

The Comfort of Relational Prayer

Romans 8:12-17

Matthew 6:5-15, vs. 9, Pray then like this:

Our Father in heaven...

Abba - child like expectation

What is this word?

It is Aramaic - it means Daddy.

Question: What are your expectations for this week?

Have you moved into calculated duty or are you willing to enter this week with child like faith?

We aren't going into this next week out of duty. We also can not go into this week with the attitude of if....then.

Should you have a plan? Yes. Should you be expectant of what God will do? Absolutely. BUT, Should you have an agenda?

Language of wonder. Without the Holy Spirit you don't have this.

Psalms 63:1 O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

John 6:27 Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.

Psalms 119:81 My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word.

Cry - Real

If we are honest we think that if we live "right" and try our hardest, then God will reward our effort. Our life will get easier.

Often we have the attitude that prayer is a consumer tool.

Why is cry used? A person in distress.

3 X Paul sums up the life in this world

vs. 22, groaning (the whole earth)

vs. 23, groan inwardly (followers of Jesus)

vs. 26, groanings (the Holy Spirit)

Obedience does not produce comfort or ease of life. Obedience produces refinement. It changes us into the likeness of Christ.

This week is designed to give you the opportunity to be changed.

As with pains of child birth...

It is super confusing and yet everything is happening for their benefit.

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

John 1:12-13 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

It is the mountains and valleys of our lives which brings out the language of intimacy in our prayers.

Question: Will you enter into the week with a real sense and urgency toward realness, raw intercession?

Father - position - Adoption as Sons

When we understand our position it enables us to pray.

Remember in 1 Corinthians 1:4-9

He speaks grace upon grace.

I give thanks to God for you because...your identity is that of a child of God.

You are God's child

because of grace (vs. 4)

enriched with spiritual gifts (vs. 5-7)

because you eagerly await for Jesus to be revealed (vs. 7)

who will stand shameless on that day (vs. 8)

who is in fellowship with Jesus (vs. 9)

Romans 5:17 For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

Jesus' imputed righteousness.

you have received the Spirit - experiential

convinces our heart of the truth of the gospel

testifies - added on top of

higher up and deeper in

Not just an intellectual knowledge, but a personal experience of the presence of Jesus.

vs. 26, Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness.

we are going to experience God's presence through our weakness

This week you will be weak. That is an intentional part of fasting.

more than ever, if you lean in, you will lament concerning your repeated failures.

more than ever, if you lean in, you will be burdened by your repeated struggle with sin.

The flesh wants us to run and hide.

Romans 5:8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Avoiding God is forgetting the whole basis of your relationship. Your weakness doesn't shrink your relationship with him it grows it.

We - community

Our Father - corporate model of spirituality. Who do you pray with? It is one of the best ways to deepen your prayer life. Start corporately and then grow personally.

We must dismantle the radical independence of our culture.

Corporate and personal prayer are interrelated.