

With Christ in the School of Prayer

week 2

Last week we determined our heart cry to be, “Lord, teach us to pray!” How did He answer that prayer with you this week? Did you notice his instruction in a new way?

John 4:23,24

We often think of worship as singing or a service or some act, but worship is more than that. It is a life that puts God in His proper place. That place is one of adoration, love, respect, and honor. God is looking for people who will have that heart to heart communication with Him in spirit and truth. How can we pray in spirit and truth?

Jesus spoke of three kinds of worship: Ignorant worship such as the Samaritans were involved in, intelligent worship such as the Jews in Jerusalem following God’s instructions, but then Jesus spoke of a new kind, worshipping the Father in spirit and truth. He said the hour is coming and *now is* that the true worshippers will worship in spirit and truth. That hour had come because only in and through Christ can we worship in spirit and truth, for He is the way, the truth and the life. No man can come to the Father but by Him.

Today we still have these three types of worshipping believers. Some pray earnestly but in ignorance and receive little. Others pray with an understanding of God’s Word and with all their heart and yet they do not reach the third level, in spirit and truth. This is where we need Christ to teach and direct us.

God is a Spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit... there is a harmony between the worshipper and his God. It is true in all nature that the organ must correspond with the energy received, ear with sound, eye with light. To commune with God we must do so in spirit as He is Spirit. The Samaritan woman was asking about the correct place or form and Jesus response was it is not about form. We must be spiritual as God Himself is spiritual. Worship is not to be confined to a location or a form and so it is with prayer. It must be the whole spirit of our life. Not a fixed time or place but everything we do, everywhere we are, at all times.

We need his Spirit to worship. The Spirit of Sonship helps call out to God as Father and prays for us when we do not have the words. The Old Testament saints did not call God their Father. The Spirit had not yet been poured out. The worship of God as Father only can take place when one has been adopted as son.

To worship in truth does not only mean sincerity or in accordance with God’s words of the Bible but in accordance with the living Word made flesh. “The Law was given by Moses but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.” The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. Worship in spirit is worship in truth.

This lesson will be an ongoing lesson as we experience Christ teaching us in the School of Prayer. We are flesh and can not bring God the worship acceptable to him unless we are in spirit and truth. We must confess to ourselves that we are unable to worship him as He deserves and seek for the Spirit to worship God through us. The breath of the Spirit will teach us and breath prayer in the spirit through us. As the Spirit of the Son abides in us a living way is opened into the secret of prayer.

To have Christ the Son, and the Spirit of the Son, dwelling within us and revealing the Father makes us true, spiritual worshippers.

Lord, we need your Spirit to pray. As we pray fill us with the Spirit of the Son that asks and receives from You, Father. Teach us to join the Son who lives in our hearts in prayer. We so readily lean on our intellect and familiar ways, show us how to pray in spirit and truth. Teach us how to let it be a part of our every thought and breath so that we can learn the meaning of praying without ceasing. I don't ask for eloquent prayers but for prayers of worship and adoration. When my words are inadequate thank you for the breath of the Spirit that accompanies my inadequate words. May the Fatherliness of your heart encourage me to speak with all my heart and in the joy and strength of knowing that Fatherly heart longs to hear and answer.

Paul says in 1Co 14 He prays in the spirit and with his intellect. What do you think that means?

We tend to repeat the same phrases in prayer, often with a flippancy that is very shallow. How can we avoid praying this way?

Now that we have read about worshipping in spirit and truth, what does that phrase mean to you?

How do you want it affect your prayer life?