

CHAPTER 21 TEACH US TO PRAY

WE MUST DISCOVER WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR INSIDE NOT OUTSIDE OF OURSELVES

We all have an inner peace we can learn to consciously access.

External rational thought creates external feelings.

Internal conscious thought accesses internal feelings.

SPIRITUAL INTELLIGENCE INVENTORY

1. People should go to church to commune with God TRUE OR FALSE
2. You will become religious if you read the Bible, pray and go to church. TRUE OR FALSE
3. If you follow the law you will be blessed. TRUE OR FALSE
- 4, You pray to get into Gods presence. TRUE OR FALSE

The Apostles said to Jesus, "Lord teach us to pray.." And He taught them saying " When you pray say Our Father.." Luke 11:1

Spiritual intelligence is like buttoning a jacket. You must start with the right button in the right hole. If you miss the first hole, no matter how well you do with the rest, you will always be a bit off. If you do not have a clear understanding of certain basics spiritual principles, you will always be a bit off.

The question is, "Do you think you pray to get into communion with God or do you get into communion with God to pray?" The answer of course is, "Yes". At times we think we pray to get into communion with God and at other times we get into communion with God to pray. Knowing the answer is no help to us. It is in understand the question.. One leads to idolatry, the other to life. The problem is even the people we think are most religious fall into idolatry quite often. If one does not know the difference between grace and Legalism, they will automatically fall back into legalism.

It is important to have a reasonable, working definition of idolatry What idolatry t means is depending on something other than God to get what God has already given. Depending on things outside no matter how good it might be an still be idolatry not grace. Things like using prayer, Scripture, or praise songs to get into communion with God can lead to idolatry.

I have a friend who can be described as very religious. They started on their journey in deep depression. Gradually as they began to come more into communion with Gods Presence they discovered the power of prayer and Scripture. As they prayed more prayers and read more scriptures and attended more church services, they seemed to find life

getting better. The problem was there came a time when they would pray deeply and still begin to feel empty. The more Scripture they read, they still felt empty, and the more services they attended still the emptiness came back. They began to attend church retreats and conferences and things seemed to pick up, and then the emptiness returned. They began to lead conference, teach and even start their own ministry and things seem to improve for a short time and then the emptiness returned.

I had a chance to counsel the person. They were saying, "What can I do? I feel so empty. I try so hard and am still thirsty for more spirituality. What must I do?" This was exactly the problem. Sometimes when a person has grown, learned and done so much they cannot hear what might be opposite than that which they believed. It might be called arrogance, stubbornness or perhaps it is a loss of humility. They see it only as sincerity. What is needed to be heard is to understand the way grace and the law work. Grace has turned the world upside down. In the law you do things to get into communion with God. You follow the law so you can become close to God. Not following the law puts you out of relationship and communion with God. Unfortunately this is not the way it works. We are dealing with the symptoms not the cause. If it were true, then Jesus died in vain. If all we had to do was follow the law and stop sinning, he did not need to go to the cross.

Grace works just the opposite. You get in the grace, communion, relationship with God and then you follow the law. The cause for sin is not breaking the relationship because you sin, but you sin because you broke the relationship. The important difference here is how you get back into the relationship. From the legalistic point, because you sinned and broke the relationship, what you must do is follow the law to get back into it. From the grace point, you sinned because you broke the relationship. What you need to do is to get back into the relationship in order to follow the law. It is a fundamental difference that is 180 degrees opposite from each other.

You do not pray the prayer to get into communion, you get into communion in order to pray the prayer. You do not read the Scripture to get into communion, you get into communion to read the Scripture. You do not take communion to get into relationship, you get into relationship in order to take communion. Some people will argue that Scripture, prayer, and church attendance puts you into communion with God. It is no guarantee. Just reading Scripture, praying prayers, playing praise music will not do it. Going to church will not make a person a Christian anymore than going to a garage will make you an automobile. The dynamics is it is helpful in changing your way of thinking. Because you change your way of thinking, you begin to use your spiritual faculties and begin to become conscious of The presence of God. It takes a change in the way of thinking.

The more you focus and depend on the things outside, the less you begin to depend on changing your faculties and internal focus. Sooner or later it catches up, and nothing happens unless you understand the spiritual dynamics.

The fear is, if people get into the presence first they may stop reading Scripture, praying prayers and attend services. The truth is, the more you get into the relationship, the more

you will want to read, prayer, and be with people who understand spirituality.. When we are in relationship with God, we do not have to memorize the law. It is already in our hearts. In the relationship with God we would say why would I want to do that?

