

## Wendy's September Prayer Thoughts

Meteorologists monitor each heat wave to see whether the rise in temperature produces a new record. The Sun is one of the most important wonders of God's creation. It produces light and warmth making it possible for life on earth. Without the Sun's energy planet Earth would simply be a frozen wasteland. Without light from the Sun there would be no plants or animals, and without food we could not exist. It takes light 8 minutes 20 seconds to get to us. Today the Sun is often called the Blue Planet because viewed from outer space it looks blue. It directs our weather patterns, and moves the waves and currents in the oceans. It is also constantly sending energy into space. Because the Earth is travelling in orbit around the Sun we have day and night, and calendar years.

What do we know about the Sun? It is a dynamic star always moving... NASA describes it as "a Yellow Dwarf," which came into being 4 and a half billion years ago. In another 5 billion years it will become a big cool star called a Red Giant. Eventually it will shrink to the size of the Earth. It takes 330,000 earths to match its mass. The Sun is not a solid object. It's a gaseous body which shines as it converts 700 million tons of hydrogen gas into helium gas every second of every minute of every day. Since it is not possible to explore the Sun on site, because of its tremendous heat, the Space Probe Soho positioned between the Earth and the Sun, observes it 24 hours a day. It sends back to Earth data about the Sun's activity. The coolest part which is called the Surface is 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit/ 5,500 degrees Celsius. The hottest part called the Core is 27 million degrees Fahrenheit. /15 million degrees Celsius.

Knowing these facts let us concentrate on the wonder of the Sun, and allow it to lead us into prayer and contemplation. It's our nearest star, as well as the largest object in the solar system. Lord God, Mighty Creator, we praise You for not being remote or detached from Your creation. Thank You for keeping Your finger on it, and on each of us who have been "created in Your image." How blessed we are to know Your presence with us. Now let us slowly repeat the words of Solomon from Psalm 72:17. "May his name endure forever, his name continues as long as the sun. May people be blessed in him, all nations' call him blessed." ESV.

Every morning in Spring, the Sun moves a little farther north. In Autumn it moves further south. Birds arrive and leave migrating on the Sun's path. We need light to shine on our path to guide us on our journey. Lord, shine Your light on our path that we may fulfil Your purpose in our lives, and steadily walk in Your truth. Keep us from straying into dark places. May we remind ourselves of Christ's declaration. "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the **light of life**." John 8:12