

Pathfinders August 16, 2026: Jonathan Edwards

“[Prayer] is one of the greatest and most excellent means of nourishing the new nature, and of causing the soul to flourish and prosper. It is an excellent means of keeping up an acquaintance with God, and of growing in knowledge of God. It is the way to a life of communion with God.”

“The divine excellency of Christ and the love of the Father to him, is the life and soul of all that Christ did and suffered in the work of redemption. Indeed, men have their sins pardoned for the sake of the divine excellency of Christ, and we are accepted into God’s favor and have a title to eternal life for the sake of Christ, because the Father infinitely loves him.”

“There is probably a special respect to the speech of the saints in prayer, which is dyed in the blood of Christ, and by this means becomes pleasant, and acceptable, and of an attractive influence, like a scarlet cord, to draw down blessings. The prayers of the saints are lovely and prevalent only through the incense of Christ’s merits.”

“Seeing Christ is our only priest and sacrifice, let us offer up all our prayers, petitions, confessions, and praises in his name. He is our Mediator; wherefore, let us always come unto God by him.”

“Hence our communion with God the Father and God the Son consists in our partaking of the Holy Ghost, which is their Spirit: for to have communion or fellowship with another, is to partake with them of their good in their fullness, in union and society with them.”

“The true spirit of prayer is no other than God’s own Spirit dwelling in the hearts of the saints. And as this spirit comes from God, so doth it naturally tend to God in holy breathings and pantings. It naturally leads to God, to converse with him by prayer.”

“ ‘Tis evident, that man was made to behold and be delighted with the excellency of God in his works, or in short, to be made happy by beholding God’s excellency; as it has been shown that intelligent beings, the consciousness of the creation, must be. But if man was made to delight in God’s excellency, he was made to love God...”

“The good that shall be sought by prayer is God himself...”

“But certainly that expression of ‘seeking the Lord,’ is very commonly used to signify something more than merely, in general, to seek some mercy of God: it implies, that God himself is the great good desired and sought after; that the blessings pursued are God’s gracious presence, the blessed manifestations of him, union and intercourse with him; or, in short, God’s manifestations and communications of himself by his Holy Spirit.”

“They want to know more of God, and to know as much of God, and have as much of him in their hearts, and enjoy as much of God as their natures are capable.”

“It would be greatly to the advantage of our souls if we understood more of the excellency and gloriousness of God.”