

GOD'S HOUSE OF PRAYER IS A HOUSE OF INQUIRY

J.S. Boegl • House of Prayer Series #06

Show me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day... The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth. To such as keep His covenant and His testimonies... The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant. My eyes are ever toward the Lord... (Psalm 25:4-5, 9-10, 14-15)

I. GOD'S INVITATION TO INQUIRE

- A. God's invitation to *inquire of the Lord* is fundamental to the Bible, and to the House of Prayer. ***One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.*** (Psalm 27:4)
- B. The examples of David. David cultivated a lifestyle of *inquiring of the Lord* so that in the hour of crisis he would not have to suddenly do something that was abnormal to his lifestyle.
1 Samuel 23:2-4; 1 Samuel 30:8; 2 Samuel 5:23
It happened after this that David inquired of the Lord, saying, "Shall I go up to any of the cities of Judah?" And the Lord said to him, "Go up." David said, "Where shall I go up?" And He said, "To Hebron." (2 Samuel 2:1)
- C. The example of Moses. Moses inquiry of the Lord inextricably bound understanding the way of the Lord, to understanding the character of the Lord.
Then Moses said to the Lord, "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people.' But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.' Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people. And the Lord said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." (Exodus 33:12-14)
- D. The invitations of Jesus: John 6:45; Matthew 9:13
Ask and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. (Matthew 7:7)
- E. The example of the New Testament Church. In the New Covenant the apostle Paul exhorts the Galatians Church to *"walk in the Spirit"*.
If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. (Galatians 5:25)
The truth is, we will no more *walk* in the Spirit than we *talk* with the Spirit. Those that yearn to receive the power of the Spirit, need to cultivate a breath-by-breath conversation with the Spirit. It's through these conversations that we receive the instruction and revelations of the Spirit:
Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. (1 Corinthians 2:9-12)
- F. The Lord loves for His children to search out the mysteries that exist in His heart. Jesus observed:
No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. (John 15:15)
(See also: 1 Corinthians 4:1; Ephesians 3:3-4; Colossians 1:27; Colossians 2:2; Colossians 4:3)
It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; but the glory of kings is to search them out. (Proverbs 25:2)
- G. No one wants us to converse with God more than God Himself. As the *Word of the Lord* comes to us the Holy Spirit woos us into an intimate *dialogue*; often giving us just enough information to entice us into *seeking, knocking* and *asking* (Matthew 7:7) for more. The Holy Spirit is a master suitor. He knows that if we can develop an appetite for dialoguing and inquiring of God, we will press through most any adversity, and any interior resistance, to engage Him all the more.

II. INQUIRING OF THE LORD IN THE HOUSE OF PRAYER

- A. One of the most transformational aspects of the House of Prayer reality is the activity of *inquiring of the Lord*. As we sit at Jesus' feet with an open Bible, a humble heart and a willingness to listen to the voice and leading of the Holy Spirit
1. ...we gradually unlearn the carnal, self-driven wisdom of the world which is opposed to our well-being, and the growth of the glory of God - in our lives and in our world. We do not *lean on our own understanding*. (Proverbs 3:5)
 2. ...He reveals how intimately committed He is to us.
 3. ...He reveals the height and depth of Who He is, and we see a more complete picture of our God.
 - a.) This perspective shifts our own vision of self, and life and potential.
 - b.) This perspective shifts our own vision of God's power toward us as we believe.
 - c.) This perspective shifts our vision of Who God is, and engenders worship of the Holy God Who is utterly "other" than anything, or anyone else we know.
 4. ...we are literally infused with the very qualities of Jesus Christ through the speaking voice of the Holy Spirit. (John 16:13-15)
We all, with unveiled faces reflecting the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, which is from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:18)
 5. ...we are filled with the wisdom of God
Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! (Romans 11:33) (See also: Psalm 36:9; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Ephesians 1:17; Colossians 2:3; James 1:5; James 3:17; Revelation 7:12)
- B. The demands of this life: our anxiety, fear, lack of perspective, self-centeredness, skewed heart-desires etc. all have the capacity to easily crowd out our dialogue/inquiry with the Lord - and hence, our dependency upon the intimate, wisdom of Jesus' practical leadership. (Matthew 25:8; Revelation 3:18)
- C. Making it practical: How do we inquire of the Lord?
1. Position ourselves in an environment where we can be all present to the Lord - and He can be all present to us.
 2. Ask the Holy Spirit to instruct your heart, soul, mind and strength from the the Word of God. The Bible is the Holy Spirit's authoritative dialogue material. Reading, studying, searching out God's Word is always an invitation into dialogue with the Word-speaking God.
 3. Come into this conversation confidently, honestly; filled with assurance that whatever the Lord has for us, is better than what we have right now. ***"Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom."*** (Psalm 51:6)
 4. Invite the Holy Spirit, Who *searches the deep things of God* (1 Corinthians 2:9-13) to reveal the qualities of Jesus and His Kingdom, to our seeking hearts.
 5. As the Holy Spirit shows us these qualities in Jesus (Ephesians 1:17) we revel and thrill, and glory, and worship Him for what He's like. This is vital. This reveling engages our emotions and our heart increases in it's longing for these qualities to be manifest on the earth - and in ourselves (1 John 3:1-3)
 6. Ask the Holy Spirit to give us these very same qualities of Jesus. As I sit in His presence, I actually say: ***"Holy Spirit, speak Your living Words to my heart."***
Examples: We see humility in Jesus and we ask for humility. We see love in Jesus, and we ask for love. We see power in Jesus, and we ask Jesus for power.
 7. With precisely the same power that God used to create 300 billion galaxies the Holy Spirit looks into the void of our soul and says ***"Bara! Let there be...!"*** (Genesis 1:14) and where there was once *nothing*, (*ex nihilo*) the Spirit speaks, and now manifestation of Christ's likeness is birthed in us.
 8. As we experience Him releasing these values into our souls we give thanks. ***Thank you, Holy Spirit!*** Those who have given themselves to this dynamic will naturally become a part of the universal chorus of Revelation 7:12 ***"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen."***
- D. The process of inquiring of the Lord is enhanced as we prioritize seeking God first, because it cultivates faith. *Prioritizing the other* is the way of the Trinity. This is the way of God's family.
Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (Matthew 6:33)
- E. ***There will be a people of understanding, and they will instruct many.*** (Daniel 11:33)