

Unceasing Prayer

1 Thessalonians 5:16 – “Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

In **John 8:3**, Jesus said to the accusers of the adulterous woman, “**If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.**” This transcendent moment in this woman’s life was just the beginning of her spiritual journey. “Mountain top” moments come and go. The real challenge is the spiritual boredom we may feel in our walk with Christ.

Do you have moments when you are bored with your faith and spiritual life?

What does this tell you about your spiritual development and walk with Christ?

Prayer is about Love

The Bible is not a rule book, it’s a love story revealing the true god’s love of His creation. The story of the adulterous women is a reflection of this love. On the final night of his life, Jesus said to his disciples; “**As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.**” What does this mean to you?

Prayer is love. Without prayer, there cannot be love.

Paul wrote in **Philippians 1:9-11**; “And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God.”

Real love requires growth and maturation. “Like love, prayer comes easy at the first and at the last, for sinners and saints, but all the years in between are the important ones.” Why is this?

Can you recognize that your prayer life is evolving, even through the boredom period?

Can you see that you are building a relationship of love? What is God preparing us for?

The Heart of a Lover and the Discipline of a Monk

The most notable aspect of Jesus’s life was his ability to pray. “We all want that intimacy and companionship.” That relationship between Jesus and the Father was built in the middle through fidelity. What does this mean to you?

The Lord’s Prayer: Jesus adapted the Kaddish Hebrew prayer from the temple to make it “more personal for the personal people in search of a personal God.”

And Jesus responds, essentially, “Pray to God more intimately than you think you’re allowed to because this is about love, and center your life according to a disciplined rhythm of prayer because fidelity is the soil that love grows in.” What is the analogy here with marriage?

“Pray like a bunch of wild, unruly monks.” What do you think this means for your prayer life?

Like old couples, grow old with Jesus through companionship and prayer. You will become like Him.