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Contact: Pamela McClure, 615-294-5073
Pamela@mmpublicrelations.com

**IS PRAYER A COSMIC WASTE OF TIME?
ADDISON BEVERE OFFERS PRAYER AS A PROFOUNDLY HUMAN
EXPERIENCE, WHERE GOD'S VOICE BECOMES REAL**

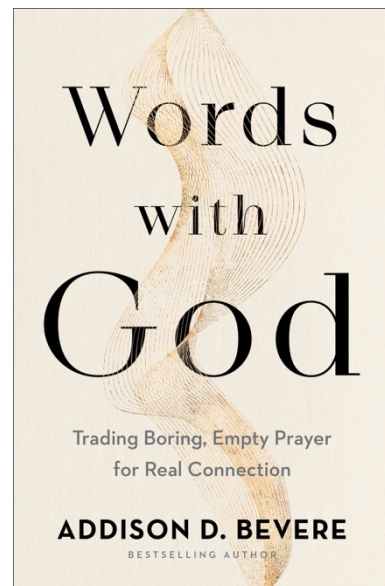
WORDS WITH GOD ARRIVES APRIL 18, 2023

*"Having words with God is about joining the conversation, not starting it.
The Voice is speaking. Can you hear it? Will you answer?"*

ADA, MICHIGAN (February 13, 2023) – For most of us, prayer is a struggle. We know we should pray. It would be good for us – help us become more grounded, more connected to God. But in our hurried lives, slowing down to pray can feel like a cosmic waste of time. Do our prayers even matter? What, if anything, happens when we pray? **Are we having words with God or just words with ourselves?**

Addison Bevere's new book, ***Words with God: Trading Boring, Empty Prayer for Real Connection*** (Revell, April 18, 2023), invites readers into and through the tension of prayer, toward the place where God's voice becomes real. Addison Bevere is a bestselling author and the cofounder of SonsAndDaughters.tv as well as COO of Messenger International, a discipleship organization that impacts millions of people around the globe.

Bever's reflective, beautiful, and honest writing recasts prayer as an intimate and necessary part of the human experience. Rather than offering formulas or schedules, he invites readers to discover how prayer connects them to the deepest truths about God, themselves, and the world.



"Prayer is profoundly human, touching every part of our humanity," writes Addison Bevere in ***Words with God***. "It is only through prayer that we can know and face what we truly are and what this moment requires of us. Until we learn our lives can be a prayer, we will remain strangers to our fears and hopes, sins and desires, weaknesses and strengths. Prayer is, in a real sense, the ticket into the cosmic narrative, opening our eyes to the greater story so we can locate our scene and play our part."

Words with God approaches prayer the way Jesus intended – not as a formula but as a path to awareness, connection, and purpose. Bevere sees prayer as the pathway of wholeness and integration, centering one's attention on the reconciliation of all things – God and human, heaven and earth, secular and sacred, human and human, pain and promise.

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“For many, praying to God feels like yelling within a great canyon. They wonder if that *other* voice isn’t just their own echo,” explains Addison Bevere. “When we discover that the Voice belongs to the One in whom we live, and move, and have our being – we’re no longer yelling across a canyon. Instead, our voice is an echo of the Voice. Having words with God is about joining the conversation, not starting it. The Voice is speaking. Can you hear it? Will you answer?”

Revell will launch **Words with God** this spring with a national publicity campaign and digital marketing efforts. Messenger International, the discipleship organization Addison Bevere serves as COO, will support the book launch via its extensive global communication channels.

Addison D. Bevere appreciates the simple things in life—time spent playing with his four kids, late-night conversations with his wife, interesting words that no one uses, a meaningful day of work, and, of course, a good book. The author of *Saints* and coauthor of bestseller *The Holy Spirit: An Introduction*, Addison serves as the COO of Messenger International, a discipleship organization that impacts millions of people in virtually every country through its various initiatives. He is also a cofounder of SonsAndDaughters.tv. More at www.AddisonBevere.com.

Revell was founded by evangelist D. L. Moody and his brother-in-law Fleming H. Revell to publish practical books that brought Christian faith to everyday life. Their vision for inspirational and practical books continues to this day. Whether publishing fiction, Christian living, self-help, marriage, family, or youth books, each Revell publication reflects relevance, integrity, and excellence. Revell is a division of Baker Publishing Group. More at www.BakerPublishingGroup.com.

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SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- How do we have words with God when it seems like God doesn’t want to have words with us?
- Why does God invite us to ask through prayer if he is aware of every need?
- What do we do with unanswered prayers and how do we move through them?
- How do we journey through prayer’s silence to find a clearer sense of meaning and purpose?
- If prayer is the pathway of peace and wholeness, then why is it so difficult to pray?
- How do we unlearn the voice of the Accuser so we can hear the Voice of God?
- Is there a way to let prayer out of the closet and into our everyday lives?

Words with God: Trading Boring, Empty Prayer for Real Connection

By Addison D. Bevere

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Review copies and interviews available: pamela@mmpublicrelations.com, 615-294-5073

The Voice

When we are one with our life . . . no prayer can be denied.
George MacDonald, *What's Mine's Mine*

For God speaks again and again, though people do not recognize it.
Job 33:14 NLT

Have you ever been alone in a great canyon? One of those caverns that traps sound waves, making them skip across surfaces and travel back to you? The reverberations are fun to manipulate, at least for a while, but eventually it gets old listening to yourself on repeat. Conversations, by definition, are supposed to involve two or more people, so it's only natural for us to want someone else to get involved.

