

## IN TOUCH

Printed on my coffee cup is this phrase: “Prayer is a necessary survival skill!” That’s certainly a true statement for our times. “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests” (Ephesians 6:18a-NV). Make it your daily commitment to pray and study the Word and you will find that others will see your effort and may be persuaded to follow your example. For instance, my grandchildren see me with my Bible and study materials and try to copy my habits. I also find this to be true: God is so close that he answers my request while the prayer is still on my tongue. “Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely” (Psalm 139:4).

When we meet or talk to someone whom we haven’t seen or heard from in a long time, we often end our conversation with keep in touch. Many years ago my mother worked for Michigan Bell Telephone Company as a long-distance operator. In those days, in order to place a call to someone in another state or country, you had to go through a long-distance operator; who would patch the call from operator-to-operator, city-to-city, while you waited on the line, until you finally reached the person to whom you wished to speak. It seems so strange now days that all you need to do is tap a couple keys or speak into a device and instantly you can talk to almost anyone in the world.

On December 7, 1941, the day Pearl Harbor was attacked, my mother was working the long-distance switch board. She said it was lit up like a Christmas tree with calls from people trying to reach and find out about their loved ones.

What a difference there is today with the amount of communication devices available to us. Yet, even with all today’s technology, we sometimes fail to communicate with the people seated across the table from us. And we communicate even less with God, who lives with us and in us through the Holy Spirit. “But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you” (John 14:17b).



In the story of Daniel in the Lions' Den, King Darius issued a decree that whoever bowed down to worship anyone other than himself (Darius), would be thrown into the lion's den. Daniel was devoted to praying to God every day; and he continued to do so, even in spite of the King's decree. "Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before" (Daniel 6:10b). The end resulting action was that Daniel was thrown into a den of lions but **SAVED** from harm by the God to whom he faithfully prayed. It's a good thing Daniel was in constant touch with God and didn't have to wait on a long-distance call.

On the other side of my coffee cup is this scripture: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything...with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6 NASB). It's a nice reminder that God wants us to "keep in touch."

### **He's Only a Prayer Away**

*Elvis Presley*

I thank the Lord for everything,  
And I count my blessings each day.  
He came to me when I needed Him;  
I only have to pray.  
And He'll come to you if you ask Him to.  
He's only a prayer away.

### **What a Friend We Have in Jesus**

*Joseph M. Scriven*

What a Friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer!