

Experiencing the Depths of Prayer
Chapter 1: From the Shallows to the Depths
{as told by Jeanne Guyon, edited by Bob Clarkson}

As you pick up this book, you may feel that you simply are not one of those people capable of a deep experience with Jesus Christ. Most Christians do not feel that they have been called to a deep, inward relationship to their Lord. But we have all been called to the depths of Christ just as surely as we have been called to salvation.

When I speak of this "deep, inward relationship to Jesus Christ," what do I mean? Actually, it is very simple. It is only the turning and yielding of your heart to the Lord. It is the expression of love within your heart for Him. Possibly the best way to understand it is to feel as strongly and deeply affectionate toward God as you feel for your most significant others on earth.

Paul encourages us to "pray without ceasing." (I Thessalonians 5:17) The Lord also invites us to "watch and pray." (Mark 13:33, 37) It is apparent from these two verses, as well as many more, that we all live by this kind of experience, this prayer, just as we live by love of the deepest feelings for others. Imagine God as the 'perfect' Father, Mother, Friend and Mate!

Once the Lord spoke and said, "I counsel you to buy from me gold tried in the fire that you may be rich." (Revelation 3:18) Dear reader, there is gold available to you. This gold is much more easily obtained than you could ever imagine. It is available to you.