

The Simplicity of Prayer

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“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ” (II Corinthians 11:3).

There is simplicity in all things in Jesus Christ. It is religion that makes “spiritual” things complex and cumbersome – creating a “spirit of bondage.” We have not received such a “spirit of bondage” from our Father, but instead we have received from Him “the spirit of adoption”¹ leading us to call Him “Abba” in our prayer life.

“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father” (Romans 8:15).

Notice here, in this passage from Paul, that we possess from our Father’s Spirit a heartfelt “cry” unto Him – calling Him “Abba,” or in modern terms, *Daddy!*

A RELIGIOUS RITUAL

Christendom has presented a picture of prayer as one of *coming into God’s “presence”* and spending much time and effort “talking” with Him there – trying to convince *Him* of many things. Many even bring their “prayer list” with them, when coming into His “presence.”

The simple fact is that we already are in the presence of God; we *live* there. It is not some place that we “go:” it is some place that we simply “are.” It is where we live and move and have our being.

“For in Him we live, and move, and have our being” (Acts 17:28).

What a wonderful thing it is to “*live*” in the Father. What an amazing thing it is to “*move*” in Him. What an astonishing thing it is to “*have our being*” in Him.

Each of us has the privilege to live in the reality of union with our Father as each day begins and unfolds. What a blessed thing to be in constant communion with Him – heart to heart.

1. See a study of the wonderful doctrine of “Adoption” in the article entitled *Sonship in Bible Student’s Notebook* #146.

There is no need for us to maintain a “conversation” (traditional prayer) to have this fellowship and communion with Him. It is already fully ours, secured and maintained in *His* very own nature.

What is often paraded as “prayer” is artificial and pretentious; and many “*for a **show** make long prayers*” (Luke 20:47), using “*vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking*” (Matthew 6:7).

PRAYER THAT CANNOT BE UTTERED

The truth is, we can find true rest from our weaknesses, cares and weariness in quiet faith, living in recognition of His constant presence in our lives – a place of faith-rest in Him. It is our position and privilege to live simply, moment-by-moment, in His ever-abiding life, living as who He has made us “*in the Beloved.*” Then, even our most endearing “*intercession*” is only unspoken cries (unuttered *groanings*) coming out of our Father’s Spirit living and breathing within us.

“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered” (Romans 8:26).

With such provision from our Father, we can simply enjoy Him daily, as His dear children, “*accepted in the Beloved.*” We can simply *be still, and know that He is God* (Psalm 46:10). We can experience the reality of a faith-rest that knows God as Father – in *every* circumstance and in *every* situation.

“For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things: to Whom be glory for ever. Amen” (Romans 11:36).

“In Whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will” (Ephesians 1:11).

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

Then, and only then, can we truly realize the exhortation of Paul,

“Pray without ceasing” (I Thessalonians 5:17).

The traditional concept of prayer is flawed by a very narrow religious definition. It is identified by specific religious formulas, ceremonies, rites, rituals and duties. Instead, for the believer, “prayer” is simply the very life of God living out through our own spirit and being, in loving union with the Father by the “the communion” (II Corinthians 13:14) and “*supplication*” (Ephesians 6:18) of His Spirit, “*continuing instant in prayer*” (Romans 12:12).

Prayer is simply acknowledging, enjoying and living in the fellowship and communion of the Father's ever-abiding presence; His very breath in our frail earthen vessels. Enjoy Him!

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