

How do we pray knowing Jesus as us?

Growing in the knowledge that we are sharing our life with Christ changes our view of many spiritual practices. One of the chief practices is prayer. For the Christian prayer has traditionally been the means to become more aware of God's presence and to seek answers or provision. It sees God as the benevolent Father, and we are to approach Him with faith, believing that He will give us what we ask.

But now that we see ourselves as in and one with Jesus and all in the Father (Jn 14:20;17:11) we realize we do not approach Him this way. That previous belief held that He was apart from us, He in heaven, and we on the earth. We would hear His Word from outside of ourselves. Now, knowing we are in Jesus, and He in us, we hear His Word deep within our hearts or spirits. We commune with Him with an inner certainty that what we hear or see is coming from His heart and mind. We share our minds and hearts with Him, so what comes from us is actually coming from Him. This is amazing, but before we entertain all the questions this fact raises in our minds, let's look at Jesus as the prime example of this dynamic.

Jesus was God in the flesh. He was a MAN just as we are, filled with all the fullness of God. He was filled with the Father as a vessel with substance. He grew to understand that He lived with a shared identity or oneness with the Father. He said, "You see Me, you see the Father." (Jn.14:9, paraphrase) and, "I and the Father are one."(Jn. 10:30). Accordingly, this understanding influenced how He interacted with the Father. He didn't petition the Father as though He was apart from Him, but watched and listened to what the Father was doing or saying, "I only do what I see My Father doing," (Jn. 5:19) etc. He listened and watched the Father through His eyes of faith. This was His objective in those hours of prayer, alone with the Father. He was waiting "on every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Father" (Matt. 4:4). Consequently, when He had heard the Father and had seen the results of that word in the action of the Father, all He had to do was verbally speak it. That is why He is called the Word. He simply said to the leper, "Be clean"(Matt. 8:3), to the blind man, "Go to the pool and wash" (Jn.9:11), to the lame man," Rise, pick up your bed and walk" (Luke 5:24), etc. Jesus was the Word of the Father ready to be spoken.

With Jesus as our model, and since we share His life we simply follow His model for prayer. Instead of asking a god that is other than you, far away, to do something for you, you ask like you already know what to ask for and how to verbalize it. We can ask the Father anything that He has said, and we can speak anything that we have seen the Father do. We ask and speak just like Jesus DOES. We are praying as Jesus. He never pleaded, petitioned, or fasted for the Father to answer a prayer. Jesus was not begging or "crying out with tears" to the Father in the garden as we know it. He already knew the will of the Father. He was simply accepting and acknowledging the gravity of the "cup". He knew in confidence what the Father intended to happen. He simply had to agree with it.

Praying as one with Jesus is, first of all, seeing what the Father is doing or hearing what He is saying (Jn. 5:19,30). This might mean waiting until we have the knowing in our hearts that we are certain of what the Father has said or has done.

Next it is asking according to what we see or hear. Why do we ask? Because that is how we agree with the Father and His will. (Mt. 7:7,8). The Father never supersedes our will. We must

agree to what He says or does. When we speak the will of God we are bringing what He has said or done in the invisible realm into the visible. Just as the Father said, "Let there be light" we speak the Word (Jesus) the same way. Speaking is an act of faith and it comes out of our mouths. (Rom.10:8,9).

Thirdly, we thank Him that what we ask has already happened (Mk 11:24). When Jesus had heard and seen the will of the Father He added thanks to His speaking. Giving thanks is the capstone of faith. It is believing that what you have "spoken" as the Father's will has already been accomplished. Jesus, for example, expressed thanks to the Father that Lazarus was to come out of the tomb (Jn.11:41).

When you are united in heart and spirit with the creator of the universe you think like He does, you say things as He does. Father God speaks and it happens. We speak the same way with the same "Word of Faith" (Rom. 10:8,9). Mary is another excellent example as she simply said, "Let it be according to your Word" (Lk. 1:38) regarding the miracle that had taken place in her womb and was soon to come forth into the world.

Prayer is the action of faith - "Let it be, Father, according to your Word". What is the Word? It's the Words of Jesus that are forming in our spirits. That is why it is called asking in His name. It's what Jesus is saying to ask the Father. "Father, Jesus says to ask" He is the Word which abides in you..(Jn. 15:7; 1 Jn 5:14,15). Asking is bringing the hidden purpose of God into visibility. (Jn 14:13; Matt. 7:7)

What are some examples of how we can pray in one with Jesus, especially in the matter of sicknesses?

1. God says that He has given us "life" in our bodies (Rom. 8:11). "Thank you Father, You are giving me life through this sickness."
2. God says an infirmity can be the manifestation of Christ (2 Cor. 4:10). "Father, Glorify yourself in this sickness. Let this infirmity reveal you."
3. God says to give thanks in everything (1Thess.5:18; Phil. 4:6,7) "Father, I speak thanks (your grace) into this sickness. I thank you for bringing all things to goodness" (Rom. 8:28).
4. God says that His grace is sufficient for us (2 Cor 12:9). "Father, I thank you that You are the grace that turns my weaknesses to strength."
5. God says that He is at work in us (Philippians 2:13). "Father, do your work in me through this sickness."

Since we have been so indoctrinated in the "separation theology" of traditional Christianity, it may take some time to learn to pray in this way. We have been so used to seeing Jesus and the Father as apart from us, and we need to apply various prayer formulas to see Him answer our prayers. Praying in one with Jesus is, on the other hand, an exciting way to see through His eyes at all life's situations. Problems and issues are nothing but opportunities to know His purposes in bringing His glory into visibility.

Be Jesus

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