

LOVE, SERVE!

Part 5: "LOVE, SERVE, PRAY!"

Mark 16.15-18 "Go into all the world and preach the good news to everyone! The ones who believe and are baptized will be saved; *the ones that don't believe will be separated forever*. And these signs will follow those that believe: in My name they will cast out devils, they will speak with new tongues, they will take away 'serpents' and if they drink anything harmful it will not hurt them... *they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover!*"

Our message of "good news" includes salvation and healing... delivered with "a great credibility!"

John 11.41-44 And Jesus lifted up His eyes, and said, Father, I thank You that You have heard me. And I know that You hear me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that You have sent me. And when He had spoken, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" And he that was dead came out, bound hand and foot... and Jesus said, "loose him and let him go!"

Jesus prayer as a partner with God was the credibility that built-up and set-up the miracle!

The text... "Father" not only declares His intimate, open, relationship to God... Shows that He knows where His help and direction comes from! From above, not from "within!" **"I thank You..."** Jesus begins His prayer with thanksgiving and praise! Thanks for the audience... Thanks for the partnership... Thanks for the miracle about to take place... And for verifying that I am sent by You, and for glorifying Yourself with Me! **"I thank You that You have heard Me!"** "And this is the confidence we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us and if we know He hears us, whatsoever we ask, *we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him!*" **1J5.14,15** "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart!" **Ps 37.4** Not "objects" but "focus..." What did Jesus say that God heard so far? "This sickness is not unto death but for the glory of God, to glorify the Son!" "Your brother will rise again..." "I am the resurrection and the life..." "Roll away the stone..." **"The words I speak are not My own but of the Father dwelling in Me."** **J14.10** **"And that You always hear Me!"** A great statement of facts: Never deaf! Access and conversation between heaven and earth... in the heart of the Son!

Personal relationship needs to be public information... Public prayer becomes an instrument of testimony/affirmation of relationship...

The way we pray as a partner with God gives us a certain credibility for the delivery of the "good news!" Our public prayer will reveal if we know God, and if we are partners sent by Him... Our credible partnership with God is a real part of our mission to the world!

Caveat... Not an effort to make you a proficient poser! Nor a judge of others prayers and relationship! A delivery to understand the dynamics of familiarity and clarity of relationship! *To add another weapon, tool and instrument for the war for men's souls!* Build hope and faith in people who are listening when you pray for them! To help us hear what they hear when we pray!

Say What? "Father, if it's your will to heal, I ask..." "I don't know what you're about or going to do, but if you can help, please do!" "Yes, I guess so, maybe, I don't know..." "Dear God, Heavenly Father, Master of the Universe and all that is in it..." "Can you hear me now?" Distant connect! Flying leap of hope that someone is out there, tuned in! "Lord, God, Sir, may I ask...?" Guarded! "Oh Father, Jesus God, Lord, Spirit of power and truth, Omega..." Confused!

The Pray-ers Tic! The insertion of one of God's names, in a nervous, scrambling, pause! "So, Lord, I want to thank you Lord, Lord Father, glory be to your name, Lord..." No glory, just self-consciousness, distractions and a distraction/hearers! Lacking cognizance of His presence! Slow down, dial in, get your focus and hit your target! Engaging a conversation with God! Be in it. See Him in it with You. People will hear and know!

Who Are You Talking To? The pray-ers confusion, or, "Sorting out the Godhead!" "Dear heavenly Father, Jesus... I bow before you Lord, Spirit, God..." "If you're talking to the Father, talk to the Father. If you're talking to the Son, talk to the Son. If you're talking to the Spirit, talk to the Spirit... but quit confusing them!" Who is it you're talking to? If we're His rep, we should know! I want to know if you are!

Sorting out the Godhead! As believers in the "Trinity," we have a choice! "There are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, The Word (Jesus the Begotten of God) and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one!" **1J5.7** "And I (Jesus) will pray the Father and He will give you another Comforter, even the Spirit of Truth, that He may abide with you forever!" **J14.16,17** "And the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send will teach and remind you..." **v26**

The NT teaches the distinction and relationships of Father, Son and Spirit! The Father sent His Son, the Son did the will of His Father, the Spirit came at the request from the Son of the Father... They are not identical as to their person... Not confused in their relationship... Never opposed in operation...

"The Spirit gives gifts. The Son hands out ministry. The Father gives resonance!" **1Cor 12.4-6**

We can talk to anyone of them, but God the Father is the target for prayer! "In that day you will no longer ask Me anything. Truly, My Father will give you whatever you ask in My name. Until now you have not asked for anything in My name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete... In that day you will ask in My name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. No, the Father Himself loves you because you have loved Me and have believed that I came from God..." **John 16.23-28** Jesus came to put us back in touch with our Father! **Rom5.10 2Cor 5.18, 21** And He is praying for us as our great Intercessor! **Heb 7.25** And, as He said, we can sign off in His name! **J16.23** The Holy Spirit is always near to help us when we don't know how to pray as we should! **Romans 8.26 And He is on our side!**

Our words... It doesn't take a lot of words to show what we know about someone... We can infer knowing them, and betray ourselves by lack of intimate knowledge... Or we can speak in intimate details and show how well we know someone! The words we use, that come out of the abundance of our hearts, speak of our credible, or non-credible relationship with God...

Listen to Yourself! When you pray do you know who you are addressing? Do you boldly enter into your Father's presence? Confident? Comfortable? Are you praying according to His will alone? Or others, or yours? Do you use His name in "vain", as a tic? **Are you bringing a certain credibility that builds faith?**

These are wild, "lionized" times and people are listening to what we say and intently to how we pray!

Not talking about refinement of speech but strength of relationship and depth of credibility!

Our credible partnership with God is a real part of our mission to the world!