

HOW TO PRAY

—

FOR MEN

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A TUNE-UP MANUAL FOR THE CHRISTIAN MAN

Praycalifornia.com

HOW TO PRAY – FOR MEN

BY

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All scripture is used from New King James (NKJV)

This manual is dedicated to the men with whom I have prayed consistently and without ceasing over the last ten years, to the men with whom I pray on a hill and to the co-pastors of the largest church in the world.

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Introduction

- 1) Congratulations – you want to improve your life. The outcome may not be what you expect, but your life will improve if you read this manual and apply the concepts.
- 2) This is a tune-up manual for the Christian Man. This manual provides concise concepts about men and prayer. This manual has ten chapters written without complexity. It is a book for the Christian Man who has barely cracked open a Bible before; and for the Christian Man who has a PhD in Christianity from a time-honored seminary. And it is for all Christian men in between.
- 3) Many if not most Christian men do not know how to pray. And if they do pray, it can be a fumbling, bumbling exercise with the excuse that praying is “women’s work” because “all they do is talk anyway, so why can’t prayer be left to women? Men should go fight, protect, and bring home the bacon. Right?” This manual reveals just the opposite: a Christian Man who prays is one who is successful at fighting, protecting, and providing.
- 4) This manual removes the fear that most men have in praying and praying out loud. It destroys the concept that prayer is a transaction between a man and God. It identifies how unhealthy are the terms: prayer meeting, prayer cards, prayer teams, prayer warrior, praying while driving, and the phrase, “There is power in Prayer!”

These are all transactional self-willed utilitarian behaviors. All those things make God a genie and the petitioner His master. “I tell you my wishes, you must grant them.” This manual will teach the reader how to talk to his maker, Christ Almighty, without fear and without transaction!

- 5) I have spent the last ten years praying very differently than the first fifty-five years of my life. In those ten years, I taught a pastor how to pray which changed his life and that of his congregation. In praying without ceasing, I have seen God answer prayers (opening, the womb, removing addiction, providing a house, providing a wife, restoring father daughter relationships, to name just a few.) I have seen the boldness in my own life in confronting evil because I have spent time talking to God, the Father. I have heard Him speak, because in praying I listened.
- 6) The reader will learn how to converse with God – talking and listening. Praying is the definition of the free man who wants to talk with the Savior who made him free. If you want freedom, you will find it in your conversations with God.
- 7) Do you want to improve your conversations with the God of the Universe, the God Whose throne is in the Heavens, and Whose footstool is the earth? It is possible. It is easy. Read this manual. It will improve your relationship with God.

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Quick Note - To Whom Do We Pray

The simple answer to the question of “To Whom does the Christian Man pray” is to God.

The next question is what is God’s name?

The answer is:

- 1) I Am – Exodus 3:14: “And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ” ”
- 2) God the Father – Galatians 1:3: “Grace to you and peace from God the Father ...”
- 3) Jesus Christ (Jesus, son of Mary and Joseph) – John 14:6&7: “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.’ ”
- 4) The Holy Spirit – Acts 5:3&4 – “But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? “While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.’ ”

- 5) There are distinctive titles as well:
- El Shaddai (Lord God Almighty) – Genesis 17:1
 - El Elyon (The Most High God) – Genesis 14:18
 - Adonai (Lord, Master) – Genesis 15:2
 - Yahweh (Lord, Jehovah) – Genesis 2:4
 - Jehovah Nissi (The Lord My Banner) – Exodus 17:15
 - Jehovah-Raah (The Lord My Shepherd) – Psalm 23:1
 - Jehovah Rapha (The Lord That Heals) – Exodus 15:26
 - Jehovah Shammah (The Lord Is There) – Ezekiel 48:35
 - Jehovah Tsidkenu (The Lord Our Righteousness) – Jeremiah 23:6
 - Jehovah Mekoddishkem (The Lord Who Sanctifies You) – Exodus 31:13
 - El Olam (The Everlasting God) – Genesis 21:33
 - Elohim (God) Genesis 1:1
 - Qanna (Jealous) – Exodus 20:5
 - Jehovah Jireh (The Lord Will Provide) – Genesis 22:14
 - Jehovah Shalom (The Lord Is Peace) – Judges 6:24
 - Jehovah Sabaoth (The Lord of Hosts) – 1 Samuel 1:3

God, The Father, makes His Throne in Heaven with the earth as His footstool.

God, Jesus Christ, sits at the right hand of the Father.

God, the Holy Spirit, resides in the Christian Man, His Temple.

One God, Three Persons, many titles.

When praying, the Christian Man can address God as The Father, as Jesus, as The Holy Spirit or with any of His other titles.

The reader should understand that when references in this manual to praying to God in some places, to the Father in others, to Jesus in others, and to the Holy Spirit in others, those references all refer to One God, in Three Persons, Blessed Trinity.

The Christian man understands there is One God even though there are different persons of and multiple titles for the God Head. The First Commandment says there is only One God. To Him is due all attention.

Jesus is not God's brother. He is not the Christian's brother. Jesus is God.

When the reader has a conversation with God, The Father, it is the same as having a conversation with Jesus – they are the same. And same with the Holy Spirit. One God, three persons.

~

Chapter One: Pray Definition

A)

Hebrews 1:3 “For he is the radiance of the glory of God and the expression of his being, upholding all creation by the power of his word; and, when he had made an expiation for the sins of humanity, he took his seat at the right hand of God’s Majesty on high.”

