

ALL IN TO BUILD FOR OUR FUTURE

“The God of heaven Himself will prosper us: therefore we His servants will arise and build...So we built...for the people had a mind to work. A good person leaves an inheritance for their children’s children...” **Nehemiah 2:20; 4:6; Proverbs 13:22**
(NKJV)



This Week’s Thought – July 2, 2017

“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. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.” Romans 8:26-27 (NKJV)

Do you struggle to pray? I find for so many Christians, learning a rhythm of intentional and meaningful prayer is one of their greatest challenges. From the logistics of “when” to pray in the midst of a busy work and family schedule, to the “how” when you do manage to find the time, prayer can be hard; and yet, I wonder if we make it harder than it’s meant to be?

So often we approach prayer like it is a test of our devotion or knowledge. We have to make sure that God sees our sincerity and hears how theologically precise or correct our prayers are. Likewise, it can become so formulaic that helpful order turns into routine obedience; simply checking off a box on the daily to-do list.

True prayer is learning to be attentive to God’s presence in our midst. It is learning the relational language of heaven and letting it become the language of our hearts. Prayer is entering into the life of God with our minds and bodies, encountering afresh the love of the Father as He speaks His hope and love over us; and as we do so, we are set free to accept our weaknesses and our limitations.

The beauty of true prayer, is that we never have to have it all together to be in relationship with God. Prayer isn’t the exclusive privilege of the strong. It is the desperate cry of the weak; and in our weakness, we are neither shamed nor rejected. Instead, as Paul reminds us in Romans 8, the Spirit helps us in our weakness.

July 2, 2017

God’s Spirit lifts us up when we are weak and prays when we don’t know how to pray. His love for us is so deep that he invites us into relationship with Himself and sustains us when we are too weak to respond. He knows the deepest desires of our hearts, and from Him nothing is hidden. Yet this knowledge is never used against us or to shame and condemn us, but is instead one of the ways He continues to invite us deeper and deeper into relationship.

Richard Foster, in his classic work *Celebration of Discipline*, says “*In prayer, real prayer, we begin to think God’s thoughts after him: to desire the things he desires, to love the things he loves, to will the things he wills.*” Even in our weakness, may this be true of us today. Let us learn to love as God loves and live faithfully in His presence!

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Lord, I lay my thoughts and my plans before You. Please rearrange them as You see fit. See if there is any corrupt way within me, and lead me in the path of righteousness. I give You the desires of my heart, my ambitions and my plans. I surrender them wholly to You. Please anoint them for Your purposes and glory. I give You my whole being, my gifts, my talents my character. Sharpen my skills and transform my heart this day and every day according to Your will. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!”

“And then God answered: "Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run. This vision-message is a witness pointing to what's coming. It aches for the coming—it can hardly wait! And it doesn't lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It's on its way. It will come right on time.” Habakkuk 2:2-3 (MSG)

Yours in Christ, Pastor King