



April 2000

Month number four. We had our conference, God met us, and things just keep unfolding. Isn't it wonderful that we serve a God who doesn't give us everything at once? There's always something to look forward to, always some reason to seek Him.

With the prophetic assembly upon us it's a good time to look into two very relevant topics. One is prayer, and the other is hearing God's voice. These are big issues with God. He wants us to talk to Him and He desires us to hear His voice.

Notice I don't say that he desires to speak to us. He's continually speaking. The question is, Do we hear and understand? One of the reasons we pray is to clear our minds from the busy and bustle of this world so we can properly hear what Our Father says to us.

Prayer is a time of communion, a date with our Heavenly Friend, an audience with the King of the Universe, dinner with Jesus. One of the best things I ever did for my prayer life was to quit praying.

At one time I thought that to pray I had to kneel down on the hard floor and recite my list of everything I wanted God to do for me. Jesus spoke of the Pharisee who *prayed with himself*. I've done that. It's a waste of time- my time, not God's. It doesn't waste God's time because He's not there. I think He's over at Starbucks having a latte' with Pastor Frank.

One of the best ways to bring the presence of God into your situation is to find something good to do together. A problem I have with the kneeling posture is that I have so much German/Norwegian in my makeup. As the plaque says, 'Venn I vorks, I vorks hard, and venn I rests, I rests hard, and venn I tinks, I falls asleep.'

One of the best times I have for seeking God is to get out my little rebounder trampoline and raise my circulation as I speak in tongues. Oh kebasha ti kehabasha kan! There's something real consistent about stretching my faith and my

muscles at the same time. It also seems a good time to clap my hands and tell God about anything I caught Him doing that really blessed me lately.

Often I'll have a praise tape playing, and if a good dancing song comes on, look out! I find myself thinking that I ought to take the trampoline to church with me. Your prayers are appreciated to keep such foolishness in check!

Hearing God works in much the same way. Spend time in His presence, and things will come to your heart. In fact, in order to pray properly we must be able to hear enough of the Lord's voice to get an idea of what He would like us to pray for.

What seems to get God's attention is not the multitude of carefully crafted reasons why He should see things our way, but whether our heart is reverberating with the sound of His voice. If you want to see prayers answered the best thing you can do is build altars.

Want something so bad you can taste it? So bad you would be willing to lie, cheat and steal (as well as pray) to get it? So bad that it fills your whole waking thought? So bad that you would be willing to sacrifice anything or anyone that even threatened to get in your way? Too bad, because that kind of a heart hasn't got a prayer.

Take your heart in hand and lead it to the foot of the old rugged cross. Consider the one who gave everything so that we might become like Him. And whatever thing is trying to control you, lay it on the altar. Burn, baby, burn.

What makes it through the fire is holy, and sanctified, capable of being anointed with power. Now you can hear God, and He will honor your prayer. There will be a rest and a peace about you, born of faith and speaking life to others.

That other self, the carnal you, would like to get control, to put worry and strife back into your life. But that's not God's way or plan. Stay close to the altar, and keep the fire burning hot. Whenever self becomes apparent lay it back on the altar, and let that be another sacrifice to the glory of God. Every thought, every plan, every

desire. And of that, what God gives back is truly yours.

At this point prayer becomes much less asking and more of a declaration of what God is doing and wants to continue doing in the situation we are currently praying for. The Holy Spirit is the ultimate smart bomb- just turn Him loose in the direction of the need and let Him call His own shots. No need to go into long and elaborate recitals of what he should be doing, just name the need and channel the power!

I love the word channeling. It is so descriptive of how we as earthen vessels allow God to flow through us and work. It's time we took that ground back from those who don't even know the true God of heaven! New-Ager's don't really channel, they manifest and there's a world of difference.

Once we get the power flowing, we should seek for all the understanding God will give us too. Our mind must be subordinate to the Spirit, but it still has power once it learns its place. Praying with *just the right words* releases faith and hope in both our lives and those we pray for.

It's possible too, to know the *right words* without knowing all the in's and out's of the situation. When this happens and the Lord witnesses to the person prayed for that their need is precisely described (although usually discreetly) they are lifted to a new realm of belief and trust. As intercessors this is why we want to hear with accuracy and clarity.

"Intercession is the prayer you give away."
This quote from the revival conference really tells the story. Another description, "Intercession is jumping into the middle of someone else's battle and fighting it for them." That's true too.

We seem to have more faith and ability to deal with the problems of others than our own. If we all kept one another covered in prayer the blessing would multiply. Often another person can do for us in a one minute prayer what would take us hours to work through on our own. So we need to pray for others, and we need others to pray for us.

As we spend that time before the Lord something else will happen too. Not only will we understand more of God's will for our lives, but we will automatically find ourselves doing it. After all, that is part of the *Thy will be done* clause. Living in the spiritual realm just makes things work better.

How well can they work? Let me give you something current here. I got back from the revival conference (totally exhausted!) to have my employer tell me that he was closing his shop and Friday would be my last day. I thought, *Great, I'll pray about this next week when I have time.*

By the end of the week he asked me if I would work some the following week as he was tying up loose ends and getting ready to close. Well, as a matter of fact I had the time available so I said sure, and wound up working a full week. I did decide to fast three days that week, Monday through Wednesday as it seemed a good time to try to hear from God.

In the middle of the week as he negotiated with some of our competitors to try to sell anything or everything he called back to tell me he had a job for me if I was interested. I go to work Tuesday at 8 AM with my job interview scheduled for about 11, but I'm always getting things turned around anyway so it seems perfectly normal. I think I'm thankful, but I'm reminded of the bumper sticker: "You can't fire me- Slaves are sold!"

Isn't a life of prayer and faith fun?

Events:

Another month with lots of church goodies, so we aren't doing anything heroic in terms of planning things. We'll be going for a group walk at Glendever on the first, but due to scheduling most of you didn't get notice of it beforehand unless you were at the monthly meeting on the 31st. See what you missed? Just a remedial walk to get us in shape for bigger stuff this summer.

Promise Keepers will be on the second Friday (14th) for this month only. T- and M- plan on

going down to Central America during that time, so it changes a few things. In your book-Promise 7.

M- has a birthday on the 16th (pentecost- the big one!) so if he is able to come to the SNAC that day we'll have to roast him a little. Since his schedule is heavy we can't plan too tight, but keep in touch...

S- has some painting work coming up, and we've certainly got a mind to bless her when we can. So we'll touch base during the meeting at her house on the 28th, and then be back on the 29th to swing a few brushes.

May you know God as Lord of April this month, especially as the 15th rolls around...

GAH

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