The Christian Man is to have conversation with God DIRECTLY because as Hebrews declares Jesus Christ paid the price for the sins of Man. That means no longer does humanity have to go through priests, pastors, prayer teams or any other form of genuflection to get to God. Jesus grants the Christian man direct access to converse with God.

The definition of prayer for the Christian Man is having a conversation with God.

It is that simple.

End of story.

B)

God, in Heaven loves us. His love is Agape, a strong, selfless, and sacrificial love. One way of seeing God’s Agape is in His Grace, unearned favor, that He gives to the Christian. His Mercy, through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus, on the cross for the forgiveness of sins demonstrates His Grace.

His Mercy leads the Christian into Liberty. The Christian is no longer tied up in the Mosaic Law. Law binds the individual down to hell. Mercy unshackles the Christian to live free in relationship with Christ Almighty.

Liberty rides inseparably with Mercy. They are equally yoked.

Therefore, the Christian is free!

This fact should be very clear: The Christian is free! The one who says, “Christ is Lord and Savior” and believes in his heart that God raised Him from the dead is free!

You have heard it said, “Choose this day who you will serve...” But consider: the Christian is no longer a servant. He is free of servitude. The Cross broke service. The Cross re-established relationship.

Conversation is foundational to every relationship.

Praying is simply conversing with Jesus.

Hear this again! Praying is simply conversing with Jesus.

Praying is NOT an obligation. Not a requirement. Not a status symbol. Not an act of power. Not something defining a warrior. Not a transaction describing a team or a room. Not something we give back to God.

Praying is defined as the freed man talking with the Savior who made him free.

Repentance is the logical state of the person in prayer. The unrepentant has no need of a savior. The penitent seeks to speak to the Savior who listens and speaks back.

Repentance cannot be earned or achieved. It is a sign of the Christian who prays.

C)

“But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray.” - Luke 5:16

Breathe penitent.

The Christian Man can go to church, attend bible studies, memorize scripture, sing in worship, fight the good fight, hold the right doctrine, do his job, raise his children, preach, be an elder/deacon, fight in wars, campaign for the right politician, get out the vote and literally millions of other actions.

But they are all of self-will. They have the aroma of onions and leaks.

The only thing one cannot do of one's own free will is talk to God, because that requires complete submission of one's own will under His. The very act of talking to The Savior is acknowledging the need for The Savior. And what does a man need a Savior for? For his own self-will.

The reader should not confuse this kind of conversation with God with the common evangelical / post-evangelical concept of prayer breakfasts, prayer cards, prayer teams, prayer

warrior, praying while driving, or “There is power in Prayer!” which are all transactional self-willed utilitarian behaviors. All those things make God a genie (a slave) and those who engage in these actions, His master. “I give you my wishes, you must grant them.”

And you wonder why America is in such a state.

Slavery is dirty, leads to disease, lies, greed, cursing, murder, fornication, and all other types of witchcraft.

God is not an object!

Nor did God make humanity to be objects for that would be a means to an end.

He made persons (“in His Image” – Genesis 1:26) with which to have relationship.

Accepting the Creator’s design means accepting His Will as the right one, and not one’s own even in the state of forgiven sin. The Christian man must talk with God, which is an act of repentance.

It bears repeating: Repent! When the Christian Man repents, he gives up complete self-will to His Will. Remember Paul said, “Pray without ceasing.”

What he means is not constantly talking to Him, but to be constantly in relationship with Jesus – which means, complete submission of one’s own will to His, which STARTS with repenting.

“You can do nothing apart from Me” – John 15:5f.

D)

“The name of the Lord is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.” – Proverbs 18:10

One must ask in the pain of life, what structures has one built up in his mind to protect from the pain. Some revert to fantasy: things that are not real take up the time and space to protect from the reality of a sinful and fallen world. Yet others immerse themselves in pleasures better unspoken in order not to hurt.

Yet.

The pain is still there.

The Christian man knows and acts on the promises of his Savior. The Christian man moves immediately to Christ Almighty who sets the Christian man into safety. In Christ the Christian man finds safety and nowhere else.

And there the pain is made bearable.

E)

Isaiah 29:13 “Therefore, the Lord said: ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. Their worship of Me is by rules taught by men.’”

Matthew 15:7-9 7 “Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: 8 ‘These people draw near to Me with their

mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.””

Simply said: Love Jesus with all your heart, soul, and strength.

Singing worship songs, going to church, listening to sermons, reading devotionals, attending bible study, and other church activities are fun and feel good.

Talking of Jesus; knowing the right theological positions, and or doctrines, and or catechisms, belonging to the right Christian Group can be ways Christians draw near to God with their mouths and honor him with their lips. They fulfill the rules by men.

Conversations with Jesus negates rules by men!

Listening to Jesus and following Him because you love Him and not because of some obligation or servanthood or service or slavery are ways of drawing near to him with your heart and honoring Him with your whole being.

Being in debt or obligation to God, seeking service, identifying as a servant, calling one's self to slavery objectifies the Creator's creation.

In conclusion. Would you ask Jesus what you should have for breakfast? Many would respond, “What a silly thing to do! I would never take up God's time with such a trivial thing!”

Yet, best friends talk about everything, including breakfast!

A different way to answer this question is to consider that “Christ hung on a cross for me.” Died. Then God resurrected Him. He now sits in Heaven with a Name above all Names. He did this so I could have a relationship with Him.

Why wouldn't I want to talk with Him about everything and hear what He has to say?

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Chapter Two: Asking God to Help Others

Christian Holy Scripture is clear: Intercession is a normal part of conversing with Almighty God.

