God-Centered Prayer

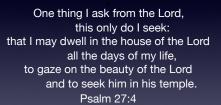
Restoring the Person and Purpose of God at the core of prayer lives

The reward of the Gospel is God Himself

The power of a vibrant and fruitful prayer life is Spirit empowered love for God.

"After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

Genesis 15:1



But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ Philippians 3:7,8

But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 2 Corinthians 11:3

"Satan dreads nothing but prayer. His one concern is to keep the saints from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, he mocks our wisdom, but he trembles when we pray."

- Samuel Chadwick

One of the primary tactics of Satan against our prayer lives is to seduce our hearts to make our desires the primary focus of our prayer not God Himself

You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

James 4:2-4

God-centered Prayer:

Praying as sons rooted in the love of the Father

Pray then like this:
"Our <u>Father</u> in heaven, hallowed be
your name
Matthew 6:9

Praying as sons is very different than praying as slaves.

Slaves offer begging prayers hoping that their "prayer performance" earns them an answer

Sons pray boldly expecting to receive because of the grace of God and confident of their place in the Fathers love

Slaves see prayer as a duty to be performed

Sons see prayer as partnership in the presence of the Father to be enjoyed

Slaves live and pray in a culture of heart-condemnation and shame rooted in the law

Sons live and pray with a confident and joy-filled heart rooted in the grace of God

Slaves are working for their pay from their Master

Sons are receiving the free inheritance of the Father

Slaves walk in fear

Sons walk in faith

Do you live and pray with a biblical revelation of sonship?

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Galatians 4:4-7

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons[f] of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

Romans 8:14-16