

Wall of Prayer



February 1, 2010

Dear Faithful Prayer Warriors,

“We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers; constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in Christ Jesus in the presence of our God and Father, knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you.” I Thess. 1:2-4

What a privilege it is to come into God’s presence daily. Even as He walked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the evening, He desires to have a very special time with us every day. Once Adam sinned, God began to set in motion His plan to mend man’s severed relationship with Him through the sacrifice of an innocent animal.

In the wilderness as God led the Israelites out of bondage, He made a way for His sinful people to come into His Holy presence. His very specific plans used in the construction of the tabernacle pointed to the Trinity with every detail. The sacrificial activity that took place there was the silhouette into which Jesus would step years later.

Just inside the tent of meeting on the altar of sacrifice, the sin of each person was transferred to an innocent animal and put to death. Jesus became the perfect sacrifice, taking away our every sin so that we can boldly approach God’s presence. Next, the shining bronze laver gave a reflection of the priest reaching into it and offered water for the cleansing of the sin revealed there. Later, Jesus would wash His disciples’ feet in the same way to show us the need for daily cleansing of the sin that so easily entangles us. There was no need for a full bath – Christ did that when we accepted his sacrifice for the atonement of our sin.

Once the forgiveness of sin had taken place, the promise of the splendor of the Holy place, the tabernacle (though unsightly on the outside with its covering of rough animal skins) wooed the priest into God’s very presence. Here a 7-branched lampstand burned continually with clear olive oil that was added daily. The brilliance of this lampstand illumined the gold covered walls and the colorful fabric cherubim woven into the white linen ceiling. The wings of the cherubim symbolized God’s wings of shelter and protection (Ps 91:4); the gold symbolized His Deity and Glory.

Matt. 5:14-16 tells us that we are the heavenly lampstand God uses to show Jesus to a dark world. Christ, who came bearing light, was the olive tree pressed to make available the pure oil of the Holy Spirit to fuel our lamps continually. He also is the breath of God that fans our flame.

“Lord, there is no one besides Thee to help in the battle between the powerful and those who have no strength; so help us, O Lord our God, for we trust in Thee, and in Thy name have come against this multitude. O Lord, Thou art our God; let not man prevail against Thee.” 2 Chr. 14:11

The enemy would deceive us and tell us that our quiet time with God is as insignificant as a pile of animal skins. Let's never let this lie and the activities of our day keep us from the privilege of coming into the presence of Almighty God, our Sovereign Lord, our Prince of Peace, and The Lord of Hosts.

God has so filled me as I've explored the tabernacle using the Bible study entitled, A Woman's Heart, God's Dwelling Place, by Beth Moore. When we prayed that God would prepare hearts to intercede for these kids, I didn't know how abundantly He would answer that prayer in my own life.

Please be encouraged in this ministry. A high school senior recently reported to her mother that school was really different this year. She went on to tell her how many of her friends were involved in various Bible studies. "You could go to a Bible study every night of the week if you wanted. Something is different this year. I can't put my finger on it." Praise God!

As we purify our hearts and let God's Spirit fill us full, not only are we bearing Christ's personality in our visible fruit, but we are bearing fruit that is only visible to that great unseen crowd of witnesses (Heb. 12:1). We are indeed storing up in Heaven the treasures of the lives of these kids transformed by the hands of the Carpenter we have commissioned through our prayers.

May God hover over you as you dwell in His presence and persevere in this ministry.

In Him,



Susan

This letter was originally sent in October of 1998.