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_____Programs 32 and 33_____

Spirit Prayer

- **Isa.65:24** Before they call, I will answer
- **Matt.16:19** Whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven
- **John20:23** Whosoever sins you remit, they are remitted
- **Mark11:24** What things so ever you desire, when you pray, believe and you shall have whatsoever you say

Prayer is about need and supply. We see the need, and we ask for supply. Yet, prayer without faith is powerless. Faith sees the supply first, and praises God for it before it sees it in the visible.

- **Isa.45:11** "Concerning the work of my hands command ye me".

I believe that most Christians today are frustrated with their prayer life. Some say, "I pray and pray, but God never seems to answer. Could it be that we want our prayers answered our way? Then when God's answer does come, it doesn't come the way we expect it to, and sometimes we miss what God is doing. I think that we want microwave, painless answers, and the Kingdom of God doesn't work that way. God wants to mature us as we move from stage to stage, and maturity usually comes through difficulty.

Even Jesus learned to obey His Father in all things, by the things that he suffered. "Though he were a son, yet he learned obedience by the things that he suffered" (Heb.5:8). And "wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren..." "For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to keep them that are tempted" (Heb. 2:17-18). He had to learn how to trust His Father in all things and it took painful circumstances to challenge Him to faith. Thus the wilderness experience (Luke 4:1-13). We often think that Jesus was so God, that he didn't have the same difficulty and troubles that we do. We forget that He was 100% God, and **100% human**. So, He too had to learn how to obey by faith, the same way we do.

Once we understand God's ways and know how this life works. Then we understand that faith has to mature into son-ship faith, and then into Fatherhood faith. These processes come through the trials of faith which "work in us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory"(II Cor. 4:17). What we learn is that the way through depends on how we see.

So challenges and pressures are the pre-requisites to victory. Without pressures how could we know how to pray the Spirit prayer of authority and victory? So, painful situations are always our calling card to seeking God's solution. Rees Howells, who was a great intercessor during World War II, says that "prayer to him means answer". So on the front-end, he was seeking an answer from the Lord, and not begging for relief from the situation. However, I must say that Rees was seeking God's answer, and not a soulish answer that would make things seem better. That is what James means in James.4:3, "You ask, and receive not, because you ask amiss, that you may consume it upon your lust".

God gets to the problem's "root cause", and then knows who to lay His burdens on. So your problems are designed first for your maturity and then to train you to be "made conformable unto His death"(Phil.3:10b) as an intercessor. As my friend, Fran Giles says, "it is train'n for reign'n".

Soren Kierkegaard, the great Danish Philosopher said,"Faith is Against Understanding." "Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards." Faith is on the other side of death. It is when all confidence in yourself or in human support, and also in God in an immediate way, is extinct, when every probability is extinct, then comes the life-giving Spirit and that brings faith. This faith is stronger than the whole world; it has the power of eternity; it is the Spirit's gift from God, it is your victory over the world in which you are more than conqueror..."¹

The UpSide-down-ness of Prayer

"A human being without God as the real self within is sub-human. He is in the condition that the Bible calls dead ("dead while he lives") as Paul describes it in (1 Tim. 5:6). He has a false self-centered existence derived from Satan, the spirit of self-centeredness who has possessed all men since the fall of Adam.

When a person comes to Christ, however, redemption severs the bond between the satanic spirit and the human spirit—at the cross of Christ the old bond, or union, is replaced. A new union between the liberated human spirit and the Holy Spirit takes place—as we partake in the resurrection.

Man in Christ has become God indwelt and has been restored by grace to the status of normal humanity—"I will dwell in them and walk in them" "It is God that works in us to will and to do His good pleasure," "I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." The Bible says it in a thousand other ways. Here, now, we have the groundwork for an understanding of prayer.

Source of Prayer

Prayer, therefore, is an indication that God is stirring within us concerning some special need. This is why the solution to dryness or deadness in the prayer life is not to "try" to pray more, but to give up praying in place of the prayer of self-effort, relax back into the recognition of the Indwelling Person. See Him, flow along with Him in thankfulness; praise and love; for these also are the moving of His Spirit in us – in literal fact, God praising God, God loving God.

We shall soon find that He is sharing His outlook and concern with us! As we do this, we shall soon find that He is sharing His outlook and concern with us, looking through our eyes; and we shall be feeling His concern for this or that need, or for this or that person.

This is the source of prayer—the Spirit making intercession for the saints, who know not what to pray for as they ought. This is "praying in the Holy Spirit." But this response leads to something else of great importance. For if God shares a burden or need which is on His heart with us, does He not already intend to fulfill it? More than that, has He not already fulfilled it in His sight, where past and future are one?

¹Self-Examination:(Recommended to the Present Age 1851) Soren Kierkegaard

The best evidence that He has already fulfilled our need is the statement that before there ever was sin and need, there was already the provision of the Savior (I Peter 1:29). That is God's upside-down-ness to our material sight—the supply provided before the need!

Paul says that Adam was “The figure of Him that was to come” (Romans 5:14). How can a fallen Adam be a type, a pointer to a redeeming Adam? Because it is forever the positive that swallows up the negative, just as mortality is swallowed up in life.

Wherever there is a negative on earth—a have not, a need, a weakness, an unsolved problem, a sickness—His unchangeable character of perfect love necessitates His provision of the supply, strength, solution, health.

Love is always a debtor (Romans 1:14). It must move in and pay its debts of self-giving service. Because God is love, the full supply is never in doubt. Before they call, I will answer.” As God's word to Isaiah. His word is just the same today.

Faith Channeled

Why, then do we have these problems, these needs at all? Because human redemption is mediated through human agency- first through God's human agency—first through God's son, and now through His sons. So God puts us in tight spots to channel His creative faith through us.

Our calling upon God in prayer is merely the evidence that He has stirred us into action. The answer is already there with Him, before we call. Now, as our calling moves on to the act of faith, God has His human agent in gear through whom He can channel the answer. It is never **our** need or problem or weakness, any more than it is **our** supply or solution. Both are His. We are merely the human agents through which supply can reach need.

Union Through Grace

The whole point is: whose prayer is it?; the supplication of the Spirit through us, or our own? Let us boldly say that it is His supplication, for the whole revelation of the union through grace is what He thinks, what He wills, and what He sees through us in our normal daily lives.

Well then, when we pray, why not say, **“Lord, I am boldly interpreting this need as an evidence that you have the supply already on the way. I believe it. I receive it. Thank you!”** Then, if the supply doesn't come as we expect, whose business is it? Obviously His. Leave Him to mind His own business.

If one more point. What about unanswered prayer? So often seen in cases of illness, or concerning the unsaved, and sometimes in the case of material things. If God wishes to appear a failure to the natural eye, let Him do so! He did at Calvary. Don't take back as your concern what you previously committed to Him. Don't accept from the Accuser blame for apparent failure or for apparent unbelief.

Lots of us get tangled up and condemned at this point. And don't take back a great heavy burden as if the final answer depended on how much of it you carried.

Leave your burdens with God. Give the praise that really counts with Him—not that which comes from the visible answer, but that which is based on naked faith.

"Blessed are they who have not seen and yet have believed." "These all died in faith, not having received the promise." But they receive enough by the faith which has the witness in itself to endure as seeing Him who is invisible, and to know, as the poet said, "On earth the broken arc, in Heaven the perfect round."²

² **The Up-Side- Down-ness of Prayer** by: Norman Grubb