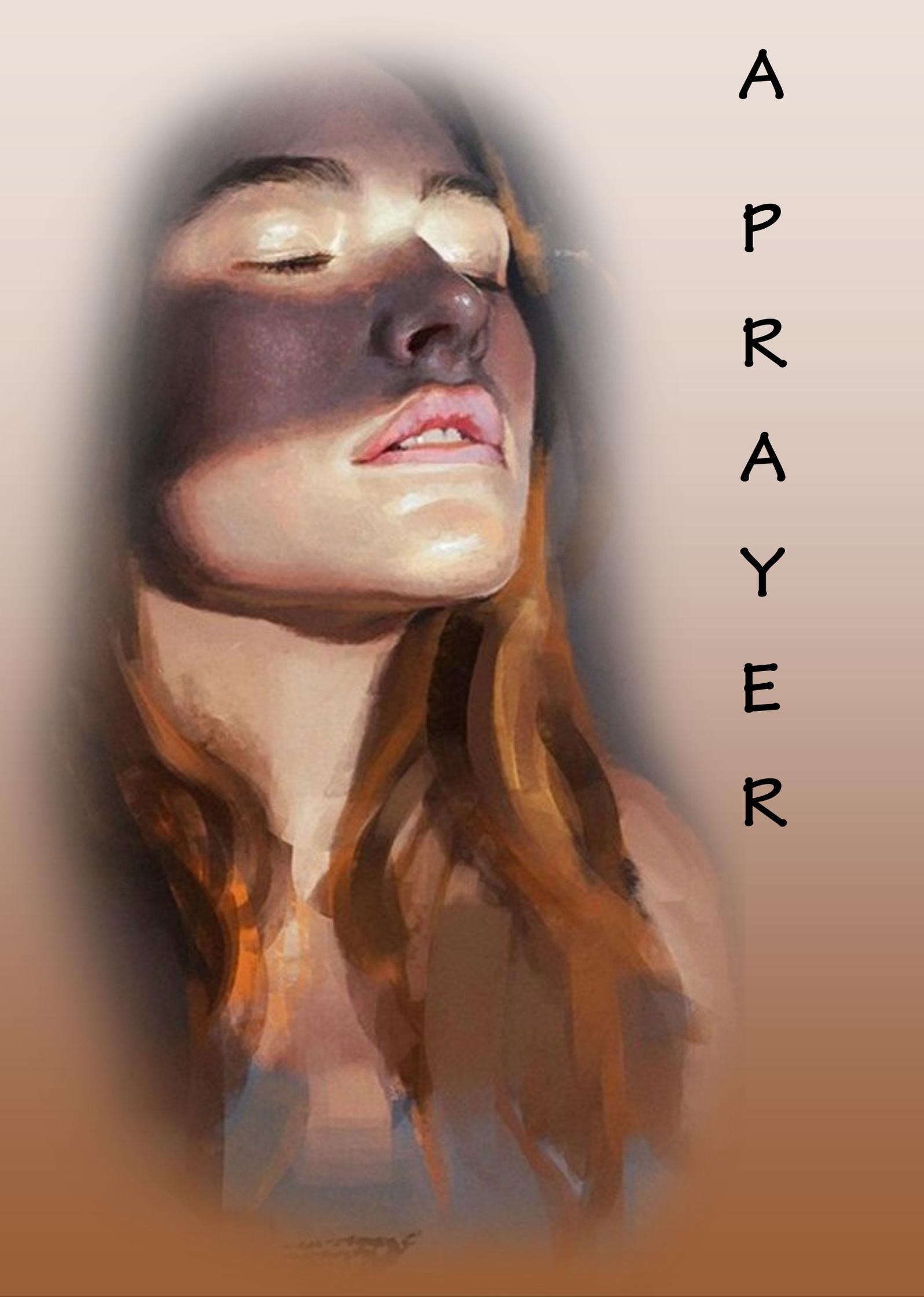


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Prayer:

Jesus, I want to give all to You. I want to die to self and get rid of my pride. It always wants attention and recognition. Help me to live only for You. Your love should be the only thing I care about. I should just be worried about what You think. If I am truly thinking that, then all this other nonsense won't even matter to me. All I want to think about is whether I am making You happy. Am I giving you love and praise? Am I desiring you and receiving from You? Or am I distracted because I didn't get enough attention from people and now I feel useless? That is so shallow and lame. I should just think about whether I am loving You enough and showing you enough attention. You have given me so much. You show me love in so many ways. Sometimes I feel so spoiled. *YET...* I still complain and feel sad.

I know it's just an attack of the enemy. But it's my yucky pride that lets him in. It's you I want to please. It's You that I trust implicitly. I must just put all these things and worries into Your capable hands and know that you are working in each situation in the best possible way. I am not going to second guess You or worry about whether You are doing things right. I must forsake my own doubts and hesitations all throughout the day and resist every time the enemy and my pride team up to try to drag me back into my carnal mind.