To understand the meaning, you must change your way of thinking by going from your physical rational to your spiritual conscious faculty I challenge you to find one written statement from any theological book that tells you how to look inside. Try to remember one sermon you ever heard in which the preacher told you how to go inside by using your spiritual faculties. . I have never read or heard a statement that tells anyone how to do it.

There are such classical books like Brother Lawrence "Practicing the Presence of God. but even then he never tells people how to do it. I have read eastern religions, spiritual gurus, and all kinds writings but none of them tell you how to look inside. so let me tell you how to do it.

Think about getting into communion to pray the prayer, rather than praying the pray to get into communion. one of the most difficult things to do is to get into communion with God and stay there when you are speaking. There is an early attempt to loose the contact by shutting off the consciousness of the presence. Here is a practice you can do with prayer that might help in both of these ways..

First of all get into conscious contact with the presence of God within you. Become aware of what is around you, and sense their presence. The light in the room, your surroundings, the colors, what is behind you, what is there and what is not there. You can do all of this at once if you are being conscious rather than thinking. When you become aware of the presence, you will begin to feel their presence. If you are doing this, you are using your spiritual faculties. If you are not feeling their presence, you are just thinking about them For those who right now are experiencing the presence of any thing ,it does not take much to focus on the experience of the presence of God

TEACH US TO PRAY Prayer means being in the presence of God. The more we live in the presence, the more we understand who we are, and what Life is all about. We start to function in a more healthy way, on the road to recovery of our real Self., Soul, Life. As you are conscious of His presence, prayer the Lords Prayer to help you stay in the presence rather than get into the presence of God.

Get in the presence first and then pray the first sentence of the Lords Prayer. **OUR FATHER** . The word here is "OUR". He is the **FATHER** of all people. What difference does it make if God`s Presence if available to everyone or not?

Now stop and take a moment being aware of His presence and pray **WHO ARE IN HEAVEN**. **HEAVEN** being "UP" refers to the "spiritual". We access His presence by using our spiritual faculties. What difference does it make when you are accessing His presence or not while in prayer.

Take a moment to be aware of the presence and pray HALLOWED BE THY NAME. The NAME of God is HOLY. We know His NAME. What difference does it make to you if you know His name intellectually or experientially.

Pause and be aware of the Presence. We are not trying to pray the prayer. We are trying to stay in the presence. It is a 180 degrees different than most of us have tried. Now pray THY KINGDOM COME. His Kingdom is His reign or presence. He has already come to us but we do not always come to Him. What difference does it make when you come into the presence of His Kingdom or stay out?

Pause for the experience of the presence. As you speaking the words THY WILL BE DONE, stay conscious of the presence. We know His will. It is to be reconcile with Him. What difference does it make in your life if you are feeling reconciled to God or not?

Pause for the presence. Begin to look around the room. Try praying like this while working in the kitchen or preparing for work in the morning. Do other outward things While remaining in the presence, pray ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN. Know when you are in His presence you could leave it where you are or you could take it with you. What difference will it make in your day today if you take His presence with you?

Try looking around the room. While praying stay conscious of the presence Pray GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD. The Bread of Life or the presence of Jesus is daily because He is eternally there for us. Can you begin to experience this presence without any external signs or exercises? .

Pause perhaps and ponder the past work day . What did His presence t mean to you moment by moment? Pray in His presence FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US. You cannot stay in His presence and be judgmental. Who do you need to release to Jesus and no longer be their judge?

Ponder any broken relationships you might have while staying in the presence of the peace of God Pray, letting the words flow together FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM THE POWER, THE GLORY, FOREVER , AND EVER , AMEN. Let the anointing of the Presence of Gods peace remain with you not by praying the prayer but getting into the presence to prayer the prayer. Do the work, enjoy the life.

AMEN

Now check your answers and see if you have any change of heart.

RESPONSES TO SPIRITUAL INTELLIGENCE INVENTORY

1. People should go to church to commune with God
FALSE People should go to church to practice ice communion with God.
2. You will become religious if you read the Bible, pray and go to church.

FALSE Going to church will not make you religious anymore than going to a garage makes you an automobile.

3. If you follow the law you will be blessed.

FALSE There is no guarantee. You need to follow the law because you are blessed.

4, You pray to get into Gods presence.

FALSE Pray is being in Gods presence.