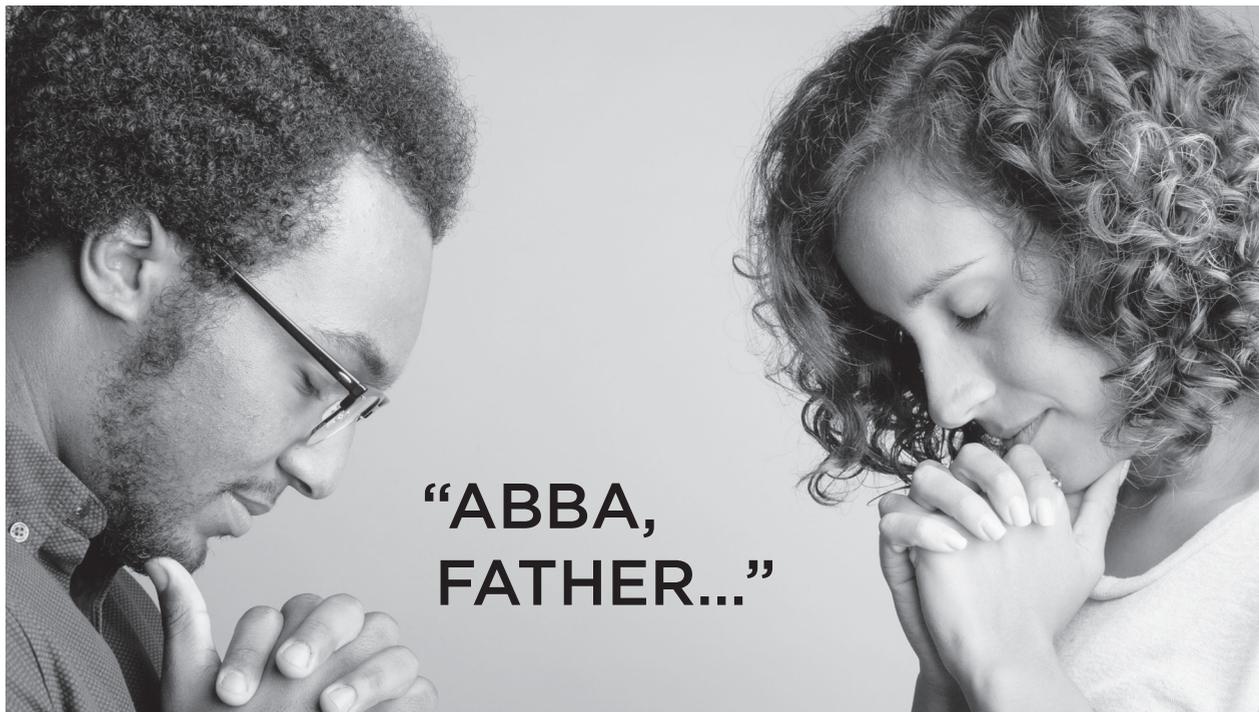


Jesus fought the good fight of faith because He didn't back up under pressure! He declared the truth about who He is and who the Father is, even under extreme pressure.



“ABBA,  
FATHER...”

## TALKING TO GOD

**D**id you talk to God today? **Talking to God is prayer, and it is one of the primary disciplines of disciples of Jesus!** Prayer is powerful, important, and integral to living an impactful life for God. John Wesley said, “*God does nothing except in response to believing prayer.*”

The Apostle Paul indicated there were different kinds of prayer in his letter to the Ephesians: “*Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints*” (Ephesians 6:18). The **prayer of intercession** stands in the gap between one who deserves judgment and the punishment he merits. The **prayer of supplication** is a humble, earnest, heartfelt request for yourself or others. **God has given us the authority on this earth; He doesn't force His will, but He moves and enforces His will on our behalf when we open the door to Him through prayer.**

Partner, praying for people, nations, and situations is necessary and good. I am extremely grateful for the prayers of supplication you pray for my team and me as we travel teaching the Word of God. However, sometimes Christians get stuck in intercession and supplication and forget all about the **prayer of thanksgiving!**

How much time did you spend thanking God today—not asking Him to move or change things or to help someone—just giving Him thanks? If you're having a difficult time getting started, *Psalm 103* is an excellent chapter for igniting an attitude of gratitude.

