

Peace Through Prayer



I was counseling a prisoner by long distance telephone. He had first professed to receive Christ as Savior when he was 3 or 4 years old. But there he was in prison for murder! He was earnestly seeking the Lord and wanted help in learning how to respond to God rather than constantly giving in to his own desires.

Among the 11 guidelines I shared with Him was the insistence that he spend 2 hours a day with the Lord, something not so very difficult for a prisoner. Immediately he wanted to know what he was going to do with all that time. I told him that if he would write his prayer thoughts to God he would find the time going quickly.

Writing Out Our Prayer Thoughts

I was having a terrible problem with falling asleep during my times alone with the Lord. I asked Him for His help. He led me to start again writing my prayer diary. In it I wrote my prayer thoughts to God as they came to me. Immediately I found I less frequently fell asleep.

Besides, I found myself being more honest with the Lord, often cruelly so. So much so that I'd be reluctant to have folks read parts of it.

Then I began using the computer instead of the pen to record my prayer thoughts.

There I record prayer requests, longings after God, confession and repentance, cravings for God to change me more into His likeness,

interruptions, expressions of all kinds of concerns, especially spiritual concerns.

There are records of scriptures I have meditated on, and of truths I feel God has taught me.

Then there are single capitalized words like:

INTERCESSION

WORSHIP

YEARNING AFTER GOD

WAITING

PRAISE

THANKSGIVING

LOVE

QUIET STILLNESS

YAWN

TEARS

PEACE & REST

They each express a time period of from a few seconds to a few minutes that is characterized by responses to God that I describe by these words.

The Invasion of Peace

If you wonder what the yawn and tears expressions describe, they describe exactly that.

Even as I wrote these words I began to yawn, and the tears streamed down my cheeks. Usually I don't know it's happening until the tears are flowing freely.

My spirit becomes more quiet before the Lord, more sensitive, and I'm at peace and rest in the Lord.

I've gone through long periods when this has escaped me, and, oh, how my heart aches for its return.

What I wrote in my prayer diary one day concerning this has blessed others, and I share it now with you:

Lord, my heart aches in unfulfilled longing after You. There is no way that worship, praise, adoration, expressed longing for You, or anything else, is adequate, not even silent seeking. The nearest there is to satisfaction in my times alone with you, short of a realized sense of Your presence, is a place of peace and rest in You where there is no seeking, not even for you. There I am perfectly content.

Enemies of Peace

There is constant tension in my life. It is fear-induced. I have neither right to this nor need of it, if I live in You and Your peace, in a constant inner awareness of your all sufficiency for all things.

I need fear no failure, no lack, no inadequacy, no mistake, no attack from without, no responsibility, no need, nothing. Nothing. God is Enough. I wrote it. (One of our tracts.) Help me live it.

I cannot strive and struggle and live in peace. I must not listen to others but to my God-sensitive heart and spirit, and choose to live in peace based in all-pervasive trust in You rather than constantly fighting the enemy and demanding of You.

The biggest spiritual battle I fight, and the only one, I think that really matters, is the battle to set all else aside in favor of trusting and resting in You as the God Who is truly adequate for

everything, all sufficient always in all things to all men everywhere. Our special battles against the world, flesh, and devil are won right here.

I've determined this hundreds of times over the past 10 years only to be misled by my fleshly desires and what others teach. Help me never to be so misled again. Help it to be my one business night and day to live in peace in You in the inner awareness that You are always all sufficient for all things for me and for all for whom I pray.

Anything that for long limits or destroys my peace in the all sufficient God must be counted a sin and an enemy.

Sometimes I must worship, praise, or thank You for Who You are or what You have done, or sit in silent adoration, before I can enter into Your rest. Sometimes I'm helped by reading an older writer or my own writings. Other times just to turn toward You in a quiet spirit is enough.

Nothing is More Important

Worship, praise, intercession, petition, thanksgiving, adoration, and expressed love all have their rightful place in our lives. So do reading and understanding the Word, listening to God, submission, obedience, repentance, restitution, placing ourselves under the blood of Christ, and taking authority over sin and Satanic forces of evil. But if they take precedence over living in peace and rest in our all-sufficient God, if they limit or prevent it, they must be set aside as impediments in the way of God's best.

To make this operative through the day, I must slow down. Every time I find myself unnecessarily hurried I need to recognize the hurry as the sin of not trusting God, as a sin against His all-sufficiency, a sin against His peace that passes all understanding. I must turn to Him, look to Him, the All Sufficient One, slow down, and walk in quiet trust in Him and His all-sufficiency. It is not enough to do this occasionally. It's necessary to seek to do it always by God's enabling grace. Thank You, Lord.

It is difficult to walk at peace in You when I'm, oh, so conscious that I'm a sinner, weak, often incapable, under informed, unwise, making mistakes of all kinds in all dimensions at all levels, and equally tending to the moral failure known as sin.

I must simply rest even my failure with You. It's still a question of whether I will trust You and Your all sufficiency to be adequate even for my failure. Only so can I live in peace in the all sufficient God.

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