

Prayer: The Divine Dialogue - Part 3: The Posture of Prayer

February 10, 2016

REVIEW:

Part 1: The Practice of Prayer - the repeated application of an activity builds competence.

Part 2: Overcoming the Problems of Prayer - the problems that need to be divinely addressed. The key is to ask according to God's will. As long as our requests are in keeping with God's will, these prayers will be answered.

Part 3: The Posture of Prayer - it is not what it looks like when we pray, rather it is the posture we have in Christ. Addresses the question, "What right to I have to be here in God's presence?"

STATED: The primary attack of the devil against the redeemed is one of their standing, their righteousness, both in and with Christ. This attack extends to every area of our lives, both spiritually and emotionally.

1) Insecurity and a wrong inwardness and self-awareness - "Am I supposed to be here?"

2) Condemnation - uniquely designed to draw us away from the Source of our healing and deliverance.

***Conviction* draws us toward God, toward the Cross**

***Condemnation* works to tell us "You don't need to go to Christ...You aren't worth to do so."**

Romans 8:1-4

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

Hebrews 10:19

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

3) Self-righteousness - if we can't draw from Christ's righteousness by faith, we try to be righteous and eventually give up. Self-righteousness is our effort to establish our own righteousness. Yet when we try to keep the law for righteousness' sake, we come into the trap of working by our strength.

Philippians 3:9

...and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

POSITIONAL RIGHTEOUSNESS - the posture of being right with God

2 parts - BOTH works of grace

1) Justification - a one-time legal transaction by which God's righteousness is given to us.

Romans 5:18-19

¹⁸ Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. ¹⁹ For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

Romans 3:22

This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference,

2) Sanctification - the process of our becoming something we are currently not but are being transformed into.

Romans 8:12-14

¹² Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, ¹⁴ because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Part of our clothing:

Isaiah 61:10

I delight greatly in the Lord;
my soul rejoices in my God.
For he has clothed me with garments of salvation
and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,

and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Both are part of spiritual armor:

Ephesians 6:12–14

¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,

Good bulletproof vests or armor were made of multiple layers ... righteousness works in a similar way...

Sanctification is the outer layer of our armor and justification is the layer just beneath. Some circumstances will get thru our sanctification and penetrate. But behind that is the stopping power of what Christ has done.

Sanctification is the first and the thinnest layer ...

It can be penetrated ...

Justification, the truth that upholds and establishes sanctification, cannot be penetrated.

Romans 6:11-13

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

2Corinthians 5:21

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Romans 3:21-22

But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference...

This positional reality is the foundational essence from which prayer proceeds. We have to know with a confidence that we belong to God and nothing can change that.

ALL profoundly affects how or even IF we pray ...

James 1:6-7

But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. [7] That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord

Doubt is a product of misdirected prayer (not knowing/praying His will) PLUS an insecure position from which we ask. These 2 things produce doubt in the heart of the believer. Am I praying the right thing; am I acceptable to God so He will hear. These thoughts produce DOUBT.

Proverbs 15:29

*The Lord is far from the wicked
but he hears the prayer of the righteous.*

Hebrews 10:19

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

James 5:13-18

Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. [14] Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. [15] And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. [16] Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

*[17] Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed **earnestly** that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. [18] Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.*

COMPETENCE born of PRACTICE in conjunction with our CONFIDENCE of CONDITION yields FERVOR - when we know what the will of God is and we are confident before Him, our prayer is powerful.

Ephesians 1:20-21

²⁰ which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

Romans 8:34–35

³⁴ Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

Colossians 3:1

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

Ephesians 3:12

¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Most often, the revelation of our justification, this most foundational truth of the Gospel, comes to us in the midst of abject failure. It is in the reality of failure that this truth forms the basis of our worship. God must bring this light of revelation to our hearts that we may see in truth what Christ has done.