Matthew 7:7-12 “7 Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 9 Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him! 12 Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

Ephesians 6:18 “...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints...”

Romans 10:1 “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.”

Colossians 1:9 “For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;”

James 5:14-16 “14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. 16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

Matthew 5:44 “But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,”

1 Timothy 2:1 “Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,”

Romans 8:26 “Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”

Romans 8:34 “Who is he who condemns? (No one!) It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”

Hebrews 7:25 “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”

Numbers 6:23-26 “23 Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them:

24 The Lord bless you and keep you;

25 The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;

26 The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace.”

Genesis 18:23-33 “23 And Abraham came near and said, ‘Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked? 24 Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it? 25 Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?’

26 So the Lord said, ‘If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.’

27 Then Abraham answered and said, ‘Indeed now, I who am but dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: 28 Suppose there were five less than the fifty righteous; would You destroy all of the city for lack of five?’

So He said, ‘If I find there forty-five, I will not destroy it.’

29 And he spoke to Him yet again and said, ‘Suppose there should be forty found there?’

So He said, ‘I will not do it for the sake of forty.’

30 Then he said, ‘Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Suppose thirty should be found there?’

So He said, ‘I will not do it if I find thirty there.’

31 And he said, ‘Indeed now, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: Suppose twenty should be found there?’

So He said, ‘I will not destroy it for the sake of twenty.’

32 Then he said, ‘Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more: Suppose ten should be found there?’

And He said, ‘I will not destroy it for the sake of ten.’ 33 So the Lord went His way as soon as He had finished speaking with Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.”

Genesis 24:12-15 “12 Then he said, O Lord God of my master Abraham, please give me success this day, and show

kindness to my master Abraham. 13 Behold, here I stand by the well of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. 14 Now let it be that the young woman to whom I say, ‘Please let down your pitcher that I may drink,’ and she says, ‘Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink’—let her be the one You have appointed for Your servant Isaac. And by this I will know that You have shown kindness to my master. 15 And it happened, before he had finished speaking, that behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham’s brother, came out with her pitcher on her shoulder.”

Exodus 32:31-32 “31 Then Moses returned to the Lord and said, ‘Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! 32 Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written.’”

Numbers 27:15-17 “15 Then Moses spoke to the Lord, saying: ‘16 Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, 17 who may go out before them and go in before them, who may lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the Lord may not be like sheep which have no shepherd.’”

2 Samuel 24:17 “17 Then David spoke to the Lord when he saw the angel who was striking the people, and said, ‘Surely I have sinned, and I have done wickedly; but these sheep, what have they done? Let Your hand, I pray, be against me and against my father’s house.’”

Nehemiah 1:5-11 “5 And I said: ‘I pray, Lord God of heaven, O great and awesome God, You who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments, 6 please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father’s house and I have sinned. 7 We have acted very corruptly against You, and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant, Moses. 8 Remember, I pray, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations; 9 but if you return to Me, and keep My commandments and do them, though some of you were cast out to the farthest part of the heavens, yet I will gather them from there, and bring them to the place which I have chosen as a dwelling for My name.’ 10 Now these are Your servants and Your people, whom You have redeemed by Your great power, and by Your strong hand. 11 O Lord, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear Your name; and let Your

servant prosper this day, I pray, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.’”

Luke 23:34 “Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.’ And they divided His garments and cast lots.”

Intercession is a normal part of conversing with Almighty God.

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Chapter Three: Give Praise – Give Honor

A)

The Christian Man is aligned with a Victor. More than alignment he is a member of the family of God. See Galatians 4:7 “Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.”

The Christian Man wins because he is part of the family of God. Christ who was nailed to the cross and then raised from the dead enabled the Christian Man’s adoption into the family of God. Christ is worthy of all praise and honor. This is something the Christian Man can and should be joyfully shouting about.

B)

Revelation 4:8-11 “8 The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying:

‘Holy, holy, holy,

Lord God Almighty,

Who was and is and is to come!’

9 Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

11 ‘You are worthy, O Lord,
To receive glory and honor and power;
For You created all things,
And by Your will they exist and were created.’”

When people ask what it is like in Heaven, this verse above has the answer. The natural response of the Christian Man in the presence of God whether in Heaven or on Earth is an overwhelming awe where one can only exhibit humility and utter praise and honor to the almighty Creator.

C)

Definitions:

Praise – Commendation, approval, properly, accurate acknowledgement, recognition, enthusiastic acknowledgment (From Strong’s Concordance Greek of epainos.) To express a favorable judgment of: commend, to glorify especially by the attribution of perfections. Bless, emblazon, extoll, laud, carol, exalt, glorify, magnify, celebrate (From Websters.)

Honor – to glorify; bestow glory on; to render or esteem glorious (in a wide application), full of glory (From Strongs Concordance Greek of doxazo.) Good name, reputation, recognition, privilege, superior standing, a title for a holder of high office, one whose worth brings respect. Credit. Exalted. Chastity. Purity. Integrity (From Websters.)

Holy – From the root Word Hagos (an awful thing); sacred (physically pure, morally blameless) (From Strongs Concordance Greek of Agios.) Exalted or worthy of complete devotion as one perfect in goodness and righteousness (From Websters)

D)

An example of Giving Praise:

Psalm 100

“A psalm of praise.

1 Shout, all the earth, to the Lord.

2 Serve the Lord with gladness,
approach him with ringing cries.

3 Be sure that the Lord alone is God.

It is he who has made us, and his we are
his people, the sheep of his pasture.

