

PERSPECTIVES ON PRAYER. – by Daniël Badenhorst

To whom do we pray?

Prayers are offered too many beings and creatures and things that should supposedly be worthy to be called God. One way to determine whether the one you address in prayer is the real God, is to ask yourself if you are changed at all through your prayer life. If it is the case, your prayers might be of a serious act. It means you take prayer seriously, as it should be. Unfortunately it is not proof that if we are changed through our prayers that we pray to the real and living God.

The Bible, as the only true and authentic scripture, informs us that we become like the one we worship. This is the case even for the beings or objects people worship whether they are imaginations of the human mind or the real and only God. In fact this truth is specifically shared in the context where people worship idols.

“They who make idols are like them; so are all who trust and lean on them” Ps 115:8.

When Jesus walked this earth, He once told a woman this important truth concerning who we are and what we should be doing when it comes to worship:

“A time will come, however, indeed it is already here, when the true (genuine) worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father is seeking just such people as these as His worshippers. God is a Spirit (a supernatural Being) and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. Joh 4:23,24

This is an incredible statement. We are created to worship. In the very core of our beings we are spirit so that we can connect with the supernatural. This truth specifies that human beings are created (for those who believe that we are more than happenings or a result of some kind of evolvment) in such a way that when we do the act we call prayer or worship, we are very vulnerable and exposed but at the same time reflecting our very goal of existence. The personal act and discipline of yielding in prayer to the real God is the very

opportunity and experience in and through which your personality and identity can be transformed! Permanently. Forever. What a privilege. What an opportunity.

If you ever doubted the importance of prayer I hope you will reconsider. If prayer, as the Bible says in this regard will change who you are, is it not important to make the serious choice to pray to right 'source' or 'force'? I sure do. I surely don't want to end up and become something I or any other human being fabricated or even imagined as a result of who or what God may be. A religious spirit can present and produce ridiculous ideas and convictions. When animals and plants become holy, the worshippers of these are in serious trouble.

When the created instead of the creator becomes the focus of worship in whatever form they may appear, it is no wonder that man loose his real God given identity and purpose.

That may be the very first and important reason why the world and our communities and families and personalities are in such a mess. When someone or something becomes that which was never the original purpose, everything goes terribly wrong. It all starts with who we worship. To whom we pray.

If we pray to Him who created us, invented prayer and should be the object and focus of every prayer, we will fulfil and experience our God given identity and destiny. We will be transformed and become that which is our original design.

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. And all of us, as with unveiled face, (because we) continued to behold (in the Word of God) as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendour and from one degree of glory to another; (for this comes) from the Lord (who is) the Spirit." 2 Cor 3:17,18

The dynamic of prayer lies in the truth that it brings us into the very presence of God. Our verse says that with whatever separation being removed, the Holy Spirit causes us to reflect on the glory of God and it is this reflection that has the power to transform us into His image and likeness.

The essence of prayer lies in the presence. We are to live in Jahwe's presence. He is the only and living God. Creator of earth and heaven. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The only Name in heaven and earth through which man can be transformed and saved, Jesus the Christ. Superior to any other Name and seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. El-Elyon the most high God, Jahua Tsava'ot the Lord of the heavenly armies. To whom every knee shall bow and every tongue confesses that He and only He is God.

It is to Him that we pray: "Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your Name. Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Jesus also taught his disciples the following about to whom we should pray: "And when the time comes, you will ask nothing of Me (you will need to ask Me no questions). I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, that my Father will grant you whatever you ask in My Name (as representing all that I AM). Up to this time you have not asked me a single thing in My name (as representing all that I AM); but now ask and keep on asking and you will receive, so that your joy (gladness, delight) may be full and complete." Joh 16:23,24