

Sermon Notes -- Romans 8:26-27 – Prayer

Me Praying: Dear God, Sister Mary is in the hospital.

God: Oh no! Which hospital?

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. -- Romans 8:26

Three Thoughts on Prayer

It is surprising that we think of God as Father instead of Mother because God talks all the time.

God talked so much to Jeremiah, that Jeremiah sometimes wished He would just stop talking!

But if I say, "I will not mention him or speak any more in his name," his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot. – Jeremiah 20:9

Jeremiah to God: Will you stop talking?

God: Pauses, then says, “Nope.” And starts talking again.

When John the Baptist is baptizing Jesus, God blurts out, “This is my Son, whom I love, with him I am well pleased.” So why don’t we hear more from God?

As you approach God, at first you see one thing, but as you get close you see something completely different.

When you approach God and get close enough to get away from the blinding light, you see something much different. You see a community. God is surrounded by beings first of all, angels and such, but as you get even closer, you see three stars, not just one.

God the Father sits on the throne. God the Son works the crowd. And then you realize what you had never noticed before that God the Holy Spirit has been behind you and by your side the whole time, working you toward the front.

And when you get to sit down with God, one on one, you find yourself unable to speak, and the Holy Spirit says to God the Father, “Here is what Brian came here to say.”

God wants to talk to you. God has things He wants to say to you, and if you get past the wish list, you find you have some pretty deep personal things to say to God.

God wants to have private gut level conversations with you.

First of all, God wants you to be alone for these conversations.

But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. – Matthew 6:6

Prayer must include some conversations like you would only have with your wife in the deepest of moments. It is less like a husband and wife, and more like a Father and child talking.

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." – Romans 8:15-16

Abba means Daddy. God wants you to have times where you are so close to God that you call Him Daddy instead of Father.

Conclusion

Prayer is “presenting yourself” to God. Prayer is making yourself present, quieting yourself until you can hear God talking.

Questions to Ponder -- Romans 8:26-27 – Prayer

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1. Why do we feel the need to tell God what is happening? Is it ok to tell God these things?

Read Romans 8:26

2. Pastor Brian said, “It is surprising that we think of God as Father instead of Mother because God talks all the time.” Do you believe that God is talking all the time? What is He saying?

3. Do you think God ever “blurts” how much he loves you?

4. Pastor Brian said, “As you approach God, at first you see one thing, but as you get close you see something completely different.” How can God look so different the closer you get?

5. Pastor Brian said, “God wants to have private gut level conversations with you.” Why should these conversations happen when you are alone?

6. When is the last time you had a “gut level” conversation with God?

7. What would it take for you to be comfortable enough to call God “Daddy”?

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