4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

5 For the Lord is good, his love is forever,
and to all ages endures his faithfulness.”

Note the first word in the first verse: Shout. Note the significance of verse 2, specifically the phrase, “approach him with ringing cries.” Expanding the translation of ringing cries: “shout for joy”, “sing for joy”, “cry out”, “shout aloud”, “shouted”. Praise to Almighty God should be joyful, and loud, very loud.

This verse is the example for the Christian Man. Note, that the exhortation is for the individual to shout, sing, cry (happy) out loud. Nothing here supports instrumentation nor instrumental amplification. Some have mistakenly considered Sunday morning Christian rock concerts as the foremost expression of praise, honor and even calling it worship to pander to the younger generations.

What happens in these rock concerts is that most if not all men, neither sing, nor shout, nor are very loud. In fact, most of the activity is mouthing words, with little or no sound because the amplification and the instrumentation drown out the individual.

And the younger generation, especially the younger men, lose out on learning to praise God according to scriptural standards.

The Christian Man should express his praise and honor to Christ with shouts and ringing cries.

E)

Consider 2 Samuel 6:14 – “Then David danced before the Lord with all *his* might; and David *was* wearing a linen ephod.”

The great King David danced with all his might in praise and honor to the Mighty Lord God.

Consider verse 16 of the same chapter – “Now as the ark of the Lord came into the City of David, Michal, Saul’s daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart.”

Two critical notes: the first is David was not only dancing, but he was leaping and twirling. David had no pretense, but humbled himself by dancing in praise and honor to almighty God.

The second is former King Saul’s daughter, Michal, despised David for it. Michal represents Man’s understanding of order and socially correct behaviors. Her contempt can be expressed like this: “A king should not act this way. This is inappropriate for a man. It is simply not done!”

The world, and religion do not like total abandon before God. It embarrasses them. Total abandon to Christ removes the handcuffs of servitude. It eliminates man’s judgements on another’s faith in Christ.

The Christian Man must relinquish pride and self-will when praising and worshiping God.

F)

An example of Honor can be seen in this Bible verse:

Matthew 21:9 “Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying:

‘Hosanna to the Son of David!

‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!’”

Hosanna means “Please save us.” The crowd was crying out to Jesus to save them. They were shouting that Jesus was the Savior and no other was better than He. The Greek translation of “highest” refers to the most Supreme God.

In other words, the crowd was shouting, “Jesus you are God, save us!”

The Christian Man should take care in thought, word, and deed so that the highlight is on God instead of the one doing the honoring. For example, the Christian Man should alter the expression, “I honor You, oh God” to “Oh God, You, are worthy of all honor.” The highlight moves from “I” to God. God is now the subject, not “me”.

The Lord’s Prayer speaks volumes when it says “...hallowed be thy name...” When Jesus taught the disciples how to pray, he used language that focused on God Almighty, not on the disciples. The Lord’s prayer does not say, “Our Father, who is in Heaven, I know you are holy...” If it did, it would place the emphasis on the speaker rather than on God.

This is a subtle and critical point. God is the honored. Are the speaker's words on himself or on God? Expression of honor should highlight the one receiving the honor, not the one who speaks.

Micah 6:8 “He has shown you, O man, what *is* good;
And what does the Lord require of you
But to do justly,
To love mercy,
And to walk humbly with your God?”

Doing justice means knowing God, and paying less attention to oneself. Loving mercy means forgiveness which means self is nailed to the Cross. The humble man emphasizes the Glorious One who gives life. That is how the Christian Man honors God.

Final note: There are times for quiet prayer. Giving praise and honor, on the other hand is loud. It is shouted. It is (happy) crying out. It is joyful!

~

Chapter Four: Holy Listening

A)

Genesis 3:8 “And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day,”

Man was created by God from the very beginning to have friendship with God. That means talking and listening.

Too many times theologies are teaching men cannot hear from the Living Word. These theologies teach only to acknowledge hearing from God through a reading/studying of the Bible or of ancient historical dogma, through the memorization of the written word or through the preaching of the pastors and teachers.

Yet, nothing could be further from the truth.

This approach sets little men up as little gods in the lives of those earnestly pursuing the Living Word.

These theologies emphasize a knowledge of God instead of a relationship with God.

Jesus gives caution on the Christian’s approach to theology. Matthew 7:23-23: 21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many

will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ 23 And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

The Living Word emphasizes a relationship with God.

The opposite borders on witchcraft – “I shall let my Bible fall open and whatever verse appears, that shall be my answer; What does my pastor say? What does the preacher say? What prayers were prayed over me down front after the service?”

This approach and attendant activities are a manipulation of, a forcing of, a transactional perspective toward the Creator. It is a theology of money, Ba'al. “How can I trade with God? How much money should I give to the church or to the pastor or building fund? What must I do to do what I want to do? If I know how to do it, then I will be able to add to my collection.”

That philosophy is in strict opposition to what Jesus lived.

B)

Jesus said, “My sheep hear my Voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.” – John 10:27

The Lord of Life says those who know Him give Him an audience. NOTHING else. They are not out to transact for gain, nor to trade with God. They are out to be with Him.

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight, so that I

should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.”

The contrast between what is in the world, including many churches, and theologies, and what Jesus said could not be more different. Prostitution versus presence in Jesus’ sight.

Men who pray are men who pursue Jesus Christ for the sake of Jesus Christ, not for their own gain and not for Christ’s gain.

There is no transactional profit in the audience of Christ.

