

The Science of Prayer

Learning 'how' to pray is as important as engaging in the activity of prayer itself. Here are principles in the science of prayer God expects us to become intelligent how to utilize.

If we would build on a strong biblical foundation of faith and trust, we would learn the science of prayer as outlined in the Spirit of Prophecy. To apply this science on a daily basis in our lives (including our prayer life) effectively, we must incorporate the following principles.

1. In order to recognize that pray is the activity of talking to God, we must always remember that *"nothing to the Lord I bring, simply to His cross I cling"*. In everything we recipients of the Lord; there is nothing we have of ourselves which commends us to God. The Bible makes this very clear (Isa.40:15,17)
2. Since the New Testament uses the word "receive" more than 250 times, we are to realize that our dependence is to be on Jesus as our power source. When we come to the cross daily to receive the atoning benefits of His death, we admit and recognize that these benefits come to us because of the "accomplished fact" of what Christ outside of our choice. Thus we "receive" these benefits in humility and gratitude as we respond to His Spirit drawing us to Him. (Isa. 53; John 1:29; 6:63; 12:32; 15:5; 17:4; Col.2:16)
3. By responding in this manner, we are less and less dependent on ourselves, when we are tempted to try and change by trusting in our own strength through methods that move us away from the biblical principles for an ongoing, increasing dependence on Christ (2 Cor10:3-5; Gal. 1:6-9; 3:1-14; 5:7-12; Rom.4:4-5; 7:7-25)
4. DISCIPLESHIP: Moving into Ministry—God is in the business of repairing and restoring us one step at a time. Becoming a disciple, begins in one's prayer life. Just as Jesus earnestly prayed at the beginning of His ministry free from human contact for 40 days and then throughout His life of toil, so becoming a disciple begins in one's prayer closet in humility and lowliness.

Investing my life into the lives of others (first in prayer) so that God can expand His Kingdom of grace and truth in their hearts, is part of the process of discipleship. When another naturally, spontaneously and joyously inculcates these principles in their own life, the process of becoming a disciple has been realized (2 Tim. 2:2; Matt. 28:18-20).

As we continue in our journey on what God would have us learn re. the science of prayer, we realize early on that one of the essential principles is perseverance. The following biblical account illustrates this principle: In Luke 11:9,10, we find the Master expressing in a brief parable this principle of perseverance.

This is so important that the SOP in Ch 380.1 tells us that “this lesson means more than we can imagine.” Wow! She uses the phrase, “*importunate prayer*” to describe the importance of preserving in prayer. Further she goes on to say that using this type of prayer (importunate prayer) “the greatest victories are gained in the audience chamber of God.”

Below are a few statements on this subject of *Perseverance* in the science of prayer. Below I’ve listed several statements for you to look up and prayerfully incorporate into your prayer life.

The Divine Science in Prayer Necessitates Perseverance

Christ's lessons in regard to prayer should be carefully considered. There is a divine science in prayer, and His illustration brings to view principles that all need to understand. He shows what is the *true spirit* of prayer, He teaches the necessity of perseverance in presenting our requests to God, and assures us of His willingness to hear and answer prayer. {COL 142.2} (emphasis supplied)

The Science of Prayer means to Exercise Faith

Calebs have been greatly needed in different periods of the history of our work. Today we need workers of thorough fidelity, workers who follow the Lord fully, workers who are not disposed to be silent when they ought to speak, who are as true as steel to principle, who do not seek to make a pretentious show, but who walk humbly with God—patient, kind, obliging, courteous workers, who understand that the science of prayer is to exercise faith and show works that will tell to the glory of God and the good of His people. . . . {CTr 122.2}

Importunate Prayer (Persistent and urgent)

- COL172.2 –We give evidence by I.P. of our strong confidence in God
- CM 81.3 –Power of importunate prayer shown
- GC 621.2 –We are now to learn lesson of unyielding faith*
- MM 255.1 –In the Christian warfare we shall not fail nor be discouraged
- Pr 78.2 –The strength of Christ was in prayer (we are to imitate His example)

As you apply these principles to your life do not forget to include ‘Faith Statements’. What is a faith statement? It is when we express faith in the established fact of what Jesus did for us at the cross. An couple examples of faith statements—

- “Thank you, Father, that You are considering me today to be reconciled unto You through the death of Jesus.” (Rom. 5:10)
- “Thank you, Father, that I don’t have to spend today in ignorance of Your love, because You have demonstrated Your love toward me in sacrificing Your Son to die in my stead, and I want to rejoice in that love today. Thank you. (John 3:16)

Be sure to vocalize these faith statements to God throughout the day, but especially in your morning prayer time. It is God’s proscribed way of keeping us grateful, humble and joyful in our Christian experience. Praise His name.

