

Falling In Love With Prayer

Get up and go pray. Get up and go pray. The witness of those words is not loud and boisterous, but still and quiet. One thing is for certain, you know it is not the devil talking to you and telling you to go pray. Did you ever notice the words keep ringing consistently for awhile, but if ignored they finally cease? What is going on God? Don't you know that I just sat down to my favorite hobby, the one that I enjoy so much? Don't you know I want to go shopping or out for an evening of fun with my friends? Come on God, what are you trying to do? Are you trying to make my life miserable? Do you really care if I enjoy life?

Those words may have never slipped from our lips but our carnal minds have certainly thought them! Our carnal mind (the voice of the flesh) attempts to make us think that prayer is dull, boring, and such a drudgery. This argument is always strong and forceful, particularly when we are not seeing our prayers answered. Satan delights in keeping us captive in the prison of prayerlessness. If our enemy cannot stop us from praying, then he will change his tactics to something like this: "Yes, you are a believer and you know that it is your duty to pray, but just remember it is not going to be any fun and there will not be any joy in praying."

The Holy Spirit helped me to understand how much **OUR FATHER WANTS US TO FALL IN LOVE WITH PRAYER!** God is not trying to cause unrest or discontentment in our lives. He is not endeavoring to bug us when He speaks to us about praying. It is the heart of our Father reaching out and longing to commune with His children. The Holy Spirit knows that prayer is designed for at least two purposes:

1. To fellowship with our Father
2. To carry out the will of our Father

Even though Jesus was the Son of God, He knew prayer was the foundation of His success for the Kingdom of God. Jesus understood the importance of communing with the Father. Do you remember when you were a child and your parents would take you to visit your grandparents or your favorite aunt and uncle? Can you recall the anticipation and the excitement? You could hardly wait to get there because you know that it was going to be a very special time. That is the way our Heavenly Father wants our communion with Him to be, something you look forward to!

My prayer time has not always been that way. But I now can say He has brought me to the place where my prayer time is no longer boring or dull! It is not longer just a duty or responsibility. It is now my **PRIVILEGE** to come boldly to the throne of grace. I have ceased viewing prayer as an obligation but as a time to bring pleasure to my Father.

As I was preparing to minister in a service recently, I believe the Holy Spirit witnessed this in my heart:

*"To fall in love with prayer is to come to the understanding that God is **my Father**. Yes, He is still God but most of all He is my Father."*

For I have been born again of His Spirit, therefore I can walk in newness of life. Notice what Jesus said regarding prayer in Matthew 6:6,9:

*“But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, **pray to thy Father** which is in secret; and **thy Father** which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.*

*After this manner therefore pray ye: **Our Father** which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.”*

Do you see the point Jesus is trying to make? Our praying is directed not to the Almighty God but to **OUR FATHER**. When we use this pattern, the Holy Spirit will take us into another dimension in the realm of prayer. Your prayer time will become less boring and you will notice the time spent in communion with Him increasing minute by minute. You will actually begin to look forward to being alone with your Heavenly Father. How excited you will be when He begins to share and commune with you. Your prayer time will no longer be one-sided, just you doing all the talking. He longs so much to commune with us as our Father. We must position ourselves in right-standing so we will be able to hear what He is saying.

God knew we would need help establishing an effective and enjoyable prayer life, so He instituted the “*Law of Desire*”. That law (rule of action) works like this: whatever you continue to give your attention to, you will eventually desire. The more you give your attention to something, the more the desire increases. When we desire something then we pursue it. You must remember this law will work in the negative realm just as well as the positive. God established this law to work in our favor but satan will try to pervert that law to work against us.

As you continue to give your attention to prayer the desire will increase. Let me warn you that it will not be easy at first. We have three enemies that are vying for your time: the world, the flesh, and the devil. But just like that rookie athlete striving for excellence, we must not quit and “throw in the towel”. We shall reap a harvest of strong desire for prayer if we faint not.

We hope you have been inspired to develop an enjoyable prayer life. ***Our Father is just waiting to hear from you.***

Pastor Jerry