Then why bother, especially since Life with Christ means much pain in this world including taking up one’s cross?

Because being with Christ means eternal life with the giver of life.

C)

Luke 22:40-44 “40 When He came to the place, He said to them, ‘Pray that you may not enter into temptation.’ 41 And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, 42 saying, ‘Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.’ 43 Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. 44 And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”

Men who pray are constantly having a conversation with Jesus Christ.

Conversations are two-way activities.

Conversation means talking and listening.

Luke 10:38-42: “38 Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. 39 And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus’ feet and heard His word. 40 But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, ‘Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore, tell her to help me.’ 41 And Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. 42 But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.’”

The Christian man gives an undivided audience to Christ just as Mary did in Martha’s house.

Difficulties arise in giving an undivided audience while driving, texting, in Bible Study, at church programs, at retreats, meditating upon scripture, at prayer breakfasts... the list goes on.

Jesus said, “You cannot serve two masters...”

Praying men talk with Jesus and they listen to Him in time set aside. Jesus’ behavior is the model for men who pray. Often Jesus would pull away for time alone with His Father to discuss what the will of His Father was.

If Christian men approached their wives the way most men pray to Jesus, few children would ever be born. For what woman wants to be an object of her husband? She wants to be in relationship.

D)

Many years ago, a guest speaker at a Vineyard Christian Fellowship (an offshoot of the Calvary Chapel movement) gave a very interesting talk. The speaker walked up to the stage, and looked out upon the audience. He was carrying a paper bag in which he reached and pulled out a rolled-up piece of cloth.

He let it unfurl before him. He held a used pair of blue jeans in his hands. He went on to give a sermon which is now mostly forgotten. Before he gave the sermon, he told the story of how he was preparing to speak. He said he went to God and asked about what he should say.

God said to him, “Get a pair of blue jeans, unfurl them, and tell the audience, that when God speaks, you should obey. Even if it is something as silly as unfurling a rolled-up pair of blue jeans in front of a Christian audience.”

God asked the speaker, “Do you trust me? Then do as I ask.”

That is an example of Holy listening. The speaker went to God and waited for a message. Instead, God told him to do something that appears out of the ordinary, something a Christian speaker should not do in front of an audience.

The speaker listened and seeking God's approval, followed God's ask.

The only thing remembered from this message so long ago, is not the sermon, but the example of Holy Listening and a desire to please God.

Men who pray seek Jesus.

They give Him their undivided attention.

They listen to Him.

They talk to Him.

For the sake of Him and nothing else.

This behavior reflects the perspective of a man who prays.

~

Chapter Five: Confession

Learn how to walk & function in forgiveness. Sometimes being a Christian is painful. Every day the Christian Man must adjust to Christ's guidance & graces.

Not fun, but real.

Confessing sins.

Accepting Forgiveness.

Giving forgiveness.

Lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh and the pride of life.

1 John 1: 8 “If we say, ‘we have no sin, then we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is just and may be trusted to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all wrongdoing. 10 If we say that we haven’t sinned, we make God a liar, and his Word is not in us.”

Daniel 9:3-5 “3 Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. 4 And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said, ‘O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, 5 we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments.’”

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Acts 3:19 “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,”

Isaiah 43:25 “I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins.”

Matthew 6:12 “And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.”

Proverbs 28:13 “He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.”

Micah 7:18-19 “18 Who is a God like You, Pardoning iniquity And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in mercy. 19 He will again have compassion on us, And will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.”

Romans 8:1 “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

Psalm 103:12 “As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.”

The Christian Man confesses his sins to Almighty God.
God willingly and lovingly forgives those sins.

He remembers those sins no more! Neither should the Christian Man remember confessed sins.

The Christian Man is forgiven so likewise the Christian Man forgives, even before forgiveness is sought by the wrongdoer.

One note of caution. Jesus mentions an unforgivable sin in Mark 3:29 “but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation...”

This is the sin of the non-Christian, the one who rejects the work of the Holy Spirit Who leads to the salvation by Christ on the Cross, resurrected for the forgiveness of sins. Those who reject faith in Christ choose hell.

That sin has no forgiveness.

Choosing not to be forgiven is unforgiven.

In contrast, the Christian Man has chosen Christ who forgives.

God, nailing His Son, Christ, to the Cross and resurrecting Him three days later for the forgiveness of sins, has indeed forgiven all the Christian Man’s sins.

As the Christian Man prays, Jesus teaches him to confess his sins and to receive forgiveness for those sins.

~

Chapter Six: A Husband & Father’s Role in Prayer

A)

Genesis 2:20 “So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.”

Note that Adam named every beast. He studied, identified, understood, and knew every beast. He named them because he understood that naming them identified who they were; what they represented.

The Hebrew word for name in this verse is “shem.” Strong’s concordance defines “shem” as “a primitive word (perhaps rather from “suwm” through the idea of definite and conspicuous position; compare “shamayim”); an appellation, as a mark or memorial of individuality; by implication honor, authority, character -- + base, (in-)fame(-ous), named(-d), renown, report.

The character of what Adam named was symbolized by that name. A horse, a cow, a bull, a brown labrador, a Siamese cat, a woodpecker, a bass, a serpent are all names that identified what kind of beast, bird, or fish Adam saw and understood.

B)

Genesis 3:1-6 “1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?”

“2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’”

“4 Then the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’

“6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.”

The Hebrew word for Serpent is “nachash”, a serpent (from its hiss). The more primitive form of “nachash” is to hiss, i.e. Whisper a (magic) spell; generally, to prognosticate (meaning to foretell from signs or symptoms.)

