

Not Fancy- People of Prayer

Genesis 3:8-9

⁸They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"

Prior to sin entering the world, God and man walked with God, talked together, and it was a delight to both their souls.

Sin put distance between man and God, so that God had to call for the man.

Genesis 4:26

²⁶To Seth, to him also a son was born; and he called his name Enosh. Then *men* began to call upon the name of the Lord.

Men gradually began to try to close the distance between themselves and God, and began to call out for Him.

Who calls out to someone else? Someone far away, in trouble or in desperate need.

Who do they call to? Someone stronger; someone with the power to deliver and save.

Ephesians 2:13

¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

What was nearness that was lost in the garden has been restored in Christ!

Acts 17:28

²⁸for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.'

Prayer is God's gift to His children, and is the great desire of His heart.

Prayer is the ongoing interaction between a beloved child and a loving Father, honest thoughts waiting for an actual reply.

Luke 18:1-8

18 Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart, ²saying, "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man. ³There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me legal protection from my opponent.' ⁴For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, ⁵yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.'" ⁶And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge *said; ⁷now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? ⁸I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

Can anyone believe that you have been brought so near to God in Christ that He hears every request and will answer every prayer for Christ's sake?

We often fail to pray because we do not believe that we really need Him.

Revelation 3:17

¹⁷ Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked

We often cease to pray because we do not believe that He is listening.

2 Peter 3:9

⁹ The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Romans 8:28

²⁸ And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

We often give up on prayer because we do not believe in the magnitude of His love and compassion for us.

Luke 18:35-43

³⁵ As Jesus was approaching Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the road begging. ³⁶ Now hearing a crowd going by, he *began* to inquire what this was. ³⁷ They told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. ³⁸ And he called out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ³⁹ Those who led the way were sternly telling him to be quiet; but he kept crying out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁰ And Jesus stopped and commanded that he be brought to Him; and when he came near, He questioned him, ⁴¹ "What do you want Me to do for you?" And he said, "Lord, *I want* to regain my sight!" ⁴² And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." ⁴³ Immediately he regained his sight and *began* following Him, glorifying God; and when all the people saw it, they gave praise to God.

Hebrews 4:15-16

¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.