

Thoughts On Prayer:

Scriptures:

Eph 3:11-12 11This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,

12in whom we have **boldness and confident access through faith in Him.**

Hebrews 10:19

Therefore, brethren, having **boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,**

Hebrews 10:20

by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,

Hebrews 10:21

and *having* a High Priest over the house of God,

Hebrews 10:22

let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

-

The Lord created man and He created him to have fellowship with God. He walked with Adam in the coolness of the day. It was only after sin entered the world that a separation happened. God created in us a place that will only be satisfied by Him. Anything else will not do. It is like the black holes out in space. They suck in everything; rocks, light, time, things. Nothing can satisfy them. In this world we try everything to fill that hole. We try work, money relationships, things, drugs, alcohol, sex, and religion. No thing or person will satisfy.

People turn to one of the many religions in this world. One definition of religion is to bind back to God. It is man's attempts to bind himself back to God. We know from the Bible that our efforts will never be able to span the gap between God and us. That is why Jesus came. He came to bridge that gap via the cross. He did what no other religion can ever do. He bound us back to God. It is not through religion that we have intimacy with God but through relationship. Christ has given us access to enter the Holy of Holies and come before God. This should cause us to rejoice and come into God's presence daily with much reverence and with much thanksgiving!

The Lord had given us several ways to enter in His presence. One of those ways is by prayer. But we live in a self-centered world and we do not truly recognize what prayer is meant to be. One of the areas we miss is that it is a conversations with the Almighty. But too often we treat it like a spoiled child. We run up to our Father and yell at Him about all the things we need. We whine and beg and then run off to our daily life. Yes the Lord loves us and desires to give us what we need.

Mark 11:24 says:

²⁴Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

And

John 15:7 says:

⁷If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you _ will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

But we forget that the abiding. We come in and our conversations are all one sided. Even when we come into the presence of God humbling ourselves and asking for forgiveness we do not let Him speak. We are not treating prayer as a conversation. God desires to be in relationship with us. A relationship is two sided. We need to come to our Daddy and first confess our sins admitting like Isaiah we are people of unclean lips needing forgiveness. Once we have asked and received forgiveness then we can lay our needs and the needs of others at His feet. Then we need to be still and listen and expect the Lord to speak. He desires to share His heart with us. We need to be ready to hear and act on what He says.

We need to take the time daily to be still and know that He is God. If we take time to spend time reading and meditating on His word, our hearts and minds will be turned to Him. With that state of mind and heart we can come into a time of prayer that is focused on Him. We need to learn to be quiet and listen to the Lord. We live in a busy world but we can with the Lord's help be quiet listen.

Why do I keep saying we need to listen in prayer, because we don't do enough. I never realized how much of my prayer times were spent with me talking. Yes it is good for me to confess my sins. Yes it is good for me to ask for things I need. Yes it is good for me to take the needs of my family and the family of God to Him. But I need to spend as much time listening to Him as I do speaking. In truth, I need to spend more time listening than speaking.

What has helped me in this is the story of Jesus and the children in the Gospels. He desired that no one hinder them from coming to Him. He desired to have them sit on his lap. He wanted to teach them and listen to their hearts. I come into prayer asking for forgiveness. Then I boldly as a child would crawl up in Jesus' lap. I tell Him all and then lay in His lap and listen. There is safety and security there. He calms my spirit and teaches me.

I wanted to share that with you because we know and walk in prayer warfare daily. We walk in pray as a way to ask Him for forgiveness. We walk in prayer as a way to cry out on the behalf of the needs of the body. But if there is one area we lack it is in intimacy with the Father. One of the best ways to learn how to love others and have strong relationships is by being in intimate relationship with the Lord. Let us not neglect prayer and let us not limit it..

I hope this has encouraged you. I'm still learning myself and am grateful for what the Lord has taught me so far.

Geoffrey Gentry
June 17, 2006