Merriam Webster defines “serpent” as a noxious creature that creeps, hisses, or stings; a treacherous person.

Adam knew the serpent’s character because he named the serpent, the serpent, just as he named a kitten, a kitten and a puppy, a puppy.

Adam knew what he was dealing with when the Serpent reached out to Adam and Eve. Adam knew what the serpent was because he named the serpent.

Adam knew.

C)

Genesis 3:1 “Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’ ” ”

The verse seems to imply that the serpent was only speaking to Eve while Adam was out of the picture. Maybe Adam was fishing, or hiking or taking a nap.

The Hebrew for the phrase, “And he said to the woman...” is in the third person masculine singular. Moses is using voice that points to Adam, while using language that points to Eve.

The Hebrew for the phrase, “You shall not eat...” is in the second person masculine plural. Moses is using voice that tells the reader the serpent is directly confronting both Adam and Eve.

D)

The last part of Genesis 3:6 reads “She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.”

The text states that Eve ate the fruit while Adam was with her, and then he ate. Adam was not off fishing, hiking, or taking a nap while the serpent spoke to Eve. Adam was with Eve the whole time the serpent was speaking.

The serpent was speaking to Adam while seducing Eve.

Adam was right there during the seduction and did NOTHING.

God commanded Adam in Genesis 2:17 not to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Four verses later in Genesis 2:22 God creates Eve.

Adam knew about the prohibition of the Tree. Adam knew about the Serpent. Adam was there when the Serpent confronted him about eating from the Tree while enticing Eve to eat from the Tree.

Adam had a relationship with God as seen in Genesis 3:8 “And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day...”

Adam had every resource to keep his wife from the ravages of hell (he had instruction, he had knowledge, he had relationship with God.) And he did NOTHING.

E)

The Christian Man has every resource to keep his wife (and children) from the ravages of hell. The Christian Man has instruction in the Bible; he has knowledge of his great father's errors that allowed harm to come to his great mother and their

children. The Christian Man has relationship with God via Christ's crucifixion, and His resurrection.

How does the Christian Man keep his wife and children from the ravages of hell?

He takes advantage of his relationship with God and prays to God for their protection, and their blessing, and for God's face to shine upon them.

See the Aaronic Blessing in Numbers 6:24-26 "24 The Lord bless you and keep you; 25 the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; 26 the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace."

Every day the Christian Man should say this prayer over his wife and children.

Every day the Christian Man should pray with his wife and children for 30 seconds before starting their day, going off to work, or school.

The Christian Man should meet with other Christian men on a periodic basis to pray for each other's marriages, wives, and children. See Galatians 6:2 "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

The Christian Man has a responsibility to protect his wife and children. The lesson of Adam and Eve teaches the Christian Man to be careful of the Serpent who confronts the Christian Man while seducing his wife and children.

F)

The Christian Man should take heart in James 4:7
“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

This is the attitude and action of the Christian Man who desires to protect his wife and children. He prays with them to God for their blessing and protection.

~

Chapter Seven: Tongues

Introduction

The biblical definition of speaking in tongues is communicating with God using a language not native to the speaker.

1 Cor 14:2 “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.”

The Greek word for tongue is “glossa.” It means a tongue, a language, a nation.

The Greek word for spirit is “pneuma.” It means spirit, wind, or breath. Holy does not precede spirit in this context. The reference to spirit then is speaking silently or under your breath, so no one can hear you speaking.

“Glossa” appears in Acts 2:3-4 “3 They saw tongues like flames of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”

Praying to God in an unknown language is a gift of God.

It benefits the speaker, and it can benefit those who hear the speaker.

A)

1 Cor 14 39-40 “39 Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. 40 Let all things be done decently and in order.”

Paul’s command to the Corinthian Church is plain, “...and do not forbid to speak with tongues.” Reviewing what precedes the “Therefore” in verse 39 is the verse in 37, “If anyone thinks they are a prophet or otherwise gifted by the Spirit, let them acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord’s command.”

The Lord’s command!

The whole of chapter 14 outlines two specific gifts of the Spirit: prophecy and speaking in tongues. Paul makes it clear that no one is allowed to forbid speaking in tongues.

A side note: there has arisen within Christendom the theological construct of Cessationism, the idea that the Christian sign gifts such as speaking in tongues has ceased. This idea has no biblical basis. Cessationism has its roots in man’s “command and control.”

Theologians will often say, “In essentials, unity; in nonessentials, liberty; in all things, charity.” Cessationism would categorize sign gifts within nonessentials.

There is no biblical basis for this position.

Cessationism arises out of eisegesis, which is the interpretation of a passage based on a subjective, non-analytical reading.

It is bad theology.

It quenches the Holy Spirit, while elevating the position of priest, pastor, minister, bishop, etc.

B)

1 Cor 14 5 “I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.”

Not only does Paul command in the previous section not to forbid speaking in tongues, he now expresses his desire that all spoke with tongues.

The Greek translation for wish is “/thélō ("to desire, wish") and is commonly used of the Lord extending His "best-offer" to the believer – wanting (desiring) to birth His persuasion (faith) in them which also empowers, manifests His presence etc.”

Paul is saying that he wants the best for the Corinthians in that they would all speak in tongues.

The Christian Man can and should ask God for the gift of speaking in tongues, and even for the gift of interpreting tongues. The Christian Man should remember that Paul desires for all to speak in tongues.

