

Value of Prayer Conversation with God

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One's development of faith and Spiritual growth in a true Christian life, and their being prepared and made ready by the Holy Spirit to meet Christ on His return, requires a new and right start and then learning how we are to believe for the promised Holy Spirit to take possession of us.

All of this depends on our personal prayer relationship with God because it revolves around final unconditional surrender of our life to Him, and then believing that we are forgiven and cleansed (through the Atonement work of Jesus Christ on a Cross).

It means that we are to believe that we have been accepted and taken possession of by God, and we have become "dead indeed unto sin, but living for God through our union with Jesus Christ." (Rom.6:11). We need to take that attitude (that belief) in our heart, and we must maintain that by the help of the Holy Spirit, He, who will help us to reject the devil's attempts to tell (and convince) us otherwise. It would not be possible for anyone to make any progress at all in the Christian life, without the Holy Spirit of the indwelling Christ (which is that same Spirit). That will become our position of belief (and one that we can never afford to get away from). If we do fall away from that position, we need to get back to it right away via repentance and re-surrender of our life afresh, to be led and guided by God's Spirit.

That is something that we could do at any time, and Jesus Christ (our Savior who already ascended and has gone before us to Heaven), is at the right hand of God pleading for us to come back to that position of belief and re-surrender of our life to Him. He does not want any soul to perish because of unbelief, which (Apostle Paul explained) is idolatry, for if our belief (or trust) is not on Christ, then it is centered on something else aside from Him. [We should understand and know that our faith will automatically be on what we believe in our mind to be true). It is most important that we are believing what God's Word tells us, instead of what the devil is trying to convince us to believe through sight, feeling, and suggestions to our mind).

Since we can choose to repent, re-surrender our life, and get back to God at any time, that means it is our human responsibility and must be our decision to do that. We are to take our stand of faith on where the Bible says we are and believe that we are as the Atonement Blood of Christ has made us. That is God's divine Truth, and it is the foundation for our personal conversation with God, on which spiritual growth and development in our Christian life really depends on.

Personal dealing with God is just opposite to our natural self-life. The natural instinct of a self-life (because it is controlled by the devil) is to do things by our own mind, intellect, and decision, and so, get as far away as possible from any personal dealing with God (in fact to ignore him completely if we can). That is the worst factor about the sin of Adam, because it brought about a complete separation from God, which resulted in an ignorance of Him and hostility in some instances, toward His way for us to meet circumstances in life.

Anything worthwhile that we ever expect to have in this life and for eternity, will come from God (through personal prayer relationship with Him). For a person to be separated from God (through having no conversation with Him), is the worst place that one can be, because it robs us of all the benefits of God's presence in our life. So, we need to talk to God in prayer, because if not, in reality we will shut out everything that Jesus died on the Cross to provide for us in this life and robs us (sooner or later) of our life here and of Eternal life hereafter. Living a life separate from a personal trust in God, will land a person in the Lake of Fire, (if it is not repented of).

We must repent of unbelief on God and get back to believing His Word that the Atonement Blood of Christ has pardoned, cleansed, and paid the price for our forgiveness. If we truly believe those facts in our heart (and choose not to accept Satan's lies and suggestions), then our faith will follow suit and we will become recipients of God's mercy. Those who believe lying vanities" (which means to believe the devil's thoughts and suggestions), "forsake their own mercy." Prophet Jonah was inspired to say, (Jonah 2:8-9), "Those who regard worthless idols, Forsake their own Mercy. But I will sacrifice to You. With the voice of thanksgiving, I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation [is] of the Lord." (he had learned and then declared).

God had to deal harshly with Jonah, but He

must have seen a remote possibility of him being brought to repentance. So, God gave Jonah an 'opportunity' to confess his mistake (of listening to the devil's lie that he would be mocked if he were to warn the people of Nineveh of God's wrath.) God will give each of us the same opportunity to repent (or we may choose not to repent of listening to and following the devil's lies. Fortunately for Jonah he did truly repent, and he conversed with God and poured out his heart to Him in personal 'prayer of repentance' (or we would not have heard about Jonah).

That is what we need to do, deal personally with God, open our mind, and truly pour out our heart to Him (in our personal relationship with Him). Our victory (our answer to prayer) lies between us and God, and we don't need anyone else in between. That is what spiritual growth and development in the Christian life really depends on. God knows what He needs to do, for Him to teach us to know His will, and to believe on His Promises, because He is the perfect Teacher.

God can easily reveal to our mind, where changes are needed in our life. However, when we are stubborn and not willing to listen and repent, He sometimes has to deal more harshly with us. Sometimes it takes a harder knock to wake us up (as one might say). Nevertheless, we should be thankful that God finds us worthy to be dealt with (just as He gave Jonah opportunity to confess his mistake of listening to the devil's lies).

