



REJOICE ALWAYS;

**PRAY**

WITHOUT CEASING;  
IN EVERYTHING

**GIVE THANKS;**

FOR THIS IS GOD'S WILL

**FOR YOU**

IN CHRIST JESUS.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

The God Who Speaks

By Chris Duffett



# THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

It is no longer  
I who live, ☀  
but Christ  
✿ lives in me. ✿  
✿ - Gal. 2:20

### *Prayer (i)*

Prayer (i) Poem by George Herbert

*Prayer the Church's banquet, angels' age,  
God's breath in man returning to his birth,  
The soul in paraphrase, heart in pilgrimage,  
The Christian plummet sounding heav'n and earth;*

*'Engine against th'Almighty, sinner's tower,  
Reversed thunder, Christ-side-piercing spear,  
The six-days' world transposing in an hour,  
A kind of tune, which all things hear and fear;*

*Softness, and peace, and joy, and love, and bliss,  
Exalted manna, gladness of the best,  
Heaven in ordinary, man well drest,  
The Milky Way, the bird of Paradise,*

*Church-bells beyond the stars heard, the soul's blood,  
The land of spices; something understood.*



*George Herbert*

# PRAYING WITH IMAGES

*(Visio divina)*

***A picture may indeed be “worth a thousand words.”***

Visio Divina is translated as “divine seeing”.

Many of us were taught to close our eyes when we pray but this form of prayer involves keeping our eyes wide open, taking into our heart what the image visually communicates. This is prayer without words, with a focus on being in God’s presence rather than performing in God’s presence.

The images could be works of art, paintings, sculptures, stained glass windows, icons, or even photographs. It can evoke deep personal emotions and needs, even things we were not conscious of, which we can pray about.

What you see in an image is probably different from what others see. These images are doorways into stillness, into closeness with God. If we sit with them long enough, we too can enter into the stillness and if we listen to them closely enough, we just may discern the voice of God.

The message you hear from God, spoken to you in part through the image, is personal to you. Why not try it with the pictures posted on this board.

We are each wired in different ways, but the richest prayer life will come through experiencing God through all your senses.

In the Bible, poetry, music, dance, storytelling, and art are all used in worship and prayer because all touch and transform the deep, inarticulate places in human hearts.

The Last Supper  
By Max Thalmann (woodcut)



The Wedding Feast at Cana  
By Paolo Veronese



Cristo Redentor

By Paul Landowski



Tree of Heaven  
By Jacqui Parkinson (quilting)