C)

1 Cor 14 18 “I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all;”

The chief Christian theologian is thanking God that he speaks in tongues, and not only that he does so, but he does it more than the church in Corinth.

Speaking in tongues is good.

Paul has declared it so!

D)

1 Cor 14: 27-28 “27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret. 28 But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God.”

Paul describes the how of speaking in tongues in a group of Christians. He lays out that two or three can speak in tongues in a group meeting. If no one can interpret, then those speaking in tongues out loud are to keep silent in the group and speak in tongues to himself and God.

A simple instruction that demands faith in Christ: 1) for those who are gifted in tongues to speak out in tongues and trust that there is an interpretation, and 2) for those who interpret the tongue previously spoken.

Modern day church service liturgies rarely allow for speaking in tongues. Though Paul is instructing how speaking in tongues can and should be a part of Christian meetings.

And Paul is instructing that speaking in tongues can and should occur when praying alone to God: 1 Cor 14:28ff “...and speak in tongues to himself and God.”

E)

1 Cor 14 12 “Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.”

If the Holy Spirit has gifted the Christian Man with speaking in tongues, then his attitude must be for the benefit of others. Importance, position, title, and pride have no place in the exercise of the Christian Spiritual Gifts, including speaking in tongues.

F)

1 Cor 12:4-11 “4There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: 8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, 10 to another the

working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”

Finally, not everybody is going to have the gift of tongues, or the interpretation of tongues. The Giver of gifts is the Holy Spirit. It is His choice.

His alone!

~

Chapter Eight: Delivering From Evil

A)

Ephesians 6:12 “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

Psalms 51:17 “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise.”

Colossians 2:15 “Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”

Matthew 8:28-34 “28 When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. 29 And suddenly they cried out, saying, ‘What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?’

30 Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding.

31 So the demons begged Him, saying, ‘If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine.’

32 And He said to them, ‘Go.’ So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd

of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water.

33 Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. 34 And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region.”

B)

“You best start believing in the demonic stories. You’re in one!” – with apologies to the Disney Pirates of the Caribbean movie franchise.

C)

This is a general approach to deliverance: “Do not attempt deliverance until you are sure you have done what you can to eliminate your pride and to have confessed your sins.

At that point hand it over to God and listen for how He instructs you on what to say.”

D)

The enemy does not like getting kicked out of the temple of God. See the book of Ezra, a parable for the Christian’s body as the temple of God. See Nehemiah chapter 4, 6 and 13:4-9. The

enemies of God want to reside in God's temple. The evil one will pound, harass, and spite.

The Christian Man is a warrior in Christ and wholly dependent on the Holy One for his sustenance and protection. Just as Nehemiah was careful to rebuild the temple and throw out those who did not belong there, Christ rebuilds his creation and throws out those who do not belong in His temple.

The Christian Man who prays for deliverance does not deliver, does nothing of his own will or volition.

E)

Christ has conquered His enemies.

Christ has conquered His enemies.

Christ has conquered His enemies.

The devil is so weakened, that he can barely exist. He and his minions await their final destruction at Christ's command.

So why does the devil still have power?

Because of pride, arrogance, and unconfessed sin.

The Christian Man RESTS in Christ's conquering when praying and practicing deliverance. Anyone who operates against evil outside of this rest subjects himself to harm up to and including physical death for not only himself but for others as well. Only the Grace and Mercy of God protects the Christian Man praying for the deliverance from evil in another.

So why pray for deliverance if the cost is so high?

The Christian Man extends Christ's Grace and Mercy to others in the act of deliverance, no matter the cost.

F)

Practically, praying for deliverance typically involves the following:

1) The person being prayed for must want to be delivered. In the case of a child / minor, the parents must want for deliverance;

2) The person being prayed for must be a Christian.

See Matthew 12:43-45 “43 When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. 44 Then he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. 45 Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation.”

So, the next action is to bring the person to Christ if they are not.

2b) Much has been made about how no need exists for a Christian to be delivered since Christ dwells in them, the Temple of God. For the sake of brevity, a Christian can be afflicted, or possessed by evil.

It is sadly real how the Christian through sin can open the doors to hell and invite evil to reside with them so much and so often. And this sin remains unconfessed. This is why Christ teaches in the Lord's prayer to seek God's forgiveness for sin. Unconfessed sin is the invitation for evil to dwell within the Christian. See previous chapter on Confession.

3) The person praying for deliverance waits upon Jesus to guide and direct with the correct words, how to confront, when to start, when to wait, when to end. This effort is all on Jesus, not the person doing the praying.

G)

Remember what Jesus taught in Mark 9:14-29. "14 And when He came to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and scribes disputing with them. 15 Immediately, when they saw Him, all the people were greatly amazed, and running to Him, greeted Him. 16 And He asked the scribes, 'What are you discussing with them?'

17 Then one of the crowd answered and said, 'Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. 18 And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes

his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.’

19 He answered him and said, ‘O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me.’ 20 Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.

21 So He asked his father, ‘How long has this been happening to him?’ And he said, ‘From childhood.

22 And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.’

23 Jesus said to him, ‘If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.’

24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, ‘Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!’

25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, ‘Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!’

26 Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, ‘He is dead.’ 27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

28 And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, ‘Why could we not cast it out?’

29 So He said to them, ‘This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.’”

When the Christian Man confronts evil incarnate and someone asks him to pray for the removal of that evil from another, the Christian Man must understand he comes in the Name of Jesus.

Many people think that Jesus was saying you must abstain from food in addition to praying to cast some demons out.

He was not.