Through a personal 'prayer relationship with God, He will enable us to reject the devil's lies and suggestions. We will come to believe on God's promises, as He will enable us to realize that every promise that He has given us, is supported by the power of the Atonement Blood of His Son, Jesus Christ. We will believe that His promises are true and realize that we do not have to believe lying vanities, and forsake the mercy that God extended to us through the sacrifice of His Son.

(2 Cor.7:1 admonishes) "Since we have these promises dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, . perfecting holiness out of reverence for God." That is the place that God wants to bring us to (if we are willing to let Him teach us to trust on His Word).

In reality, what the Bible teaches is, that we are to go to God about everything in our life. We are to open our mind and heart to God, explain to

Him in private prayer, exactly what we need to know about some thing or situation, or what we desire to have that would be within His will for us to have in our life. God hears and answers a prayer of faith, so we should get results when we pray (which will also glorify our God in Heaven).

We should get answers (along with the knowledge and understanding that we need), on how to be victorious in our spiritual life; in the healing of our body; victory in our home; and to enjoy His protection in all things. All of these blessings are part of God's plan for the believer who will go personally in prayer to God, and not rely on any alternative plan (knowing that our believing opens our door to receive. The Gospel of Christ is a harmonious plan for the true believer, and we can't separate it into parts. We can't reject God's plan for healing (through faith), nor can we reject His plan for our protection or financial needs (all to be received through faith to open the door), and we surely cannot reject God's plan for victory in the home.

The Gospel of Christ stands and falls as one. If we reject any part of God's plan (or just leave out part of His plan for all true believers), very soon the rest of God's plan will also be put aside. However (by God's mercy and grace), we will be given the opportunity to repent, but if we are not willing to repent, then God can't help us, and the devil will be able to take control.

We need to confess our mistakes to God and get ourselves back to being "dead indeed unto sin but living for God through our union with Jesus Christ." (Rom. 6:11). We have to see ourselves in faith, the way God's Word says that we are to be (all because of what Jesus Christ did for us on the Cross). We are to have a belief in our heart, that we are what we want to be, which is, cleansed by the Blood of Christ, (and made free from sin and Satan's influence over us). Also, we need to maintain that position of faith with the help of the Holy Spirit, as we depend only on the Son of God in our personal dealing with Him. That is the position of belief that we can never get away from.

A great factor in our spiritual development (and God's preparing us for eternal Life), is to trust God to control the attitudes of people around and in contact with us each day. This is especially so in the home, as well as the workshop and elsewhere. Some of the great results in the life of believers (that we read of in the Bible), came from

meeting people right, and being Scriptural in dealing with others. Through David meeting people and circumstances right, that put him on the throne of Israel, even though he had to be tested along the way, (and severely chastened at times). But David was willing to repent when God gave him the test.

Learning to meet people and circumstances Scripturally, resulted in Joseph being delivered from the prison cell, and he was put on the throne of Egypt (next to the Emperor, Pharaoh). All through the Bible, it was one of the important factors involved in outstanding blessings received by willing and repentant believers.

The Bible also reveals that it was one of the greatest elements in the life of Jesus Christ on this earth, and some remarkable aspects of how Jesus humbled Himself to meet people right, were recorded in detail for each of us to learn from (Phil.2). We would all do well to pay special attention to those details and instructions, for manifold blessings will be received by doing so, and, most importantly, long-lasting spiritual blessing (which will carry over to that next test of our faith). By our taking the same position as Jesus Christ did (as an example for us), .it will allow God to deal personally with us and for us (and it will spare us of a lot of problems with other people).

(Phil.2:5-8 speaks to each one of us), (quote), “Although from the beginning He had the nature of God He did not reckon His equality with God a treasure to be tightly grasped. Nay, He stripped Himself of His glory, and took on Him the nature of a bond-servant, by becoming a man like other men. And being recognized as truly human, He humbled Himself and even stooped to die; yes, to die on a cross.”

(Being recognized as human, means that Jesus also had things to meet right in his life (including other people).(Vs.9-11) “It is in consequence of this that God has also so highly exalted Him, and has conferred on Him the Name which is supreme above every other, in order that in the Name of JESUS every knee should bow, of beings in Heaven, of those on the earth, and of those in the underworld, and that every tongue should confess that JESUS CHRIST is LORD, to the glory of God the Father.”

[Thus, the Apostle was inspired to encourage us (to work out our own salvation by going personally to God in prayer and obedient

faith] (vs.12-13) “Therefore, my dearly-loved friends, as I have always found you obedient, labor earnestly with fear and trembling-not merely as though I were present with you, but much more now since I am absent from you--labor earnestly, I say, to make sure of your own salvation. For it is God Himself whose power creates within you, the desire to do His ‘gracious will’ and it brings about accomplishment of the desire.”

