

Fathered by God Part 8: “Conversations with Our Father” (11-3-2019)

Review: We have been talking about God parenting us through the process of growing in maturity

Today: New Section of this Series - "Conversations with Our Father" (Today's Focus: Hearing God's Voice)

Let's look again (as we did in the section on growing in maturity) at the example of Jesus:

From “**How to Pray**” by **R.A. Torrey**

“Jesus prayed early in the morning as well as all night, that he prayed both before and after the great events of his life, and that he prayed when life was unusually busy.”

Jesus' Prayer Life . . .

- Prayer as a consistent matter of routine (He developed relationship with the Father)

***Mark 1:35 (ESV)** - (early morning prayer)

And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.

***Matthew 14:23 (ESV)** - (evening prayer)

And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone

- Prayer for guidance (He obeyed when he prayed)

Luke 3:21-22 (ESV) - (during his baptism)

(21) Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, (22) and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

***Luke 6:12 (ESV)** - (before choosing the 12 apostles)

In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God.

- He prayed with and for His disciples (He prayed for others)

Luke 9:28 (ESV) - (transfiguration)

Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray.

***Luke 22:31-32 (ESV)** - (the night he was betrayed, before warning Peter he would deny him)

(31) "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, (32) but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

- He prayed to rest and recharge (The Father's presence was a place of rest for him)

***Mark 6:46 (ESV)** - (after feeding the 5,000)

And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray.

Luke 5:16 (ESV) - (taking a break from ministry)

But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.

- Before and during life's biggest events

John 11:41-43 (ESV) - (before raising Lazarus)

(41) So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. (42) I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." (43) When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out."

Luke 22:41-43 (ESV) - (in gethsemane)

(41) And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, (42) saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." (43) And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.

***Mark 15:34 (ESV)** - (on the cross)

And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

***Luke 23:46 (ESV)** - (on the cross)

Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

R.A. Torrey had it right. Prayer was a way of life for Jesus. Conversations with His Father were essential to Him.

And so it should be for us!

***You can hear God's Voice** - In fact it's not just something you can do, it's something you were made for!

3 Key's to hearing God's Voice: In Jesus final hours with the disciples, the apostle John records a prayerful conversation He had with them (you can find this full conversation in John chapters 14-17). From that conversation, we can see 3 key things that will aid us in our prayer life to be able to Hear

God's voice so we can have meaningful conversations with Our Father.

1) God's Word - Read it, Listen for him, Co-operate with Him

John 17:14, 17 (ESV)

(14) I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. . . (17) Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

We can learn to read the Word in order to hear God's voice . . .

2 Timothy 3:14-17 (ESV)

(14) But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it (15) and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (16) All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, (17) that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

- **Learning who He is** (the content of the Word reveals the content of His character)
- **Learning His Language** (easier to recognize Him outside of scripture reading)
- **Recognizing His voice** (when he convicts or teaches you in reading, you'll hear him in life)

2) The Holy Spirit

John 16:13-15 (ESV)

(13) When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. (14) He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. (15) All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Notes: Surrender to the Holy Spirit (that's what a Worshipful Life is)

- **Worship Him** – purpose to glorify God today! (moment by moment)
- **Listen for Him & listen to Him** – Expect to hear something today. Pay attention when He

speaks.

- **Respond to Him** – Obey, Repent, & Seek His Help

3) The People of God

John 17:22-23 (ESV)

(22) The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, (23) I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

Here are a couple examples from the early church . . . (You can read these on your own)

***For Reference: Acts 18:24-26 (ESV)**

(24) Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. (25) He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. (26) He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

Notes: We need ongoing coaching & equipping. This requires Humility on our part.

- **Sometimes people are coaching us – teaching us things we don't know.**
- **Other times they are warning or correcting us . . . let's see Paul's example in Acts 21**

***For Reference: Acts 21:4, 10-14 (ESV)**

(4) And having sought out the disciples, we stayed there for seven days. And through the Spirit they were telling Paul not to go on to Jerusalem. . . (10) While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. (11) And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" (12) When we heard this, we and the people there urged him not to go up to Jerusalem. (13) Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." (14) And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, "Let the will of the Lord be done."

Notes: Paul was never free again after this!

***Other examples:** Circumstances and Supernatural Signs (Always run these through the grid of the first 3)

Conclusion: You were made to have conversations with God. His Word, His Spirit, & His People are a great resource to building this relationship. The key is to remember that the Purpose is to know Him

& Follow Him!

John 10:27 (ESV)

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.