

Speaking

Today is part 3 of the Discipleship Way - Speaking

Speaking to God and God speaking to us - this is what prayer is, as Joyce Meyer puts it:

“Prayer is simply talking to God like a friend and should be the easiest thing we do each day”.

Too often the idea of prayer can be boring, but what we mean is a monologue, a formulaic said prayer with lots of thee's and thou's in old stuffy language which we don't fully understand and seems to be to a far off God.

But this was never what God intended:

Right in the beginning when God created Adam and Eve, He would walk in the garden to spend time chatting to them. This was always the way God intended it, to share life with his people. We can also read of Gods intention for the future:

Revelation 21:3 NIV

³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

Unfortunately this amazing intimate 2 way relationship fell apart when Adam and Eve chose to disobey God in the Garden of Eden and break their intimate relationship with Him. Straight away they moved from enjoyment and acceptance, natural obedience and dependency on God to fear of God, self justification and self reliance.

Just listen to how many people respond to God today and you hear this

- fear - fear of death, of separation, fear of God
- self justification - they aren't as bad as someone else, it's someone elses fault
- self reliance - they don't need a God, they can happily live their own way and be successful

With Jesus we have everything being set back into order as it should originally have been. He not only enables us through dying on the cross to again have a right relationship with God but shows us what a right relationship with God looks like.

Jesus spoke to God as Father, had intimacy, honoured and enjoyed spending time with Father God.

John 17:1 NIV

¹ After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.

In the Lords prayer He addresses God as Dad

Jesus regularly spent time by Himself with His dad

Mark 1:35 NIV

³⁵ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

Luke 5:16 NIV

¹⁶ But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

Jesus spent time with His dad, for 2 main reasons

1st To simply enjoy being with Him -

Pete Greig tells a story - Sometimes can be intense when God just wants us to chillax and enjoy spending time with Him.

“I don't often spend more than half an hour in prayer at one time, but I never go more than half an hour without praying”. Smith Wigglesworth

2nd To know what God's plans were so He could obediently fulfil them

“I used to ask God to help me. Then I asked if I might help Him. I ended up by asking Him to do His work through me”. Hudson Taylor

His life was dependent upon His close relationship with Father God as the source and guide of everything.

John 5:19 NIV

¹⁹ Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

Luke 6:12–13 NIV

¹² One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. ¹³ When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles:

Again and again, Jesus prayed - heard what His daddy was saying then acted. Too often do we act then quickly throw out a prayer in the hope that what we are doing is blessed!

Unlike the first garden which saw Adam and Eve breaking relationship with God through disobedience, resulting in fear, self-justification and self-reliance Jesus faced another Garden, this time the Garden of Gethsemane where from His prayers, his intimate relationship and dependency Jesus could say:

Matthew 26:39 NLT

³⁹ He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, “My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”

He had intimacy to call God Father - Daddy, have relationship to honestly share the difficulties He was facing and even ask if there was another way. Yet also the dependency and obedience to say “yet I want your will to be done and not mine”. This was the greatest victory of all and from this obedience went to the cross and broke Satan’s power and bought our access to relationship with Father God! AMEN!

This close relationship based on dependency enabled Jesus to fulfil in completeness every plan Father God had for His life

That is why on the cross Jesus could say “it is finished”, He had completed His mission successfully.

It’s the same for us, God wants a real intimate relationship with us

He wants us to simply come to enjoy Him

He doesn’t want us just to come to Him for stuff - like Pete Greig I’ve personally found God has a good sense of humour and will use it to get us to just chillax and enjoy him

Once in a meeting I was seeking God for a word -

[Ecclesiastes 3:7b \(The Message\)](#)

⁷ ... A right time to shut up and another to speak up,

God was having a laugh, saying yes you’re hearing right - now shut up and enjoy me!

He also wants us to depend on Him and be led by Him

“Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tyre?”. Corrie Ten Boom

When we pray and allow the Holy Spirit to lead us and work through us stuff happens

“And when you pray to God regularly, irregular things happen on a regular basis.” Mark Batterson AMEN

So today, are you enjoying simply spending time with God, chatting with Him, bringing Him into every aspect of life, naturally as a friend?

Are you also listening to Him, depending on Him for His wisdom and guidance, allowing His Holy Spirit to lead you and stepping out in faith and obedience and doing His will in and through your life?