



MAKE YOUR

REQUESTS

KNOWN

"To confess our sins before God is certainly to tell Him what He knows much better than we. And also, any petition is a kind of telling. If it does not strictly exclude the belief that God knows our need, it at least seems to solicit His attention. Some traditional formulae make that implication very clear: 'Hear us, good Lord' – 'O let thine ears consider well the voice of my complaint.' As if, though God does not need to be informed, He does need, and even rather frequently, to be reminded. But we cannot really believe that degrees of attention, and therefore of inattention, and therefore of something like forgetfulness, exist in the Absolute Mind. I presume that only God's attention keeps me (or anything else) in existence at all."

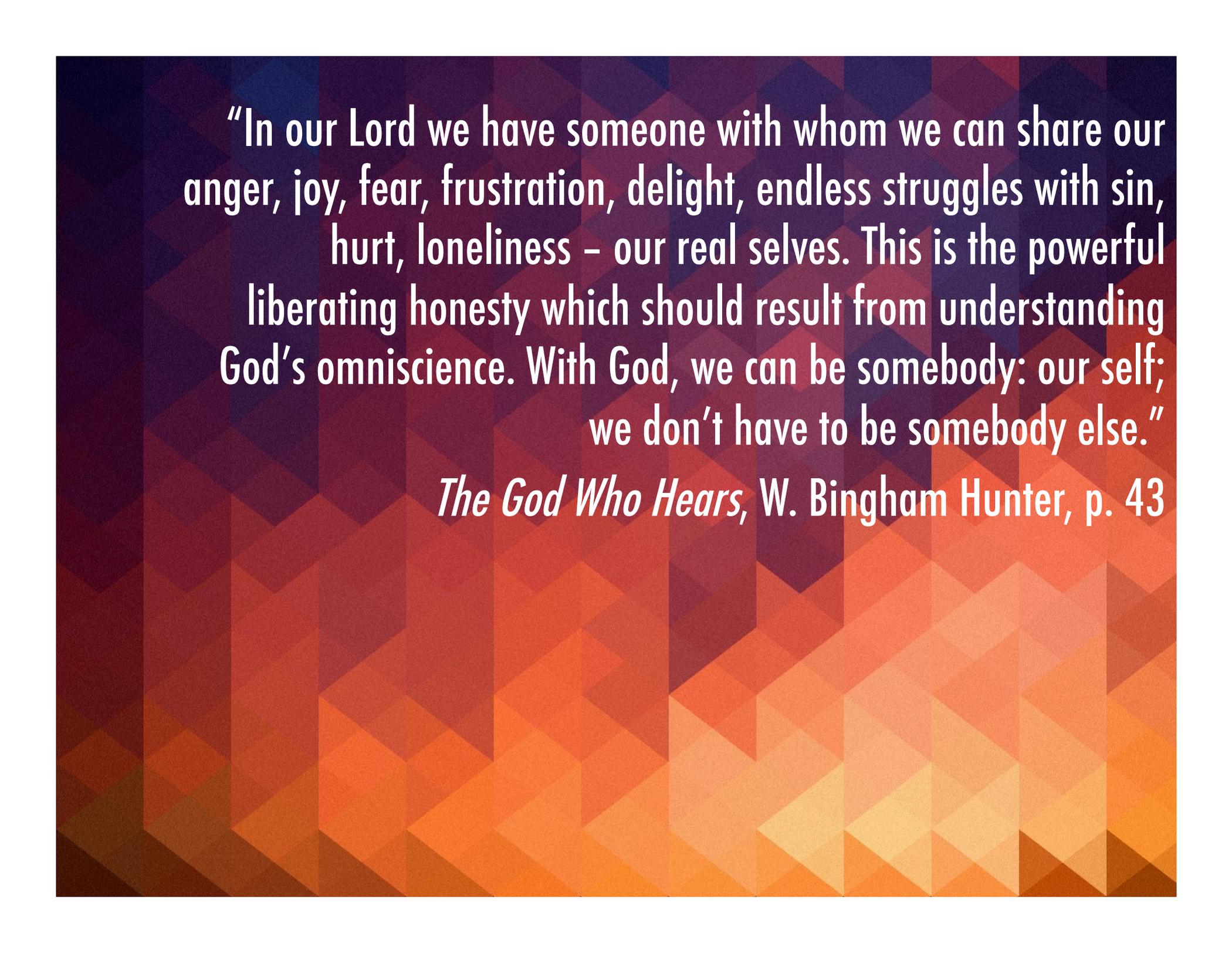
Letter To Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer, CS Lewis, p. 20

HE ALREADY KNOWS

- “Therefore do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need, before you ask Him” (Matthew 6:8).
- “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God” (Philippians 4:6).
- What can I say to God if He already knows everything? Some might conclude that it is nothing. Jesus, on the other hand, says, “Everything!” These ideas are not at odds with each other, but are just two components of a larger mechanism working in harmony.

We are always “known” by **GOD**, as HE knows all things (Matthew 10:29-30).

But a change happens when we become aware of HIM and **desire** to be known – instead of just being known, we show, we tell, we offer ourselves to HIS view.



“In our Lord we have someone with whom we can share our anger, joy, fear, frustration, delight, endless struggles with sin, hurt, loneliness – our real selves. This is the powerful liberating honesty which should result from understanding God’s omniscience. With God, we can be somebody: our self; we don’t have to be somebody else.”

The God Who Hears, W. Bingham Hunter, p. 43



LUKE 18:1-8

"EVERYTHING"

- Maybe we find ourselves doubting the validity of our requests because the thing that is most on our mind is kind of "self-focused." So we cover our bases by rattling off less selfish prayer requests first.
- It's important to remember that empty or disingenuous prayers mean little to God (Matthew 6:6-8).
- I can't trick God into thinking that "A" is what I want to be praying about when "B" is what's on my mind. When you're honest and get "B" off your chest, your mind might be clear enough to be genuine about "A".

PRAYER IS NOT A FEELING

- Ecclesiastes 5:2, Colossians 4:2, 1 Peter 4:7, 1 Corinthians 14:15. Just like any communication between individuals who care about each other, there should be thought, intention, and purpose in our prayers.
- Does this contradict Romans 8:26-27? “Wordless prayers” still need to have thought and purpose behind them, otherwise they are nothing more than imaginative and emotional. Even in the absence of human language, an idea can still be conveyed genuinely and clearly.