

July 2012

"The Exercise of Prayer"

"I exhort, therefore, first of all, that supplications, prayers, intercessions, thanksgivings, be made for all men, for kings and all that are in high rank, that we may lead a quiet and peaceful life in all piety and gravity." 1 Timothy 2: 1-2

The Expression of Dependence

Prayer is the great means by which we are practically kept in God's presence and the Word is made welcome, profitable and sanctifying. It is the proper expression of our weakness to God and of our confidence in His love and care day by day and evermore.

Instead of presuming, as men, to enter into the deep things of God or to take and pursue the path of the cross of Christ, we confess in prayer our constant need of dependence upon God. And hence it is that throughout the gospel of Luke the Lord Himself, "born of a woman," is so often brought before us a One that habitually walked thus with God.

The Need of Prayer

It is the essence of the new nature that the believer has to live in dependence on God and to its present exercise in the midst of trails by cultivating that confidence in Him which finds its proper expression in prayer.



Even Christ, Himself God's wisdom, habitually waited on God, prayed at all times where men least looked for it, and spent the night in prayer when the occasion called for it. If He who never lacked wisdom so lived, then how much should we be ashamed of our failure in so drawing near to God and drawing from Him what He so readily gives!

Prayer With Thanksgiving

The heart should not forget what a God we are making our request to. In the confidence of this let us thank Him, even when we are spreading our wants before Him.

Watching Unto Prayer

This supposes the activity of love which is quick to discern in the fear of the Lord and in the bowels of Christ that which might tarnish His glory, on the one hand, and on the other, whatever would contribute to the exaltation of His name in His saints and testimony.

Where God's presence is realized, there is no straitness in the affections, but love goes out energetically to Him and in the communion with Him concerning all the saints. It is the service of love before Him who is love.



Boldness in Prayer

When the day of glory comes, there will be no need of exhortation to boldness in prayer, for all will be praise. There is urgent call for such prayer now in this world with its difficulties and perils; withal it is the day of the richest blessing for the Christian when we know that Christ is in the Father, we in Him, and He in us. It is therefore just the time for this practical boldness in asking God for anything and all things according to His will; aught else we dare not wish. And we know that He hears us.

But if God encourages us to ask with boldness, we are constantly exposed to miss asking according to His will unless we grow in the knowledge of His Word. Here lies the practical value of cultivating a deeper spiritual understanding of the Scriptures. The Word of God He magnifies above all His name, and so should we.

Christian Worship

The Service of Praise

Can any privilege be higher or more intimate than to be in His presence, walking in the light as He is, delivered from the egotism which breaks out into the variance of separate will, and cleansed by the blood which effaces every sin? To adore the Father, the only true God? To pour forth our thanksgiving for all the grace that has reached even to us? To praise Him, in spirit, with all saints, for all that He is and has done and given to receive and know?

Christ is the ground and substance of it all, and hence without cloud or change, and the Holy Spirit is given that a divine power and character might be in vessels though still earthly. This is a wondrous assimilation to the everlasting worship which shall be in heaven and throughout eternity, but we owe it now and are invited to it now, not as a title merely but as a joyful occupation, especially as gathered to His name. It will be perfectly without alloy in the day of glory to which we look on, but it does become us to abound in it here, seeing that the light and the love and the known accomplishment of that work which secures the blessedness of all to God's glory are already ours, and Christ is revealed to us in that glory as the fullest witness and pledge that it is ours.

Worship

Christian worship is the united outpouring of thanks and blessing to God and the Lamb from hearts purified by faith, who have knowledge of the Father and Son by the power of the Holy Spirit and who therefore draw near in the happy confidence of His love, in the confessed delight and enjoyment of what God is, and in the praise of what He is and of what He is to them.

Any of God's children who are not seeking to take the place given to them by the word of the Lord, as true worshippers worshipping the Father, are losing this time on the earth in the forgetfulness of the sweetest privilege.

W Kelly Light for the Pilgrim Path

Praise to the Father give God in whom we move and live; Children's praise He loves to hear, Children's songs delight His ear.

Praise we to the Firstborn bring Christ the Prophet, Priest, and King; Glad we raise our sweetest strain To the Lamb that once was slain!

Praises for the Holy Ghost Sent from heaven at Pentecost! 'Tis through Him alone we live, And the precious truth receive.

Blest our portion thus to be Glorying in the Trinity; For the gospel from above, For the word that "God is love"

Hymns for the Little Flock #131



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