For many of us, though, praying to God feels like yelling within a great canyon. Sometimes it may seem like someone's joining the conversation, but how can we be sure that other voice isn't just an echo of our own thoughts, words, desires? How can we know beyond a shadow of a doubt that we're not just having words with ourselves?

Ever since I can remember, I've wanted to hear God's voice: a loud, booming voice. Heavenly words that were clear and undeniable. Anytime I'd pray as a kid, I'd hope that voice would respond.

But it never did.

Another voice danced around inside of me, though. I'd try to sort out where it came from . . . my head, my heart, my gut? If the voice came from my head, then surely it was my own thoughts, but if it came from my heart or somewhere deep in my gut, shouldn't that be God's space? We're told that Jesus lives in our hearts, so it'd make sense that that's where he speaks from . . . right?

But despite my best efforts, I had the hardest time sorting out where the voice came from.

The people who seem to know their way around prayer would tell me to pray with passion and listen more than I speak. For years, though, these instructions seemed incongruent. How can I passionately listen? If I hear something I'll pay attention to it, but if I don't, I don't. I can't listen to what's not there: either God speaks to me, or he doesn't. Just get on with telling me which one it is and how it works. This whole prayer thing feels important, so we need to get it right, right?

We often get God's words wrong, though. Even the Bible has been used to endorse behaviors and decisions that heaven knows aren't right. So how can we be sure God is talking . . . and what's the right way to talk back? Where do we go when we need to have words with God?

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By Addison Bevere

Excerpts available for reprint, by request only.

Contact: Pamela McClure, McClure Muntsinger Public Relations, pamela@mmpublicrelations.com

EARLY PRAISE

Words with God: Trading Boring, Empty Prayer for Real Connection
by Addison Bevere

"In his new book *Words with God*, Addison Bevere gives readers powerful and scripturally-grounded encouragement that will build their faith and teach them how to pray with sincere passion, purpose, and power. With wisdom beyond his years, Addison takes readers on an honest, intimate journey through God's Word that will help them know God more intimately."

- **Craig Groeschel**, pastor of Life.Church, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Dangerous Prayers*

"I want my friends who really pray to write books on prayer. That's why I'm so glad Addison has written *Words with God*. This beautifully written book is honest, intelligent, mysterious, and hope-filled. It's the kind of book about prayer that makes you want to pray."

- **Annie F. Downs**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *That Sounds Fun*

"We all have times when we need to have words with God. Addison's book takes us through our desires for prayer, our disappointments in prayer, and the profound deeper plan of God for our prayers."

- **Mark Batterson**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Circle Maker*, lead pastor National Community Church

"This is the needed book on prayer. If you've ever struggled with wondering why God doesn't answer your prayers, or even why you should pray at all, Addison's words will become your trusted guide."

- **Bianca Juarez Olthoff**, Bible teacher, preacher, author, church planter

"Understanding prayer is at the heart of the Christian life. Many feel confused and uncertain about how to truly connect with God through prayer. Addison takes us beyond clichés and into the heart of God in a way that is biblical, personal, and deeply satisfying. This will stir fresh hunger for intimate conversations with God."

- **Jon Tyson**, author of *Beautiful Resistance*, pastor of Church of the City New York, www.church.nyc

"If we could only learn how to pray, we just might see mountains move. Addison Bevere's words have been a guide in my pursuit to pray clear, convicted, and confident prayers. If you are seeking a more intimate and powerful experience in your relationship with our Heavenly Father, *Words with God* is a must-read."

- **Gabe Lyons**, president, Q Ideas, author of *Good Faith*

"*Words with God* frames holy conversations between the Most High and his children in some beautiful and unexpected ways. Rather than limiting them to duties to be performed or entreaties to be made, Addison challenges us to view prayer as 'an exercise of freedom. It's the only way to locate the liberty that our hearts crave.' Prayer is not something we do for God. It is something we do *with* God, an intimate union with Heaven while here on earth."

- **Lisa Bevere**, *New York Times* bestselling author

"My bookcase contains many treasured guides I've used to reconnect to God when prayer seems hard or ineffective, including my favorites by Philip Yancey and Richard Foster. But Addison has done more than just give us a book on prayer; he walks alongside those of us who are struggling, pastoring and mentoring us through our doubts and fears into real connection and conversation with God"

- **W. Lee Warren, MD**, neurosurgeon, Christian Book Award-winning author, host of *The Dr. Lee Warren Podcast*

"Addison Bevere is a trusted and faithful friend to me and the church in general, and his way with and love for the nuances of Scripture is a gift to us all. *Words with God* pulls prayer from its mystical realm and moves it into the practical and experiential realm of everyday life."

- **Brandon Cormier**, lead pastor of Zeal Church

"God is the one who initiates the invitation to come near, so why is it so difficult to hear from Him? Addison has crafted a masterpiece that debunks the notion of the Father being distant and welcomes us into an engaging relationship with God. This is the sort of book that helps you connect with God and stay connected to Him. You'll be transformed."

- **John Bevere**, author of *The Awe of God*, cofounder of Messenger International