

## **Back to Basics!**

### **Part 3: "Practicing the Presence of God!"**

Today we're going to at the basic building block of prayer!

**A thousand books have been written and millions of messages delivered on talking to God! And that "conversational" topic is the benefit of our great salvation!**

**Jesus' Great Reveal!** "And it came to pass as He was finishing His prayer that one of His disciples said, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples to pray.' And Jesus answered, 'when you pray say, Our Father who art in heaven...'" **Luke 11.1,2**

**It's called the Lord's Prayer... but that's not what it is... First and foremost the disciples realized that Jesus power emanated from His time with God! So they asked Him to *teach* them to pray, not *teach us* a prayer! And He began by pointing them to "relationship!"**

**The Great Reveal!** "Our Father!"

The fact that God was the Author of life didn't escape the OT understanding... But to make Him personal, familiar, approachable, GK: "pater" HB: "ab-iy" Chaldee: "abba" Out of sight! Off the hook! Of all the aspects of the "power-in-prayer" outline... Have to begin right here at the beginning...

**Father! The Ultimate Goal!** We can pray "to" Jesus, we can pray "to" the Holy Spirit, *but God, our Father, is the target of every believer...* Jesus came and fulfilled the will of the Father, not His own! Jesus came to glorify, honor and please the Father, and did! Jesus came to reconcile us to the Father, and did!! Jesus came to show us the Father/did!

**Father! The Ultimate Goal!** "In that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. *In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I will pray the Father for you; for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came from God.* I came from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father." **J16.23-28**

**Sorting out the Godhead!** Jesus, the Son of God, told us to pray to the *Father... our Father!* God the Father, is a Spirit! **John 4:23** God the Son, "We handled Him!" **John 1** God the Holy Spirit, the wind! **Gen 1.2** Like water, ice, vapor all water; three different expressions of water! All three members of the Godhead different in form/function, but One!

**Jesus! The Lover of our Soul!** "The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!" **J1.29** Savior of the world! **J12.47** "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man comes to the *Father* except by *Me...*" **J14.6** The substitution for our sins... **1J2.2, 4.10** Now seated at the right hand of the *Father!* **1Pet3.22** "I will pray the *Father* and He will give you another Comforter, the *Holy Spirit...*" **J14.16**

**Holy Spirit! The Indweller!** Comforter, Convincer, Communicator! **J14.16-18, 26 16.7-14** The Promise of the Father, sent From Heaven... **A1.4** For worst job of all, to live in us, and us in Him! **J14.17, 1Cor3.16 Eph2.2** Speak to and thru us! **R8.14-17, 26,27** Keeps us on our feet! **R8.13 Gal5.5 2Thess 2.13**

**Three in One/But Different!**

**There's no competition between them... But as in any conversation, need to know who you're talking to! By the "talk" we know how well you know them!**

## **The languages of prayer!**

**The Language Of... Confusion/Nerves:** "Oh dear heavenly father, Jesus... I love you Father, and Father I thank you for your Son, Father Jesus." Ever tried talking to someone you were in awe of and the words just got all jumbled and you wished you could stop yourself... but you didn't? *Many people call that PRAYER!* Thankfully, God hears our hearts!

**Of Adoption:** Loving, but formal, barely/ daringly congenial. A language suited to a relationship where a lessor is "allowed" audience! Careful language/address of someone you fear has the power of disposal over your life! Thankfully, God hears our hearts!

**Of the Pharisee:** "God, I thank thee that thou art God, and I am thine to commandeth which way to goeth... Thankfully, God doesn't speak King James English! (*Just a translation!*) This is the language of someone completely out of touch/making a show! Thankfully, God hears our hearts!

**Of a Child:** "Dad (Abba), I am here to submit myself to You. Have your way in me... I mean it... Have your way in my life... and thank You for loving me and always caring for my needs... in Jesus name I pray!" You enter at will, make your verbal connection... And talk with ease and confidence in hearers love/ attentiveness!

## **We get there by knowing God thru the Word and Spirit... and practicing His presence!**

### **Steps...**

**Purity of heart/desire:** A hunger to draw near, nearer, than ever before! Having a list of holy behaviors is not your starting point... it will be the result!

**Dial in:** God is not waiting for you to show up in church, He's waiting for your heart to send up a signal! Turn off all the outside noise! Shut down all the inside fears! "I'm here... and I'm waiting!"

**Turn to Him, first, middle and last!** Before you do anything, start anything, respond to anything... start w/Him! Hard at first, but it gets easier! And the reward is phenomenal! While you're in it, turn to Him for course correction/refinement! When you're done, turn to Him with thanks and eagerness for what's next! ***Force yourself to be more aware of God throughout the day!***

**Determine that you are never going back to mindless living!** "I am here and I am listening!" Far different, deeper, than: "Where's my stuff?"

**Practice His presence and let it have its perfect work! (THE CHAIR)** You are not looking for Him... You are connecting, CONVERSING, with the One who is already/always there... And when you do, life is different!