

# Wendy's November Prayer Thoughts

God who created us in His image is ever present with us. He intended us to experience His nearness, for we read how Adam and Eve heard the sound of His walking in the garden "in the cool of the day," and they tried to hide from Him because of their guilt. .Genesis 3:8. In Leviticus 26:11 He stated, "I will also walk among you, and be your God." God is with us, not at a social distance, but beside us, each moment. He talks with us and we can talk with Him. I grasped the wonder of this in a new way, as I began a walk on one of our sign posted foot paths. Little did I realise it would be a prayer walk. It was a lovely sunny afternoon, and I was soon treading on a path across a cornfield, which had already been harvested. Only the stubble remained. I stopped to take in the scenery. A red tractor was at work in the distance. The hills looked medium blue in the distance. A stone farmhouse stood sentinel, tall trees beside it. I took in a deep breath, and then uttered words of praise. "How awesome You are God." Nature was crying out that God exists! " You are such a mighty Creator. Thank You for giving me eyes to behold such beauty." The first camera click!

It was time to move on and open the gate leading to a lane, rutted by vehicles going to and from the farm. That afternoon there were only a few muddy patches to negotiate. It was not long before I stopped again. What could be more idyllic? Sheep were leisurely grazing, the grass so lush and green. A camera click captured the scene focussed between an oak tree and an ash tree. It was so peaceful and restful. "Thank You Lord for the peace I have in You, for that 'peace that passes all understanding'." Philippians 4:7. "Green pastures are before me, which yet I have not seen; bright skies will soon be o'er me, where the dark clouds have been. My hope I cannot measure, my path to life is free, my Saviour has my treasure and He will walk with me." A. L Waring.

Only a few yards further, and the Lord spoke to me again. I had turned my gaze to the opposite side of the lane to spot two sheep on a near mound. One was lying down, the other was standing, seemingly keeping guard. It was guarding the other sheep from any danger, whilst at the same time fixing its eyes on me. It was a living parable of the Good Shepherd and Psalm 23. "Thank You, Lord, that You are a good Shepherd to me, guarding my "going out and my coming in." Psalm 121:6. I stood and gazed. There was the sheep, lying close to the pond with its still waters. It had come from the green pastures and was resting content. "Thank You Lord that You care for my needs. You are by my side, always there for me. Your "rod and staff" are there to comfort me, "and I will trust in You alone." A click and I moved on.

The track sides became a mass of tall balsam flowers, (impatiens) - mauves, pinks, whites. They were a mecca for the bees who flew into the trumpets to find nectar for us to enjoy honey, as a food and medicinal purposes. "Lord bless the workers who beaver in the world to provide for us, yet gain little recognition." Click! Nearing the M6, nature's display drew my attention. A thick twisted stem of a gorse bush perfectly enclosed greenery, to make any flower arranger envious. "Thank You Lord, for those who display their talents." Click! , followed by two more in quick succession, taking in an apple tree laden with red apples, and a hawthorn tree with hundreds of scarlet berries. "Thank You God for Your promise, that the "trees of the field will bear fruit." Leviticus 26:4. The profusion of red was by the foot bridge crossing the motorway, and it was another living parable, reminding me of the blood of Christ shed for my/our salvation, and the bridge He formed for us to be united with God.

It was soon time to turn back. The sun was still shining brightly, but things looked different as I walked back, especially when I reached the field where the footpath lay between the stubble. It had completely disappeared! The same red tractor, I had noticed at the beginning, had ploughed in all the stubble, and was still at work in the right hand corner. The dark wet brown earth was broken into small chunks. Could I make it across? Would I stumble, or get my feet stuck? There were no footprints to walk in where the soil might have been more compacted. I was sure the tractor driver had seen me standing there. I looked ahead to the distant gate where I would be on firm ground again and heard God say, "Keep your eyes on me. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End." Revelation 21:6. With another camera click, I began the unexpected, precarious crossing, watching where to take each step; shoes sinking and twisting. I was sure that the driver in the tractor had seen me. I kept stopping for short rests. It was hard going, and I did breathe a sigh of relief as I released the latch on the gate, and put my feet on firm ground. O, what a sight the shoes!

God had proved to me yet again that afternoon that He is close, walking step by step with us, whether the way be smooth or rough, with us whatever we encounter. Can I challenge you make a Prayer Walk? Simply open your eyes to see, your ears to hear, and your hearts to commune with Him. Walk and talk. God is not distant. He desires to fellowship with us.

"For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light." Psalm 36:9.