### Psalm 103:1-5

Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who

redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Notice that the psalmist told his soul (mind, will, and emotions) to not forget all of God's benefits. **We live in such a busy, demanding world that we can easily forget what God has done for us.** We can focus so much on our needs, desires, and dreams that we neglect to thank God for the essentials of life He daily bestows on us. He has provided everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him!

### **2 Peter 1:3**

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.

**“If we are truly thankful for all God has done for us, we will also profess a good profession at the office, in schools, and in homes before people who don't know Jesus and may even be hostile towards us. We still need to tell them, ‘Jesus is Lord.’”**

God has given us everything that is good! *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17).*

Partner, have you forgotten any of God's benefits? Take a moment and consider some of the things God has done for you! Many people take things for granted that are available to them only because of God's generous provision. Each breath we draw is just because of the blessing of God. The ability to hear, see, or speak or walk is a gift from God. The freedom to go to work (even if you don't like your current job) is a blessing of the Lord. Partner, you can always believe God for a better job!

As I continue to travel the globe, everyday I am more conscious of and thankful for how much freedom I have. I live in America—which is not perfect—but it is free. My congregation gathers every Sunday and Wednesday night without fear of being raided by police who might carry their pastor off to jail. If you live in a country where you are free to worship God, you should thank the Lord and stop badmouthing your nation!

Sadly, Christians in many corners of the world are suffering severe persecution. Today around the world, every six minutes a Christian is killed for his or her faith. In past years, 26 million Christians have been slaughtered. Perhaps you heard about the over 200 girls that were kidnapped by the Islamic terrorist group Boko Haram in northern Nigeria back in 2014. Many of the girls have been released (thanks to enormous international pressure), but I know of a 15-year-old girl who is still being held because she is a Christian and she refuses to renounce Jesus. I can't even imagine the suffering that young woman is enduring for the name of Jesus. But

some people in free countries won't even acknowledge Jesus in public because they fear being labeled or ostracized by unbelievers.

Partner, we are called to fight the good fight of faith. The faith fight means being willing to declare that Jesus is Lord and to follow Him despite affliction and persecution that comes to try to turn us away from serving Him. Consider what Paul wrote to Timothy.

### **1 Timothy 6:12-13**

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession.

Now, Partner, if you've been with me for a while, you may know that *1 Timothy 6:12* used to be my handle for my radio and television broadcasts. Every segment opened with the words, *“Fight the good fight... of faith!”*

While that section of *1 Timothy 6:12* is inspirational, most people don't know what it means because they aren't aware of what *verse 13* says. Jesus fought the good fight of faith with a good confession before Pontius Pilate! Let's look at it in the *27th chapter of Matthew*.

**Matthew 27:11**

And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest.

Jesus fought the good fight of faith because He didn't back up under pressure! He declared the truth about who He is and who the Father is even under extreme pressure.

If we are truly thankful for all God has done for us, we will also profess a good profession at the office, in schools, and in homes before people who don't know Jesus and may even be hostile towards us. We still need to tell them, "*Jesus is Lord.*"

Daniel is an excellent example for us. He was taken as a captive to Babylon, but God gave him favor with the king because he had a spirit of excellence. (*See Daniel 6:3.*) He came in as a slave, but he ended up as one of three presidents over the kingdom, and the king preferred Daniel over the other two. **Partner, it's not how you start; it's how you finish that matters!**

Daniel's favored status with the king incited great jealousy among the other leaders, so they concocted a plan to entrap him. They persuaded the king to issue a decree that no one could pray for 30 days; anyone who disobeyed the order would be put to death. Despite the threat, Daniel stayed faithful to God.

