

CHIEF MINISTRIES

September 2014

Oft times people have used prayer as a means of manipulating God or at least trying to. Let's go back to the beginning of time. God was the initiator of the communication when He approached Adam. He was walking in the garden in the "cool" of the day. What does this exactly mean? To me it means there should be a moment in your day when you will feel the breeze of God, which means it's time to respond. The word "cool" in Hebrew is "Spirit, wind, breeze". This breeze will prompt you by impulse to search for God. When this happens it may require two minutes or in some cases two hours.

Everyone will pray at sometime in their lifetime, even atheists. Voltaire, during an extreme thunderstorm was caught under a tree and seen crying to God. There are different kinds of prayer. I'd like to tell you about prophetic prayer. What's that you ask? It's simply praying under the influence of insight and foresight. It is one thing to pray, "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven," but unless you actually get to know what his will is in heaven then it becomes a redundant prayer. Prayer can gather a lot of information from the Holy Spirit, information that could change your entire understanding of your journey, your purpose, and your destiny.

1 Corinthians 2:6-8 says, *"we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."*

The mysterious thing inside of you is your secret strength. However, how do you know what it is? And what kind of prayer is required for this to begin to manifest through you? You have a "glory" that is hidden in your spirit as you are formed on your journey in this life, the day comes when you experience transformation. God does three things in your life. He creates you, forms you, then transforms you. What does this mean? Isaiah 43:1; *"but now thus saith the Lord who created you both Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel: Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name, you are Mine."*

So God created Jacob, but during a period of 20 years He FORMED Israel inside of Jacob. Only after God had formed Israel in Jacob did he become Israel. Remember how Jacob wrestled with God and God said to him, "What is your name"? He said "Jacob". And God said, *"Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men and have prevailed."*

You will have to struggle before entering your destiny.

1 Corinthians 2:10-11 *"But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things, yes the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God."*

Each person has something inside of their spirit that is "unknown" yet their spirit knows it. You know that there is something great inside of you but you have no idea what it is; however you suspect it is something valuable and beautiful. We are constantly reminded of our faults and flaws by well-meaning an

ill-meaning people. Would God jump on that bandwagon? No! As David clearly said, "*My sin is ever before me.*" However, what is the thing that is not ever before you? Your greatness, your beauty, your potential, your goodness and your Godly attributes. So why do we have a "hidden" secret? The best way for me to explain this is Sampson. Sampson was born with a hidden secret that God did not want his enemies to know about. The length of his hair would determine his strength. He never pronounced this to anyone and as long as he kept his secret to himself he would always be the victor over his enemies. As we all know he lost his strength when his secret was revealed by the power of seduction. So we understand that once the mystery in you is uncovered through prophetic insight given by the Holy Spirit, it becomes your secret strength. The enemy does not know what it is unless it is stolen from you by a seducing spirit. A seducing spirit is similar to a spirit of divination - it has to disarm you and make you feel "at home." The most ambitious desire of Satan is to change your course so that you are unprotected and out of line with God's will for your life.

So what kind of prayer releases information to you about yourself? Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-2; *Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him, however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.*

Please notice that when you pray in the spirit you "speak mysteries". Or you "reveal" mysteries. So your prayer time could actually be a beautiful time of gaining understanding about your call in this life and journey. I hope this will help some of you with your own prayer life. I believe that like typing, instead of doing nothing at all because you don't have the money or time (to pray), just do something, start with something. Even if it's just 5 min. a day or five dollars in commissary. I promise you, that you will begin to gain insight, clarity, encouragement, direction and so much more. God will begin to reveal the Israel inside of you...your secret strength. Then your journey will begin and you'll have great joy as you live out your destiny. This gives a whole new meaning to power in your prayer!

What is prayer?

Prayer is the art of focusing on God and allowing our focus to conduct us into His presence. Our private prayers need not be intelligible. The Spirit helps us in our wordlessness, our weakness. "*We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express*" (Romans 8:26) The more earnestly we pray the more our prayers transcend mere words.

We need to center our self. Centering is a function of our wanting to get in touch with God, and prayer is the Avenue of this art. Humility is the fastest way to the center of the self. My brothers, do let us have a little humility. Let us forget our self-assertion and braggadocio and stupid quarreling and do what the Bible tells us instead! The Bible is the charter of our self-abandonment. What did Jesus do with His self abandonment? He went to the cross. By the time Jesus came into the world, the word "self" had to be reckoned with and put in its place. Self had to be denied, Jesus said, "crucified" said Paul. Why? Because the self served only self. The ego thrives best in soil so shallow it can give no root to the purposes of God - Centering is union with Christ. Scripture doesn't encourage us to negate ourselves (become nonexistent). Scripture teaches us to deny ourselves. To abdicate our passions and get rid of the things that claim our lives with petty self-interest. Prayer is a dialogue of lovers. But if we negate ourselves to the point that we are not there, God cannot talk to us at all.

All our lives we cry out to be in constant communication with God. But is it really possible to pray without ceasing? (1 Thessalonians 5:17) Yes! Of course the trick is to make your way into the cell of your inward self and be content to live there. This is the great distinguishing mark between Christian meditation and Eastern systems. In yogic systems, one is always trying to stamp out the self. But in Christian meditation we recognize the self as the basis of our being in God. We should not magnify it too much, but we should thrill that in being human we are permitted this wonderful definition of our

significance. We exist. We cannot cease to be. After all, God has wonderful things to say to us! Thus, self-denial not self-negation is the path to obedience.

What I am suggesting is the adoption of a principal that will take your walk with Christ to a new level. Most people spend so little time in prayer that they have never derived any spiritual growth from it. They have lived and will always live on the periphery of God's empowering. They need to move on into that kind of prayer life that actually furnishes them with a dynamic God view. Centering prayers are never those hurried sky fobs that we toss upward amid our hassled to – and - froings. Centering prayers are interested in relationship, not answers. Centering prayer wants God alone - all of God - more of God - only God!

I suspect the difference between a person of seasoned prayer and one of smaller prayer experience is the amount of time they spend talking rather than listening. I believe to pray without ceasing has a lot to do with making a significant amount of your prayer time listening. Those whose prayers are unending monologues make themselves a giant mouth while making God a small ear. Presence is being "with God." It's neither talking or listening - it's abiding. Could the best prayer time ever be when we no longer remember we are praying?

At the depths of centered praying lies a hush. In the majesty of final things there will be *silence in heaven for half an hour (Revelation 8:1)* In the Holy of Holies we are forbidden trivial speech because the air is too full of unfathomable glory. Remember how Peter sinned by being chatty at the Transfiguration? The hush of things exalted usually leads the naïve to fill the silence with words. It is because they live such surface lives that deeper things leave them nervous and talkative. What is the power of this mystery? Proximity to God. What is the final step of proximity? The center. Drawing nearer to the epicenter of power will cause the prudent to shut up. Only the foolish and shallow will speak. This is good because listening is part of centering. God's omniscience informs us that we all know too little and talk too much. We must make a place for God's glory, for the wind, for the fire.

Build a prayer circle - no! Be a prayer circle. Close the circumferences of your fellowship with God around your own enduring testimony. Let's pray for one another, that our eyes would be open to our need of self-denial and centering, leading to a prayer-filled life.

.....Oh what peace we often forfeit,
Oh what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry,
Everything to God in prayer.

As always,

Chief

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