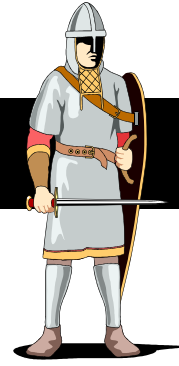


Wall of Prayer



October 27, 2008

Dear Faithful Prayer Warrior,

I am ever mindful of the deceptive strategies our enemy employs to render us ineffective and feeling defeated. By gradually, subtly distorting our view of God and His love and purpose for us, Satan attempts to distance us from our Commander and cut us off from our Living Vine. God yearns for quiet time with us where He can lavish on us His love and wisdom and direction; His world-changing power and provision. C. S. Lewis writes, “God loves man: not that He has some disinterested...concern for our welfare, but that in awful and surprising truth, we are the objects of His love. The great spirit you so lightly invoked, the ‘lord of terrible aspect,’ is present: not a senile benevolence that drowsily wishes you to be happy in your way, not the cold philanthropy of a conscientious magistrate, nor the care of a host who feels responsible for the comfort of his guests, but the consuming fire Himself, the Love that made the worlds, persistent as the artist’s love for his work...provident and venerable as a father’s love for a child, jealous, inexorable, exacting as love between the sexes...We were made not primarily that we may love God (though we were made for that too) but that God may love us, that we may become objects in which the Divine love may rest ‘well pleased’.”¹

In Robert Boyd Munger’s article “My Heart Christ’s Home” he writes, “Without question one of the most remarkable Christian doctrines is that Jesus Christ Himself through the presence of the Holy Spirit will actually enter a heart, settle down and be at home there. Jesus came into the darkness of my heart and turned on the light. He built a fire in the cold hearth and banished the chill. He started music where there had been stillness and He filled the emptiness with His own loving, wonderful fellowship.”² Satan would like to so fill our lives with distractions that divine fellowship never really happens. This enemy wants to reduce our relationship to ritual, our devotion to duty, and our true worship to busy works. Following this path we may find ourselves very successful by the world’s standards, but not significant in God’s economy; empty and wanting.

While the truth, so richly seen in these writing, may make us warm and desiring fellowship with our Lord at this moment, feelings and emotions come and go. To combat the enemy in this area, we must be transformed by the **renewing** of our minds through God’s word. We must take every thought captive to the **obedience** of Christ and we must **discipline** ourselves for the purpose of godliness. J. Sidlow Baxter describes his battle to reestablish a regular devotional time: “As never before, my will and I stood face to face. I asked my will the straight question, “Will, are you ready for an hour of prayer?” Will answered, “Here I am, and I’m quite ready, if you are.” So Will and I linked arms and turned to go for our time of prayer. At once all the emotions began pulling the other way and protesting, “We’re not coming.” I saw Will stagger just a bit, so I asked, “Can you stick it out, Will?” and Will replied, “Yes, if you can.” So Will went, and we got down to prayer...It was a struggle all the way through. At one point...one of those traitorous emotions had snared my imagination and had run off to the golf course; and it was all I could do to drag the wicked rascal back...At the end of that hour, if you had asked me, “Have you had a ‘good time?’” I would have had to reply, “No, it has been a wearying wrestle with contrary emotions and a truant imagination from beginning to end.” What is more, that battle with the emotions continued for between two and three weeks, and if you had asked me at the end of that period, “Have you had a ‘good time’ in your daily praying?” I would have had to confess, “No, at times it has seemed as though the heavens were

¹ C. S. Lewis, *The Business of Heaven*, (San Diego: Harcourt, 1984), 24.

² Joanna Weaver, *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*, (Colorado Springs, CO: Water Brook Press, 2002), 72.

brass, and God too distant to hear, and the Lord Jesus strangely aloof, and prayer accomplishing nothing.” Yet something *was* happening. For one thing Will and I really taught the emotions that we were completely independent of them...Then a couple of weeks later, what do you think happened? During one of our prayer times, when Will and I were no more thinking of the emotions than the man in the moon, one of the most vigorous of the emotions unexpectedly sprang up and shouted, “Hallelujah!” at which all the other emotions exclaimed, “Amen!” And for the first time the whole of my being—intellect, will, and emotions—was united in one coordinated prayer-operation. All at once, God was real, heaven was open, the Lord Jesus was luminously present, the Holy Spirit was indeed moving through my longing, and prayer was surprisingly vital. Moreover, in that instant there came a sudden realization that heaven had been watching and listening all the way through those days of struggle against chilling moods and mutinous emotions; also that I had been undergoing necessary tutoring by my heavenly Teacher.”³

“To ask that God’s love should be content with us as we are, is to ask that God should cease to be God: because He is what He is, His love must, in the nature of things, be impeded and repelled, by certain stains in our present character, and because He already loves us, He must labor to make us lovable. We cannot even wish, in our better moments, that He could reconcile Himself to our present impurities.”⁴ This most intimate tutoring by our heavenly Teacher may at times be painful as He reveals those attitudes and patterns in our lives that bring distance between us. But the joy and refreshment that comes after those times of confession and repentance are indescribable. God is changing our world as He meets with us. He delights in our praise and thanks, and His Spirit is unleashed at our pleas for the souls of our teens. Remember, the effective prayer of a righteous man (and woman) can accomplish much!

In Him,



Susan Admire

This is a reprint of the quarterly Wall of Prayer letter sent January 17, 2003.

³Joanna Weaver, *Having a Mary heart in a Martha World*, (Colorado Springs, CO: Water Brook Press, 2002), 107-108.

⁴C. S. Lewis, *The Business of Heaven*, (San Diego: Harcourt. 1984), 24.