**Daniel 6:10**

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward

Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

The king was sorrowful when he realized that he was used to attack this man of God, but the law couldn't be rescinded. He was forced to throw Daniel into the lion's den. But the king, an unbeliever, spoke words of faith.

**Daniel 6:16**

Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

The king couldn't sleep that night.

**Daniel 6:19-23**

Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of Lions. And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said

to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

Then was the king exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

**“God has given us the authority on this earth; He doesn't force His will, but He moves and enforces His will on our behalf when we open the door to Him through prayer.”**

The king believed, Daniel believed, and the lions behaved! Daniel was promoted and blessed, and the same lions that left him untouched consumed his enemies!

Partner, Daniel stayed faithful even under pressure. He refused to deny God or turn away from Him. Daniel was so thankful to God for what He had done for him. Although Daniel was in Babylon against his will, God blessed him, protected him, and prospered him!

**Another lesson we can learn from Daniel is not to panic. He didn't get emotional and overwrought when the decree was issued to set him up. He simply continued to do what he knew was right in accordance with God's will because he completely trusted God.**

Partner, God will give you favor if you are willing to stand up for Him. That favor will manifest even when enemies are aligned against you.

**Continue to pray and don't forget the prayer of thanksgiving, even in difficult situations.** God has given you life; He sent Jesus to die and be raised from the dead for you. He's given you His Word and His Holy Spirit. You

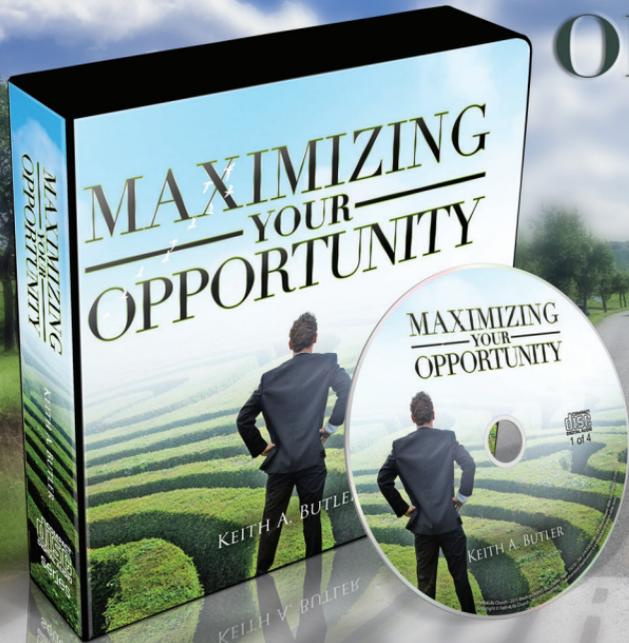
have much for which to be thankful—and I believe the best is yet to come!

Pastor Deborah and I love you and are praying for you daily. Thank you for your prayers and your continued financial support. In all that you do, remember to *"fight the good fight of faith!"*



Keith Butler Ministries is dedicated to spreading God's life-revolutionizing message around the world. We are committed to: Ministering to the needs of pastors and ministers through teachings from the Bible via seminars and ministry to individuals or groups that are hungry for God's Word; Assist with strengthening the local church in European countries through the ministry of God's Word; Developing PISTIS Bible Training Centers in the European areas God has assigned KBM; Conducting Faith Seminars throughout Europe. Concerts may be performed as a part of the program in these seminars; Teaching the Word throughout Europe as God opens the doors for KBM.

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A group of people, including men and women, are holding hands in a circle. They are dressed in casual attire, with some wearing white shirts. The background is softly blurred, showing an indoor setting with large windows. The overall mood is one of unity and support.

# Partner,

We love you here at *Keith Butler Ministries*. Listen for our telephone call so that we can pray with you, wish you happy birthday, or just to follow-up with you. If you need prayer before we reach you, please call anytime...

**800.541.PRAY (7729).**