

How To Draw Near To God In Prayer

(Part IV)

Most Christians never learn the joy of hours spent in the presence of God.

Most Christians never know release from anxiety and fear to walk in inner peace and the liberty of the Spirit of God.

Most Christians do not exude the peace and contentment and joy which are the best witnesses of Christ within to a dying world.

TO SAY THE FIRST – THAT MOST NEVER KNOW THE JOY OF HOURS IN GOD’S PRESENCE – is to say the others and so much more.

It is the hours spent in God’s presence alone that hold the best hope for deliverance from carnality, anxiety and fear into God’s wonderful peace, contentment, joy and liberty.

If our lovely Lord needed to spend hours alone with His heavenly Father while walking here on earth as man, as perfect man, how much more do we, in all our sinfulness and weakness, need to spend hours alone with our Heavenly Father.

This is the day of the quick fix.

God promises no quick fix beyond our redemption and restoration to God. He calls on us to “*grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*” (II Peter 3:18).

In Jesus’ parable of the sower, the seed that germinated and grew rapidly is the same that produced a plant that died in infancy. It takes time to produce the internal changes that make for healthy growth in a plant or in a person.

Small wonder the church of Jesus Christ is so carnal, so shallow, so weak, so powerless.

Small wonder some of its most publicized representatives, exhibiting those same characteristics, fall under awful condemnation, to such devastation of the witness of Christ and church.

It is widely recognized that many Christians including many Christian leader, have at best a few minutes a day in “private devotions;” and many take no regular time alone with God at all.

This is a state of things, which can no longer be tolerated. It must be changed at all costs ...and changed NOW!

Otherwise, should persecution against God’s people break out in the western world, the church stands in danger of virtual collapse. It is only “those who know their God” who will be able to stand under the vicious attack of the enemies of our faith.

But there is something as important as the time spent alone with God. And that is how this time is spent.

Fear or faith?

Most of our praying is like most of our living, done in fear and anxiety rather than in faith. Most of our praying is done without that total dependence on God which is the true faith without which James says, *“Let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord.”*

We worry or we trust. We can't do both at the same time on the same matter. Worry and faith are mutually exclusive.

When we come to the Lord to draw near to Him in prayer, then let us lay aside every thought of temporal things, even every concern for our own spiritual well being or that of others.

Let us remember why we are there: to commune with God alone, to Draw Near to Him, to seek His face, to receive His love and return it to Him.

To do this, there is only one preparation required. That is to relinquish all to Him who is All.

Relinquish all to Him

- Relinquish to Him your will.
- Relinquish to Him your thoughts.
- Relinquish to Him your possessions.
- Relinquish to Him your desires.
- Relinquish to Him your hopes.
- Relinquish to Him your fears and anxieties.
- Relinquish to Him your spiritual aspirations.
- Relinquish to Him any hope you've ever had of achieving godliness through your own effort.
- Relinquish to Him your very self.
- Relinquish to Him who is All.

Do it in love. Do it not for any benefit. Do it not because it is demanded. Do it in love ...His love shed abroad in your heart ...given to you and gladly returned to the Giver.

You say “I can't.”

You're so right, my friend, you're so right!

You can't. But with God all things are possible.

Then get with God. Alone. Relinquish all thoughts, desires, everything to Him. Wait quietly, receptively in His presence seeking Him alone.

Persist at it.

No matter the disappointment. No matter the seeming lack of results. No matter the seeming fruitlessness of the effort.

Spend hours in His presence. Offer Him your all no matter how incapable you are fully of meaning it. Continue to offer your all when you least feel like doing it.

Know in faith that He accepts your offering. Keep in waiting before Him empty-handedly in expectation no matter how long there seems to be no benefit at all.

Know in faith that God is slowly but certainly working His own transformation within. He has promised. Never doubt. He will do it.

“Now the Lord is that Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all with open face, beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” II Corinthians 3:17-18.

*ChristLife Inc.
1642 Michigan Ave., Niagara Falls, New York 14305
716-284-7625, 1-800-676-3172
E-mail:- pastormarr@adelphia.net
Web Site: www.pastormarr.com*
