

HOW CLOSE CAN WE GET

Recently, someone asked me to pray for them. I asked them, what would you like me to pray for you. They said, pray that I would get closer to God.

He really didn't need my prayer to be closer to God. He needed a revelation from the Holy Spirit of what Christ's perfect sacrifice has already done for him as God's child.

We're not far away from God. We've actually been born into God's family.

Let's look at some scriptures. I'll read them from the amplified version.

John 1.12amp states,

But to as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the right [the authority, the privilege] to become children of God, that is, to those who believe in (adhere to, trust in, and rely on) His name—who were born, not of blood [natural conception], nor of the will of the flesh [physical impulse], nor of the will of man [that of a natural father], but of God [that is, a divine and supernatural birth—they are born of God—spiritually transformed, renewed, sanctified].

1 Peter 1.23amp declares that,

you have been born again [that is, reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, and set apart for His purpose] not of seed which is perishable but [from that which is] imperishable and immortal, that is, through the living and everlasting word of God.

I thought to myself, if we are Christians, born of God's supernatural nature, HOW MUCH CLOSER CAN WE GET THAN TOTALLY ONE WITH Him. We have the same relationship with God that Jesus has because of God's incredible work on our behalf.

Jesus said, I have given to them the glory and honor which You have given Me, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected and completed into one, so that the world may know [without any doubt] that You sent Me, and [that You] have loved them, just as You have loved Me. John 17.22amp

This oneness with God brings with it an incredible transformation.

1 John 4.16amp explains that,

we have come to know [by personal observation and experience], and have believed [with deep, consistent faith] the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides continually in him. In this [union and fellowship with Him], love is completed and perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment [with assurance and boldness to face Him]; because as He is, so are we in this world.

Romans 6.5amp states,

For if we have become one with Him [permanently united] in the likeness of His death, we will also certainly be [one with Him and share fully] in the likeness of His resurrection.

We know that our old self [our human nature without the Holy Spirit] was nailed to the cross with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin. For the person who has died [with Christ] has been freed from [the power of] sin.

Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live [together] with Him, because we know [the self-evident truth] that Christ, having been raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has power over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin [ending its power and paying the sinner's debt] once and for all; and the life that He

lives, He lives to [glorify] God [IN UNBROKEN FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM]. Even so, consider yourselves to be dead to sin [and your relationship to it broken], but alive to God [IN UNBROKEN FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM] in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 1.30 says that, by His own doing we are IN Christ Jesus.

Romans 8.16 says,

The Spirit Himself testifies and confirms together with our spirit [assuring us] that we [believers] are children of God. And if [we are His] children, [then we are His] heirs also: heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ [sharing His spiritual blessing and inheritance], if indeed we share in His suffering so that we may also share in His glory.

These Scriptures that I've shared are not religious teachings for us to try to make happen with our own natural human efforts. They are statements of reality that God has already spoken, that He has already done by the supernatural sacrifice of Jesus Christ on our behalf, and has committed His Holy Spirit to be the guarantee of our possession of them.

Also, please note that they are all past tense. They are signed, sealed, and delivered to us by the incredible work that only God can do.

God never intended for us to use the fleshly nature that He delivered us from to try to do our best imitation of Christ.

His supernatural work on our behalf made us His children, members of His family, His heirs, and joint heirs with Christ of all things. As His heirs He qualified us to share in His inheritance and gave us His Holy Spirit as the guarantee of our possession of it.

Ephesians 1.11amp explains our inheritance. It reads,

In Him also we have received an inheritance [a destiny—we were claimed by God as His own], having been predestined (chosen, appointed beforehand) according to the purpose of Him who works everything in agreement with the counsel and design of His will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ [who first put our confidence in Him as our Lord and Savior] would exist to the praise of His glory.

In Him, you also, when you heard the word of truth, the good news of your salvation, and [as a result] believed in Him, were stamped with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit [the One promised by Christ] as owned and protected [by God].

The Spirit is the guarantee [the first installment, the pledge, a foretaste] of our inheritance until the redemption of God's own [purchased] possession [His believers], to the praise of His glory.

Everything that we receive from God as His children is by inheritance.

When we pray, we're not petitioning God, hoping that He will answer our request, we are actually speaking what God has already spoken, already done and already promised His children.

It seems to be a common problem in today's Christianity that "believers" have accepted the forgiveness of their sins but retain their old identity inherited from Adam and Eve.

We profess the oneness with God that these statements of reality from God declare are ours, but we tend to accept and live another reality.

We function as human beings in this natural world apart from God, subject to the sin, human weaknesses, and limitations that we inherited from Adam and Eve. We pray as helpless people petitioning a God who lives out in the ozone somewhere to get off his throne and intervene for us in our current situations and problems.

We often act like orphan children, instead of sons and daughters who have the God of Heaven and Earth as their Father.

Jesus makes it clear in Mark 11.24 that our inheritance is available to us now. We just have to trust Him and speak it out. For this reason I am telling you, whatever things you ask for in prayer [in accordance with God's will], believe [with confident trust] THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED THEM, and they will be given to you.

When we pray, we're not petitioning God for some kind of a special request. We're merely making a withdrawal on the inheritance that He has already committed to us.

Christians often say that certain things make them "feel" close to God.

But our oneness with God is not a feeling. It's an established fact backed by God's authority and power to make it our reality. Whether we feel it, or not.

Jesus gave us His Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth. He also said that, I am the truth. The Holy Spirit's function is to lead us into the reality of everything that Christ has made available to us.

I'll close with this scripture.

Please note that the Apostle Paul was praying for "believers" who had already accepted Christ as their Savior.

[I always pray] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may grant you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation [that gives you a deep and personal and intimate insight] into the true knowledge of Him [for we know the Father through the Son].

And [I pray] that the eyes of your heart [the very center and core of your being] may be enlightened [flooded with light by the Holy Spirit], so that you will know and cherish the hope [the divine guarantee, the confident expectation] to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints (God's people), and [so that you will begin to know] what the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His [active, spiritual] power is in us who believe.

These are in accordance with the working of His mighty strength which He produced in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places.... Ephesians 1.17

In closing,

Consider these statements of reality from God that I've shared, and His commission to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom and manifest it, by the power of His Holy Spirit to the entire world.

It's imperative that we submit to His Holy Spirit and allow Him to reveal to us this destiny and calling that He created us for, and the mind-boggling inheritance that He has made available to us, and the incredible supernatural power that He has made available to us to accomplish it.

The Father has exercised His power and authority to make us completely one with Him so that all 3 of these things would be powerfully effective in us and through us as the Ambassadors of His Kingdom.

Let's let him flood us with His light and His life so that we can see and be exactly what He created us to be, walking testimonies of His greatness.

God bless you.

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