*Another principle of success in the science of prayer

These Two Things Need to be Studied Together

Prayer and faith are closely allied, and they need to be studied together. In the prayer of faith there is a divine science; it is a science that everyone who would make his lifework a success must understand. Christ says, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:24. He makes it plain that our asking must be according to God's will; we must ask for the things that He has promised, and whatever we receive must be used in doing His will. The conditions met, the promise is unequivocal. {Ed 257.7}

For the pardon of sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a Christlike temper, for wisdom and strength to do His work, for any gift He has promised, we may ask; then we are *to believe* that *we receive*, and return thanks to God that we have received. {Ed 258.1}

We need look for no outward evidence of the blessing. The *gift* is *in the promise*, and we may go about our work *assured* that what God has promised He is able to perform, and that the gift, which we already possess, will be realized when we need it most. {Ed 258.2}

Keeping in mind what we've learned so far in the science of prayer, re. perseverance and receiving all of the benefits Christ has secured for us at the cross, we now must go on exercising faith and prayer. Since the gift is in the promise, as she says, we may go about our work assured God has heard and will perform it when we need it most.

Praise

Another tremendous benefit we can use is *praise*, not only in word, but in song, which chases the demons away. As we have been learning in 5T 317, "when the *lovingkindness of God* calls forth more *thanksgiving* and *praise*, we shall have far more power in prayer."

There are a number of Scriptures we can site which Bible writers used this weapon in their struggles. David who played his harp before King Saul, subdued the evil spirit for a time; King Jehoshaphat put the choir out front when they went to battle (the Lord's battle against the enemy) and God fought for them and completely discomfited (destroyed) the enemy; many of the Psalms were song by David throughout his life and we have found these a blessing to read and even put to our own song.

And Remember those "Faith Statements". Here is one you can adopt as your own:

"Thank you, Father, that I don't have to spend today in ignorance of Your love, because You have demonstrated Your love toward me I in sacrificing Your Son to die in my stead, and I want to rejoice in that love today. Thank you."

We must always request the baptism of the Holy Spirit to bring the mind of Christ into us each and every day. Then we are to cooperate with Divine agencies in harmony with our prayers.

"Christ was treated as we deserve, that we might be treated as he deserves. He was condemned for our sins, in which He had no share, that we might be justified by His righteousness, in which we had no share. He suffered the death which was ours, that we might receive the life which was His. By His stipes we are healed." -DA 25

The Science of Prayer,
Part 4 --How to Exercise Faith

As we continue with our study on the Science of Prayer, we recall that last week we introduced the subject of faith and how to exercise it. We will develop this theme in this lesson as we seek our Father's will in becoming effective disciples of prayer.

Cultivating Faith

Without faith it is impossible to please God. The reason for this is that "whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (Rom.14:23); and of course sin can not please God. This is why it is that, as stated in RH Oct.18, 1898, "The knowledge of what the Scripture means when urging upon us the necessity of cultivating faith, is more essential than any other knowledge that can be acquired." (*Lessons on Faith, p.7 by A.T. Jones*)

So how do we exercise or cultivate this faith? This is well illustrated in the story of the centurion recorded in Matt. 8:6-10 who came to Jesus and said to him: "Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but *speaking the word only, and my servant shall be healed...* When Jesus heard it, he marveled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great *faith*, no, not in Israel." (*ibid p.8*)

To know what that is, is to know what faith is. Since Christ is "the Author...of faith," and he says that that which the centurion manifested was "faith;" yes, even "great faith." When Jesus agreed to come and heal the servant, the centurion checked him, saying, "*Speaking the word only,*" and it shall *be done*. What did the Centurion expect would do the work of healing, but "*The word ONLY.*" Upon what did he depend for the healing of his servant?—Upon "*the word ONLY.* And the Lord Jesus says that *that is faith.* (*ibid*)

Thus, we cultivate faith when we believe in the word of Christ only. This has been the great challenge for God's people all through Bible times. The Israelites in the Old Testament could not enter the promised land because of *Unbelief* (Heb 3:18,19). The remnant people of God, the greater majority of which have been succumbed to the same 'unbelief' in the message God gave His people 130 years ago.

Some practical council to apply in assisting us in cultivating faith:

- To avoid a vacillating experience and the blast of unbelief, flee to the word of God and earnest prayer. {RH, January 10, 1888 par. 13}
- Turn away from discouraging features and place your hand in the hand of Christ to overcome spiritual weakness. {ST, October 22, 1896 par. 4}
- Beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge...if these things be in you" then you will be fruitful. (2 Peter 1:5-11)
- God is the author of our faith, and when we each act our individual part, he perfects the work, glorifying his name in the finishing of it... and those who are called to be laborers together with him, he will instruct to work according to his plans. {RH, May 29, 1900 par. 3}

We must take time to pray. "We should rather dispense with selfish gratifications than neglect communion with God." {GC 622.1}

We suffer much trouble and grief because of our unbelief, and our ignorance of How the exercise faith. We must break through the clouds of unbelief. We cannot have a healthy Christian experience, we cannot obey the gospel unto Salvation, until the science of faith is better understood, and until more faith is exercised.

