



Prayer Series

Part 3

January 23, 2022

The Perspectives of Prayer

2 Corinthians 3:12-18, “¹²Since we have such a hope, we are very bold,

¹³not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end.

¹⁴But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over

their hearts. ¹⁶ But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. ^[1] For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”

May the Lord add His blessing to the reading and the hearing of His Word; Amen. In 2 Corinthians chapter 3, we are introduced to an amazing insight from the Apostle Paul regarding the finished work of Christ, the Move of the Holy Spirit, and the Impact of us as believers beholding the Glory of the Lord.

Notice the last verse, ^{“18} And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.” Church Family, what we look at, focus on, contemplate etc. will either transform us or unravel us.

This is why Prayer and Faith is so important: they posture us to be transformed. And it is with that said, that I would like to discuss our first point today...

1. Prayer Postures Us To Look Up But Regret Causes Us To Look

Back

a. When we consistently entertain the regrets of our yesterday, we will fossilize our faith to be ineffective in our current season.

b. Genesis 19:23-26, “²³The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar. ²⁴Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the Lord out of heaven. ²⁵ And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. ²⁶ *But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.*”

c. As in the story of Lot's Wife, her regrets of loss by looking back kept her from making it to safety from the destruction that befell Sodom and Gomorrah.

d. If we are not careful, what we are looking back at will preserve us in a state that will keep you from making it to your destination.

e. Lot's Wife was turned into a Pillar of Salt, notice now, she was preserved in her current state and her current season and ultimately destroyed.

- f. When we live in regret, we become preserved into our current state and current season which will ultimately lead to our own destruction.

2. Prayer Postures Us To Look Up But Fear Causes Us To Look Around

- a. When we allow fear to shift our focus, the storms of life will seek to drown us!

b. The Gospel of Saint Matthew 14:27-33, “²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.” ²⁸ And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹ He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, ^[d] he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.””

- c. If you are not careful, what you are looking at will cause you to lose focus on what has enabled you to do the impossible.
- d. Peter's Faith enabled him to walk on the waters in the midst of a storm but when his focus shifted from Christ to the Storm, his fear disabled his faith.
- e. What we focus on will directly affect the Fruit of our Faith; we cannot allow the storms of life to shift lives from Faith to Fear.
- f. What are you focusing on? The Storm or the Christ in the Midst of the Storm?

3. Prayer Postures Us To Look Up But Worry Causes Us To Look In

- a. If we are not careful, our worry will drive us to look inwards thus crippling any power that may be found there.

b. 1 Kings 19:1-8, "Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a

broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers." And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat." And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again. And the angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you." And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God."

- c. Church family, sometimes the most spiritual thing you can do and shut up, stop complain, eat a snack and take a nap.
- d. Elijah looking inside himself and begging God to kill him
- e. If you are not careful, what you are looking inward at will cause you to lose sight of what God has already done.

4. Prayer Postures Us To Look Up And Faith Keeps Our Eyes Focused!

- a. Jesus gives us the greatest example of setting our focus when difficult times are ahead

b. The Gospel of Saint John 17:1-5, “When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.”

c. Jesus is ultimately looking towards heaven in Prayer saying, “not my will but your will be done”.

d. If you are aware that what you are looking at is bigger than you, it will cause you to lose focus on yourself and realize that the big picture is more important, the call of Christ is more important, the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is more important.

So what are you looking at in comparison to what you are praying into? – Are you looking at the life that God pulled you out of, or the current storm you are in, or the anxiety of your future? Or are you looking towards heaven saying, “I choose to look to you.” What is our focus?