

GROWING IN PRAYER

Our prayer life is our daily communication with our loving Heavenly Father, whose heart is always open to our cry. When we first become Christians, those who have committed their hearts and lives to Christ, as per John 3-16, we begin to learn to pray, to ask GOD to forgive our sins, to bless us and help us on the way. We come as repentant sinners, and give thanks to our Saviour. Then, as we grow in knowledge of the Scriptures, we learn that prayer is our lifeline with GOD.

We pray when we wake in the morning, we ask for His help and guidance in our daily walk, in our going out and in our coming in. We need His blessing every day; but as we grow in knowledge of God's Word, we find out that prayer is more than just asking for ourselves; through prayer we can enter into a world of praise, worship and intercession, that we can actually come right into the Divine presence of our Almighty God, as Paul says in Heb.10-19 "having boldness to enter into the Holiest by the blood of Jesus", v.22, "let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith!".

We come to realise that we are no longer repentant sinners, but Jesus "hath delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son" Col. 1-13, (read also v14/22). "Beloved, now are we the sons of God"! 1 Jo.3-2 "And if sons, then heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs-with Christ", Rom.8-17. As the children of Almighty God, who is Omnipotent, Omniscient, and Omnipresent, the great creator of the Universe and everything in it, the giver and sustainer of all life whether angels, or men, or animals or vegetation, we need to realise that we can come boldly into the Father's presence, and make our requests known unto Him, for ourselves, our families, our occupation, our witness, for our neighbours, for those in authority etc.; and in recognition of this our hearts should be full of praise, and the praise of God should always be in our hearts and on our lips, "singing and making melody in our hearts to the LORD!" Eph.5-19

Now we begin to understand that we have a perfect right to come before the Heavenly Father as His own dear children, and to communicate with Him in confidence, knowing that His ear is open to our cry and He is ready to meet our needs. We fellowship with Him,

The following are some scriptures to encourage us to venture out more in our prayer walk with GOD !

Mark 13-31 Heaven & Earth shall pass away, but MY WORD shall never pass away! 1 Pet.1-25 It endureth for ever! Numbers 23-19 God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man that he should repent. (GOD cannot lie.)

Matt. 7-7 Ask, and it shall be given you; Seek and ye shall find, Knock and it shall be opened to you.

Phil.4-6 Be careful for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, make your requests known unto God.

Phil.4-19 My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Eph.3-20 Unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us. Luke 10-19 Behold I give you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy & nothing shall hurt you. Heb. 6-1 speaks of those "who have tasted of the heavenly gift, made partakers of the Holy Ghost, have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the age to come!" Wow, as one preacher said, "It's like having one foot over in the next age". GOD has given us authority to use the Name of His Son, who has all authority in Heaven and Earth. We are living in the last days of this age, the coming of our Lord is at hand, so we not only need to stand firm in the teeth of all opposition, but ready to bind the powers of darkness that assail us, and to walk in victory !

We must also learn to use our sword; a sword is both for defence and for attack, and we are instructed to "take the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God!". (This is part of the armour of GOD, which we also need, as per Eph.6-10-18.) As Gideon went into battle and cried "The sword of the LORD and of Gideon", and with 300 men routed the great army of the Midianites, so let us go into battle against the enemy with our own cry "The Sword of the LORD and of (Alfred)" (put your own name in here!) as in Judges ch.6 & 7. Isa. 54-17 "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper" –so let us give— "Thanks to GOD, who hath given us the victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ" 1 Cor.15-57

Ps. 27-1 The LORD is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?"

Fear is the enemy of faith, so let us put away our fears and venture out, trusting only in our Wonderful Lord and Saviour.

Study by Alfred Curtis 12/5/2020