

Thoughts on Prayer and Blessings

Those of us who get the picture that prayer is rather Superfluous because God already knows what we need, would be well to consider that this view of God would illustrate Him as rather arbitrary and doing His own thing regardless.

Although God is all-knowing and all-powerful, He has seen fit to make Himself dependent on our free choice that He gave to us, His little created ones. Therefore He sends the Spirit to woo us and invite our response, awaiting our involvement and input, doing nothing without it.

I once read something that gave me a very interesting picture to think on, about heaven having piles of Blessings; Insights; Knowledge; Opportunities; Gifts; and many good things that were just sitting there, wrapped and ready to be sent--but not sent because the person they were intended for had never cared enough to ask for them. Sort of like a shipping station piled up with unclaimed presents.

It is through developing our prayer-relations with God that we learn how to work in harmony with heaven--and if we don't practice asking and receiving--we don't gain that vital knowledge of heaven's ways and means that God wants us to have. We also fail in really getting to understand God's character.

The angels ask and receive help for their charges--Jesus, when on earth, prayed His Father and received everything He needed to carry out His work for mankind. Jesus still is doing that as He intercedes for us, presenting our prayers combined with His before the Father--Who is Himself eager to help but has made Himself dependant on His creature's wishes. But the whole system, mighty and all-powerful as it is, awaits our input to throw it into gear.

The system of praying and receiving is a means of our growth, and of our being trained to become part of the Heavenly Family. As we praise God and express our gratitude our faith grows mightily and we are enabled to see more of God's glory. Prayer becomes the very breath of the soul--a body that does not breath--is dead. Through prayer we take hold of victory over sin that Heaven has made available and our mind becomes more and more solidly determined to be rid of all that offends and comes between us and our Saviour.

Willful and cherished sin blocks the channels of prayer, and so only a fully surrendered life can receive heaven's bounties--but the vilest sinner, wishing to be cleansed, has the ear of God and access to all the cleansing and overcoming power he will ever need--through Christ. Salvation is a co-operative work between God and man.

The goal of 'prayer without ceasing' points us towards developing such a powerful link with God that He is always with us and we are conscious of the link

with Him at all times. Like Moses who came to where he lived as 'seeing the invisible'; and Noah and Enoch who 'walked with God'; so we are to draw closer and closer into fellowship and co-operation with the Godhead until self is swallowed up in the wonderful sense of His presence and His glory illumines our earthly lives to the blessing of all around us.

All the unfallen universe has this link, and it was this bond that Satan rejected and pulled away from--choosing to be on his own--that brought disaster. It is the lack of this link that causes the earth to be filled with cries of loneliness and woe. We try and fill its place with human relationships--but nothing can replace the heavenly link, and human friendships, sooner or later, fail miserably without it. The restoration of that link is what Christ died for and the whole plan of salvation was set up for--to restore man to oneness with his Creator.

Yes Prayer is the key in the hand of faith that unlocks Heaven's storehouse and brings into our lives all that heaven really wants for us to have. And as we receive, we open our hearts to our fellow beings and as we plead for their needs and help, so we join with our Saviour in His work of mediation and heaven is drawn closer to earth and Satan's cruelty is thwarted and many a soul is torn from his teeth to stand with the redeemed and praise God forever.

Prayer is not an act of merit where-by we earn anything from God; it is not a method of getting God to do anything by force of numbers or by magic words or secret phrases; it does not force God to act against His own laws--because He never does this; it does not work better just because we are in a certain place, or praying at a certain time or on a day with an interesting date; or because a certain important or influential person is praying for us--all such concepts are heathen, and more like witchcraft than Christianity. But prayer is one of the tools heaven has put in place for our redemption and by neglecting to develop it, we rob ourselves of the heavenly riches.

God Bless!