2 Chronicles 14:9-15 tells of Asa the King of Judah and how he did right in the sight of the Lord (vs.2). This story is actually a battle of faith and what God did for Judah and the king in their deliverance.

The Science of Prayer, Part 5 --Faith Defined and Applied

As we've spent more than a year studying the Sanctuary as given to Moses in Exodus. The Lord would ever have us apply what we learn in our spiritual journey. Continuing with our theme of learning how to "cultivate faith" we find that this is taught widespread in the New Testament and for good reason. The frequency of all forms of the word, "sanctification" in the Bible is referenced more than two and a half times than Justification. In the SOP it is more than four times as frequent. The reason is clear—God desires to have a church [a people] that will "come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." (Eph.4:13).

Faith Defined and Applied in the Sanctuary

When we realize that faith is "the expecting the word of God to do what it says, and the depending upon that word to do what it says"¹, we look to the life of Christ for a living demonstration of this faith. Do we find it, indeed we do!

As we've come to know that there is a common denominator with each of the furnitures in the Sanctuary in the holy place, we exclaim with the simple faith of a little child, "Lord, you are so wonderful to give us such a teaching so simple as a child can understand it; yet so deep, the brightest human mind cannot probe the depths of this 'restoration plan'.

The Incense on the Golden Altar, the grain to make the bread on the Table of His Presence and the oil for the Candlelabra together and solely, reveal a 'crushing' process in order that the incense will be efficacious, the bread, wholesome and nourishing, and the oil sufficient and soothing. What do we notice in the process of sanctification, that Christ is all in all. He is the One in us, who with us experiences that 'crushing', consuming process of sin in the life—molding, shaping transforming us into His image. We don't go at it alone. It is almost as if He is recreating Himself in us to be His forever. How fitting then, the picture in Scripture of the marriage covenant, the marriage of the Lamb, we are being sealed for!

How To Apply

We are encouraged to know that the Comforter, the Holy Spirit brings the Living Christ into us as the Great Teacher to instruct us each and every day in this process of growth. As we incorporate the language of the Sanctuary in our prayer life—through each of these furnitures and their function, we find that Christ has already lived the 'prototype' life for each soul. Since faith comes by the Word of God, it becomes plain that the Word, in order to inculcate faith, must teach that the Word has in itself power to accomplish what itself says²—for is it not the Living Word, the presence of Jesus Who is that power?

I've been challenged by this statement for a long time—"There is no limit to the usefulness of the one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God." {ChS 254.2} Wow!

Only the mind can limit what the imagination can picture of the usefulness we can be to others. Why has God given us so many biblical examples and in more recent times, missionary endeavors of souls (esp. the last 150 years) who seemed to attempt the impossible? As Paul states in both 1 Cor 10 and as Heb.11 reveals, re. those who conquered by faith, these are for "our admonition upon whom the ends of the world has come." (1 Cor 10.11).

Let us cooperate with the divine agencies in completing that which God began with Christ in the beginning and established through our forefathers. Every inducement is held out to us. As we learn the secrets and science of a healthy prayer life, let us go forward knowing, that He will never leave us nor forsake us. "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." {Phil 1:6}. Our days here are so short.

1. Lessons on Faith, p.8
2. ibid

The Science of Prayer,
Part 6 --Fervent Agonizing Prayer

Through the course of this 'prayer study' we have come to realize several important elements of prayer.

- We come to God in prayer offering Him nothing, but sinful polluted hearts.
- We are recipients at the foot stool of mercy.
- Becoming a disciple begins in one's prayer closet in humility and lowliness.
- Engaging in the true spirit of prayer involves—perseverance and faith.
- The strength of Christ was in prayer, "importunate prayer" which revealed strong confidence in His Father.
- Learning how to cultivate faith—the most essential knowledge.

Earnest Prayer

A couple weeks ago, in Part 4, we came across a Review and Herald statement that said, fleeing to the word of God and earnest prayer is necessary to avoid a vacillating experience. SOP uses earnest prayer and 'agonizing' prayer interchangeably. So, what is "agonizing prayer"?