Since the Bible explains that it is God’s power that creates the desire within us to do His will (we may notice it says his gracious will), that should bring us back to recognizing the importance of our dealing personally and humbly with God in our own private devotions. We should go to God in prayer, and open our mind and heart to Him, and tell Him what we would like Him to do for us regarding circumstances (or other people), or, that we want Him to show us how to meet those things according to His will (as His Son, Jesus would meet them).

All of our own efforts to manipulate people, trying to control situations (or circumstances), or avenging ourselves of wrongs that are done to us, are all a result of the self-life that is still in our heart. Our two biggest enemies to living a Christian life of faith, is self and the devil within our heart and mind. There are no bigger enemies against us, and they must be gotten rid of, and The Holy Spirit is the One to do that for us (if we will allow Him). It is through our personal communication with God and submission to do as He instructed us, that He can take those destructive enemies out of our heart.

The Bible says, “Let the same disposition be in you which was in Christ Jesus.” And, as “He humbled Himself and even stooped to die; yes, to die on a cross”,.. That is the humble position we need to take in our personal dealing with God (as the Bible instructs us to do).

As we labor earnestly in the faith and being Aever on our guard against a grudging and contentious spirit(vs.14), then God can work within our hearts. He can replace our old evil nature with the humble nature (disposition) of Jesus Christ, followed by contentment, peace, purity, and joy (as the Apostle Paul had made note).

It is and will always be our free-will choice to follow the efforts of the self-life (which are presented by the devil), or, to meet circumstances (or other people) as God’s Word says.(Vs.14-15 say) “Be ever on your guard against a grudging

and contentious spirit, so that you may always prove yourselves to be blameless and spotless--irreproachable children of God in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you are seen as heavenly lights in the world, holding out to them a "Message of Life".

Hold out to others a "Message of Life" via our actions and our responses in a Christlike way (the Bible says). We can then say with confidence (as did the Apostle (vs 16), "It will then be my glory on the day of Christ that I did not run my race in vain, nor toil in vain."

By humbling ourselves (allowing God to work for us), we will then have the privilege of enjoying His presence and His peace in every circumstance. We will be tempted and tried (to see if we meet wrong treatment as Jesus Christ did) (and with other Bible examples). However, as we take that humble position, and allow God to guide us in knowing how to meet other people and circumstances according to His will (and the example of Jesus Christ), we can then enjoy having other people to treat us kindly and considerately (as we would like them to do).

(1 Pet.5:6-7) gives instruction on how we are to do that), "There-fore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."

That is all the more reason for us to have a personal prayer conversation with God (with nothing nor anybody else in between), (be it our family, the Church, or any human place of trust). We need to go to God in prayer and tell Him what we would like Him to do for us. That is what the Bible teaches for us (by Word and example).

When someone went to God to deal with Him personally, they received enlightenment, understanding, and wisdom that they needed. If there was a hindrance to their faith in the way, God revealed it to them, and He enabled them to get rid of it.

That is what God did for Joshua when the Israelites sinned against God's command (not to take of spoils of the Amorites). Joshua lay on the ground and cried to the Lord because the Israelites had lost a battle with the men of Ai. (Joshua 7:10 says), "The LORD said to Joshua, "Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant which I commanded them to keep." (vs.13) God said, "Get up, sanctify the people, and

say, "Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, because thus says the Lord God of Israel: "There is an accursed thing in your midst, O Israel; you cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the accursed thing from among you."

When Joshua went personally to God, God revealed the spiritual cause for the Israelite's problems. God ordered Joshua to 'get the spiritual cause out of the way' before He would be with them again. God will do the same for us today (as we deal personally with Him).

John the Baptist told his disciples that "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from Heaven." If we believe that Scripture (which is true), that we have to get all of our light, strength, and understanding of divine Truth from God, then it surely is the best plan to get it from God directly. The great spiritual issue involved is that it strikes a serious blow to the self-life.

Dealing with God in direct personal prayer, could be likened to coming face to face with God, so we should get results when we pour out our heart to Him in a private prayer. It is God who teaches and gives us the light and understanding on how to pray. There is not one thing that we would want to know and receive, that He won't be able to give us the needed light, and to show us how to receive it (as our faith on Him opens our door to receive from Him). That is the interceding work of the Holy Spirit (says Rom.8:26-27), "In the same way the Spirit also helps us in our weakness; for we do not know what prayers to offer nor in what way to offer them. But the Spirit Himself pleads for us in yearnings that can find no words, and the Searcher of hearts knows what the Spirit's meaning is, because His intercessions for God's people, are in harmony with God's will."

That is quite a promise from God, for our going directly to Him in prayer, and conversing personally with Him for things and circumstances in our life!



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