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Sent: Monday, October 24, 2016 12:59 AM
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ONE NATION UNDER GOD Devotional

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The Intimacy of New Covenant Prayer

This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

1 John 5:14-15 (NASB)

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.

Hebrews 4:16 (NASB)

Reflection

Challenge

Under the New Covenant, prayer is supposed to be something really special, more special than it was under the Old Covenant and more special than most of us realize until we meditate on it and get the full understanding. Many Christians have prayer lists and ask God for things. Sometimes He answers and sometimes we have to wait. So we keep asking, thinking maybe we can wear Him down at some point to give us what we want. Did He not say if we pray according to His will He HEARS us and then we can be confident we can have what we ask for (1 John 5:14-15)?

But there's more to New Covenant prayer than that. Because of what Jesus accomplished, we've been reconciled to God. We're no longer His enemy and now we can come confidently right up to the throne of grace itself where God's resting and receive what we need (Hebrews 4:16). That could never have happened under the Old Covenant because sin got in the way of the relationship God had always wanted.

The New Covenant is about a relationship, an intimate, personal two-way relationship between the Creator God of the universe and those who believe and accept Jesus. In my imagination I see God patiently sorting through our requests including a bunch that are NOT according to His will because we scarcely know enough Word to pray right. Then He wants to say back to us a few things He wants us to do but we've already left the throne room to resume our busy schedules. We hardly ever stay around for His responses. Perhaps that could explain why it takes a while sometimes to get answers

The body of Christ largely practices structured, scheduled one-way communication with the Father asking for things He already knows we need. His idea is to have an intimate relationship with believers that features ongoing two-way communication. And we also need to learn how to pray according to His will.

For Discussion

Does God actually hear every prayer we make?

How does someone pray according to His will? What does that require?

from Him.

We could have an increasingly closer relationship with the Father based on two-way mutual love and intimacy. That's the way it's supposed to work and it makes me ever more grateful to Christ for what He accomplished. And in the meantime, I'm pretty sure that if I focus on the relationship, He'll give me what I need.

Prayer

Father I pray today that we can acquire greater understanding as to how to connect our prayer time to your will and to your Word in a way that makes it a two-way form of communication that helps us grow spiritually. Thank you for Jesus and for the opportunity He won for us to enter into intimacy with the Creator of the Universe. And thank you that you loved us enough when even we were your enemies to make all that happen.



Bill Miller is the founder and director of Make A Way Ministry, a nationally recognized financial counseling and teaching ministry. His ministry has assisted tens of thousands of families to achieve financial victory over more than 30 years of ministry. He and his capable wife Sherri have lived in Granbury since September 2012.

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