

Prayer: After God's Own Heart

“I was so lost I should have died
But You have brought me to your side” ¹

These two lines from the song “Lamb of God” are my testimony. I was so lost that I should have died, but instead God has drawn me to His side.

Who else but God would take a sinner, one who took no real notice of Him, and save that person, putting their feet on solid ground, giving them the hope of eternal life with God? But He goes further, giving us more than we ever dreamed or imagined, and draws us to His side.

These two lines are a picture of prayer – a relationship between a person and God, more than a conversation, a journey of being drawn to God's own side and being changed by His heart.

I. GOD WILL BE FOUND BY THOSE WHO SEEK HIM.

We can rest assured that our prayers are not in vain. God will be found by those who seek Him. Deut 4:29; Jer 29:12-13; Psalm 53:2

¹ O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water (Psalm 63: 1)

- A. There is a longing in our souls and bodies that cannot be satisfied by anything or anyone else but God. It is out of that longing, the desire to find God, that we pray.
- B. We seek God. We must seek Him or we will not find Him.
- C. As good as the world looks, it does not contain the water of Life. As such, it is actually dry and weary. We see this as God removes things from our lives that used to hold so much desire. We look back at them and wonder how they could have captivated us so.

II. HE IS OUR VERY GREAT REWARD

Our reward is God Himself. Isa 40:10; Gen 15:1; Isa 49:4; Deut 18:2

²I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. ³Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. ⁵My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; (Psalm 63:2, 3, 5)

- A. David has seen something of God. He has had a touch of God and longs for more. He knows that God's love is better than life itself.

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- B. God will satisfy our souls. He satisfies our longings to be appreciated, to be close to someone, to be loved, to be great, to have a purpose in our lives. The pleasures of this world are but a pale imitation of the life we find in God.
- C. God is pleased when we want Him more than we want changes in our circumstances
 - 1. Our love for God will sustain us while we wait for God's blessing and power to be poured out in outward circumstances.
 - 2. Our pain sometimes results from letting our circumstances have first place in our lives.
 - 3. He is pleased when we desire His will for our lives, not our own.

III. HE DELIGHTS IN US, EVEN IN OUR WEAKNESS

God is tender to sincere immature believers that want to obey Him. Psalm 18:17, 19; Isa 40:11; Zeph 3:17. We need to know that we can run to Him instead of away from Him.

For I have kept the ways of the LORD; I have not done evil by turning from my God. (Psalm 18:21)

- A. David is characterized as a man after God's own heart, a man that was close to God and knew that God loved him. Yet he was also a sinner. In Psalm 18, which speaks of God's great victories in David's life, evil is not defined as sinning, but as a *turning away* from God.
- B. We need to turn toward God and run to Him. We need to look for every barrier that exists between us and God and ask Him to break them all down. And when we sin, and we feel the distance between God and ourselves, we need to claim the blood of Jesus and repent. As we sincerely ask for forgiveness, He will grant it and draw us as close to Him as before. (Rom 8:1)

IV. GOD WILL CHANGE US AS WE PRAY

⁷Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings⁸My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me. (Psalm 63: 7-8)

- A. It is as our souls cling to Him that His right hand upholds us.
- B. We will sing of His goodness in the shadow of His wings, as He protects us and cares for us.
- C. He will take our sins away as we willingly give them up to Him. Christ has overcome the world and He grants us the extraordinary privilege of overcoming sin as we cling to Him.
- D. We need to cling to Him, for in Him alone do we find Life.
- E. The nature of our prayers will change from what we want to what He wants.
- F. We will become more like Jesus. The crowns that we will leave at Jesus' feet when we reach Heaven are the bits of Christ-likeness that have been formed in us in this lifetime.

God does not work alone. He is eagerly awaiting the day when His people want what He wants and when they will live the way He wants us to. He will then be able to release His power through us as we work with Him.