

Before the Throne of God, Lesson 4

October 13, 2009

Bryan Chapell says this in Praying Backwards: “Our hearts are designed to find their **greatest joy** in honoring the God who loves us infinitely.”

Let’s start by looking at Psalm 131 on page 52 of our text.

Scripture says “Be still and know that I am God.” Let’s think about stillness before God – examine the word pictures in Psalm 131. Take a minute to look this over. What do these images say to you? What thoughts and feelings come to you from this Psalm?

Look at the first sentence on page 52. What do you think about that?

Only as we study and dwell in scripture do we learn about who God is, his character and nature. The Holy Spirit works through this to grow our desire to glorify Him rather than ourselves.

Let’s look at some passages and see what we hear about God in them:

Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

Jeremiah 23:24 “Can a man hide himself in hiding places, So I do not see him?” declares the LORD. “Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?” declares the LORD.”

Psalm 71:19 “For Thy righteousness, O God, reaches to the heavens, Thou who hast done great things; O God, who is like Thee?”

When we think about a true worshipper and how a true worshipper prays, we think of praying in Jesus’ name. Praying in Jesus’ name is often how we close our prayers. This is to be an indication that we are seeking to bring honor to Christ, that we offering our prayers for His sake and for His purposes.

Whenever we pray, whatever the problem or issue or question we are lifting up to Him, we should always ask that His will be done and that He would glorify Himself in the situation.

(Bryan Chapell again) “In our finite wisdom, we may **least want what an infinitely wise God will most bless.**”

Union with Christ–

Ephesians 1:3 & 4 – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him.”

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Look at verse 4 – when were we first chosen IN CHRIST?

So those who would ultimately be saved were never contemplated by the Father in the counsel of His love apart from Christ – we were chosen IN Him. We did not become actual partakers of Christ until salvation was effectually applied in our coming to faith – this brought the fruition of the plan. Before that we did not enjoy the blessings of salvation. But there was never any possibility that we would not be brought to faith and clothed in the righteousness of Christ because we were chosen IN Him before the foundation of the world.

What is the nature of this union with Christ? We can know a few things about that –

1. It is spiritual – The bond of this union is the Holy Spirit Himself.
2. It is mystical – in 2 ways, in the scriptural sense that it is not revealed in any way other than by revelation by God in scripture. Through this revelation we come to faith.

It's also a mystery in that we can't completely understand it.

The other question to examine is our relationship with the entire Trinity – let's look at John 17:20 – 23, and John 14:16 & 17 and see what we learn there.

John 17: 20 "I do not ask in behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word;

21 that they may all be one; even as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that Thou didst send Me.

22 "And the glory which Thou hast given Me I have given to them; that they may be one, just as We are one;

23 I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, that the world may know that Thou didst send Me, and didst love them, even as Thou didst love Me.

What conclusions do you draw about our union with Christ and with the Father from these verses?

John 14: 16 "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;

17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you.

What does this tell us about our relationship with the Holy Spirit?

What does this say to us about our prayer lives?

Let's look at our text on page 62 – the third paragraph under "Conditions of Power" from "Thus we see" to "in this situation." What do you think about this?

Look at page 63 – the second and third paragraphs – from "Jesus actually lived" to "approaching God's throne." What effect should this have on us?

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Praying together from scripture, let's pray in the ACTS format –
Start with Adoration from Psalm 111

Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart, In the company of the upright and in the assembly.

2 Great are the works of the LORD; They are studied by all who delight in them.

3 Splendid and majestic is His work; And His righteousness endures forever.

4 He has made His wonders to be remembered; The LORD is gracious and compassionate.

5 He has given food to those who fear Him; He will remember His covenant forever.

6 He has made known to His people the power of His works, In giving them the heritage of the nations.

7 The works of His hands are truth and justice; All His precepts are sure.

8 They are upheld forever and ever; They are performed in truth and uprightness.

9 He has sent redemption to His people; He has ordained His covenant forever; Holy and awesome is His name.

10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments; His praise endures forever

Names of God

EI Shaddai (Lord God Almighty)

EI Elyon (The Most High God)

Adonai (Lord, Master)

Yahweh (Lord, Jehovah)

Jehovah Nissi (The Lord My Banner)

Jehovah-Raah (The Lord My Shepherd)

Jehovah Rapha (The Lord That Heals)

Jehovah Shammah (The Lord Is There)

Jehovah Tsidkenu (The Lord Our Righteousness)

Jehovah Mekoddishkem (The Lord Who Sanctifies You)

EI Olam (The Everlasting God)

Elohim (God)

Qanna (Jealous)

Jehovah Jireh (The Lord Will Provide)

Jehovah Shalom (The Lord Is Peace)

Jehovah Sabaoth (The Lord of Hosts)

“The life of faith is one of living union and communion with the exalted and ever-present Redeemer.” John Murray in Redemption Accomplished and Applied