It's a well-traveled path, and I seem to easily gravitate that way. I know you gave me a mind so that I could think and work and make decisions for you. But a lot of the time, I need to set that mind aside and just listen to you and just take what Your Word says without question. That's what I want to do. No matter how things look to me, I want to trust Your Word and what You say. When I hear something in prophecy, I will believe it. If things change, and you later tell me something different or if someone else tells me something different, *YET...* I

will still believe. I will come straight back to you and find out what is going on. I will not balk and get offended because of a change of plans or because You saw fit to humble me. I lay myself down and tell You that I only want to serve You and most of all to love You. Sometimes even serving You takes on a life of its own and distracts me from You. I know I have to work for you. You have given me so many children and they need care each day. *YET...* my most important job is loving You. If I truly love you, then I will want to show that love to others. I will want to pour out. I will want to witness in any way I can. I will want to show your love to the kids and the rest of the home. It's almost like it will be an extension of loving You. It's like I leave Your side and Your bed only because You want me to take some of that love out to others. You have empowered me with Your love and Your seeds to fight these battles. You want me to stay with You all the time. But you want me to fight these battles and



win because then You know I will fulfill my destiny and it will also deepen me to be able to love You better. All the pain and suffering and the fighting on and the "but if not" faith make me more a part of You. You love me more because You see that I am willing to keep on even if my little mind doesn't understand.

(Jesus) When you come back to me after the day's battles all dirty and a bit wounded and worn out *YET*...still loving and trusting,

then I pick you up and clean you with My love. But you have to give up that dirt and those wounds. Your pride wants to hold on to them. You only got wounded because you forgot about My love for a bit. My love forms a shield around you and nothing can get through as long as you keep that shield strong. But sometimes a thought comes into your mind and the enemy makes you doubt My love or question something that I have allowed to happen either to you or someone else. Then your shield gets a hole in it or gets a bit weaker. *YET*...if you keep

your faith in My love, then there is a shield all around you and nothing can touch you. You don't even have to be afraid of the people in the world, because My love is covering you and protecting you. The way to keep that shield strong is to stay in the Word, stay in praise and keep using the spiritual weapons all day. Don't forget about them. I know sometimes your mind has to think about other things. You have to do a math problem, or you have to talk to the kids and make sure they are doing what they should be, or you have to sort out a problem and give punishments. But as soon as your mind is done with these tasks, it should turn up to Me. Just give Me a kiss, or commit that child or teenager to Me or ask Me what I think. You can do whatever your heart feels like doing, just so long as you are making contact with the spirit world.

This is where your true strength is. This is the link that will keep you when all is very confusing and people don't know what to think and you don't even know what to think. But if this link is strong, then you will

have an anchor in the raging storm. It will keep you steady. Isa 26:3 is very true and it doesn't depend on the circumstances. You can have perfect peace with your mind stayed on Me no matter what is happening, whether it's a crisis in the world, or a personal situation with one of your teens or kids.

The key is to keep your mind stayed on Me. Your heart is already with Me. It's your mind that runs around in all the dangerous places and nearly falls off the cliffs sometimes. There will be more and steeper cliffs for your mind in the coming days. So you need to keep it on a tight leash and let it wander in the Word and in the fields of faith and in the deep pools of My love. That is where the mind should keep itself busy. But it seems to have this fascination for darkness. Most the time, that darkness is cleverly disguised as knowledge or information or things that make sense. The mind wants to go in the places that are comfortable for it, the carnal realm and carnal thinking.

It is happy there because it has its feet on the ground and things can be figured out and added up to make sense. But put the mind into the spiritual realm, suddenly its feet aren't on the ground, it seems to be floating, but it doesn't know how that is possible or if it will suddenly be dropped. It can't see very far ahead in this realm, things are misty and cloudy and sometimes what is seen can't even be understood. It thinks it is seeing a certain thing but it doesn't make sense or even seem possible. So it wants to run away back to the lands where things make sense. But this is actually where the mind has to stop. It has to close its eyes and give way to the heart and love and faith. It has to realize that it has come to the border. Beyond this line, it can't operate like normal. It has to yield to the heart.

It has to listen to faith and love. If love tells it that Jesus is real, it has to listen. If faith speaks to it and tells it that God's Word is true, it has to believe. If the heart tells it that there are things that it will never understand, it has to accept it. This

is hard for the mind. It rebels, it hurts, it cries out. It feels that it isn't fair. Why would Jesus bring it into waters that would drown it? So that it will sit down, so that it will lay down. For in such love and sacrifice you will find true power and true light. There is no gain without giving something up. So give up your mind, dwell in the spirit. You do this by believing. When you read the Word, you believe it, you accept it, you take it in as truth, even if your mind is in the other chair throwing a fit and saying that it can't be possible. You shut it out and

take in the truth. The strange thing is that this will actually bring peace and sanity to your poor mind.