Remember he was the bridegroom and everyone was eating while in His presence and would only fast in His absence. In addition, Jesus Himself says he comes eating and drinking.

Jesus is referring to the passage in Isaiah where God is angry with the self-serving abstaining from food fasts to gain worldly lucre. See Isaiah 58:6

“6 Is this not the fast that I have chosen:

To loose the bonds of wickedness,

To undo the heavy burdens,

To let the oppressed go free,

And that you break every yoke?”

In fact, all of Isaiah 58 sets the tone and the attitude of the humble Christian Man dependent upon Christ for the activity of delivering another from hellacious bondage. God declares that the fast He honors is that which removes wickedness and its

effects; to free the oppressed and destroy the chains of evil on His people.

When the disciples ask why they could not cast out the demon, Jesus declares, “because of your little belief” (Matthew 17:20.) He does NOT say because you did not abstain from food for the last few meals and snacks.

In summary, when Jesus says, “However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”

He is referring to Isaiah’s type of fast – granting freedom to the oppressed, those harmed by wickedness and heavy burdens.

That kind of fast depends upon belief in Christ Almighty.

H)

Author’s note: the following was penned by a friend of the author:

“For me, something I have wrestled with is...why God has given satan such a long tether to damage so many lives...What you said is so true: (E) Christ has conquered His enemies! The victory secured at the cross is final...but, not yet fully realized.

Even when we believe the truth, evil continues to exercise significant power until Jesus returns. I believe it is important to understand (not fear) the power satan continues to exercise. Among other things the Bible tells us he can even delay answers to prayer (Dan 10:13).

At one time I went to five funerals in a row of Christians who took their own lives because of demonic pressure.

I have often been involved in deliverances where people were demonized but not through their own sin. Perhaps they were sexually abused as a small child (many did not even remember the trauma until it was revealed by the Holy Spirit), or their ancestors had sinned inviting demonic interference in their lives.

The enemy does not fight fair and will use any advantage he can.

We are at war...almost every page of the New Testament declares this. ...God has given us the tools to defeat the enemy...and has called all of us to this task.

Concerning the war, I use the analogy of D Day. Even though the victory was assured after the landing on Normandy...still more allied soldiers were killed in Europe during the final eleven months than in all the preceding years of WW II.

...we are to be confident, but also humble...I'm reminded of Jude 1:9 which says: "Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you!'"

...we must be guided by the Holy Spirit...which is being engaged in divine interaction, which of course is...prayer!"

D)

When, not if, God engages the Christian Man to participate in deliverance, the attitude of the Christian Man is one of humility engaged to grant freedom to those in bondage and the act is one of continual prayer (speaking and listening to God.)

~

Chapter Nine: Praying for Healing

A)

1 John 2:15-17 “15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

The Christian man that prays for healing for himself or for another does so with the intent of abiding in God’s will. If the Christian man has a love for things of this world, he can hinder his own prayers.

B)

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 “3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

The Christian man who prays for healing engages the weapons of heaven to destroy the effects of wickedness.

The Christian man who prays for healing should start by taking captive his own thoughts and laying them at the feet of Jesus.

It is as simple as that to pray for healing for another:
“Christ Almighty, these are my thoughts, I give them to you.
What would you have me say for the healing of this person?”

C)

John 9:1-7 “1 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’

3 ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned,’ said Jesus, ‘but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. 4 As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.’

6 After saying this, he spat on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. 7 ‘Go,’ he told him, ‘wash in the Pool of Siloam’ (this word means ‘Sent’). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.”

The Christian man prays for healing as his Lord and Savior prays for healing. He prays for healing so that God’s Glory may be displayed. And that God may receive praise.

The Christian man prays for healing not of himself, not for money, not for status, nor for position but for God's Glory!

D)

Luke 8:43-48 “43 Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, 44 came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped.

45 And Jesus said, ‘Who touched Me?’

When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, ‘Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, ‘Who touched Me?’

46 But Jesus said, ‘Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me.’ 47 Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately.

48 And He said to her, ‘Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace.’

Much has already been said in Christendom about having faith. The plain and simple fact is no amount of one's own faith

accomplishes anything. Faith is a gift from God. Every Christian man who prays to God has faith from and in God.

The very act of praying is an exercise of Holy Spirit provided faith that God hears and responds.

The very act of praying for healing is an exercise of this Holy Spirit given faith in God who hears and responds.

The woman that Jesus healed exercised this faith by reaching out to Christ's garment.

The Christian man that prays for healing demonstrates a complete trust and dependence upon Christ for healing (repudiating the lusts of the world, taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, and knowing that healing is for the Glory of God.)

In conclusion, the Christian man using Holy Spirit provided faith, should be in constant conversation with God, listening to His direction in praying for healing for others.

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Epilogue/Conclusion

John 8:36 “Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”

Prayer is conversation with God, deep, intense, intimate, and exposed.

There is no power in prayer. Prayer is not a talisman, nor a conduit for transactions.

Prayer is just a word for the act of conversing with God.

One God, three persons, the Father, the Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit.

Praying is NOT an obligation. Not a requirement. Not a recitation. Not a status symbol. Not an act of power. Not something defining a warrior. Not something received. Not a transaction describing a team or a room. Not something we give back to God.

Praying is defined as the freed man talking with the Jesus, the Savior, who made him free.

The Christian man talks AND listens to God, in asking God to help others, in praising God, in confessing sin, in wanting God to bless his wife, marriage, kids and grandkids, in speaking in tongues, in delivering others from evil and in asking for healing for others.

The Christian man is a man that converses with God!

Selah

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