There is need of prayer,--most earnest, fervent, agonizing prayer,--such prayer as David offered when he exclaimed: "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God." "I have longed after Thy precepts;" "I have longed for Thy salvation." "My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God."...This is the spirit of wrestling prayer, such as was possessed by the royal psalmist. {4T 534.2}

She goes on to say that agonizing prayer "avails much" {2SG 257}; the Bible should be studied with agonizing prayer {GC 524}; we should brace ourselves to do our duty by agonizing prayer {CH 586}; in time of trial the Christian should be given to agonizing prayer {MYP 26}; that we should commit our case to God with agonizing prayer {TM 315} and that such prayer can even deliver souls ensnared by spiritualism {GC 558}.

If there is one thing we need each to be more engaged in it is this type of prayer. Oh, how few know by experience this type of prayer. The Son of God engaged in this nightly, should not we as we near the close of this world's history? Remember, to include your praises to God with thanksgiving in your agonized, heartfelt prayers. Wait on the Lord, trust Him and at times be silent, listening to His voice.

Why is there not more faith and power in Israel?

"I asked the angel why there was no more faith and power in Israel. He said, "Ye let go of the arm of the Lord too soon. Press your petitions to the throne, and hold on by strong faith. The promises are sure. Believe ye receive the things ye ask for, and ye shall have them." I was then pointed to Elijah. He was subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly. His faith endured the trial. Seven times he prayed before the Lord, and at last the cloud was seen. I saw that we had doubted the sure promises, and wounded the Saviour by our lack of faith. Said the angel, "Gird the armor about thee, and above all take the shield of faith; for that will guard the heart, the very life, from the fiery darts of the wicked." {EW 73.2}

Lastly, Each day remember your three steps to victory: 1) Come to the foot of the Cross and claim all the benefits of the atoning death of Jesus for yourself. 2) Put on the mind of Christ, which is not attracted to sin, but to holiness and 3) Get into the habit of acting upon the new thoughts, feelings and motives that the Holy Spirit brings into you with the mind of Jesus.

Soldiers of Christ arise. We have our marching orders...

The Science of Faith

Part 7 –Appropriating Faith

Over the course of the Science of Prayer study, we have seen the importance of “exercising faith”. This is such an important aspect to our spiritual growth and prayer life, that we will spend the next several weeks pursuing this theme. This week we will look at the life of Moses and how he appropriated faith.

Appropriating Faith

*Moses had a deep sense of the personal presence of God. He was not only looking down through the ages for Christ to be made manifest in the flesh, but he saw Christ in a special manner accompanying the children of Israel in all their travels. **God was real to him, ever present in his thoughts**. When misunderstood, when called upon to face danger and to bear insult for Christ's sake, **he endured without retaliation**. Moses believed in God as one whom he needed and who would help him because of his need. **God was to him a present help**.*

*Much of the faith which we see is merely nominal; **the real, trusting, persevering faith** is rare. Moses realized **in his own experience the promise** that God will be a rewarder to those who diligently seek Him. He had respect unto the recompense of the reward. Here is another point in regard to faith which we wish to study; God will reward the man **of faith and obedience**. If this faith is brought into the life experience, it will enable everyone who fears and loves God to endure trials. Moses was full of confidence in God because he had **appropriating faith**. He needed help, and he prayed for it, grasped it by faith, and **wove into his experience** the belief that **God cared for him**. {CC 85.2-3}*

Salvation—Entering into Life

God would have us enter into salvation here and now. This occurs when we enter into the life of Christ. Being saved means **transformed restored to righteousness**—given the kind of life that can actually endure living. One passage of Scripture that brings this out clearly is found in Ephesians 3, vs. 16-19. What an incredible passage this is:

So that He would grant you, according to **the riches of His glory**, to be **strengthened with might by His Spirit** in the inner man, so that **Christ may dwell** in your hearts through **faith**; and that you, being **rooted and grounded in love**, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and **to know the love of Christ** which surpasses knowledge, that you may be **filled up to all the fullness of God**.

Just meditate on this for a while. Wow! God is offering me the fullness, the fullness of Himself--His holiness, His forgiveness, His compassion, His patience, His goodness. It is God's own glory and character –in us. You'll think the highest thoughts, the deepest feelings and you'll have the most profound love.

And when Christ is in you, the Bible says you can consider yourself “dead to sin but alive to God.” Romans 6:11. That's the toughest thing in the world to choose to believe when the evidence points to the contrary. Because, whether we like it or not, we do feel sin within us pulling us a certain way. Can we all say that this is a true statement? We will feel the pull of sin within us until the Lord comes. This was Paul's struggle in Romans 7:9-13.

If we would experience that “real, trusting, persevering faith” Moses experienced. We must consider (believe) in the here and now to be “dead indeed into sin”, but alive unto God by the living faith of Jesus. This is what a daily baptism is all about—coming to the cross daily and claiming His atoning death as yours. It is only then that we can receive His overcoming life.

The Science of Faith Part 8 –Appropriating Faith 2

An area we cannot neglect is to Behold the Lamb of God on a consistent basis. The next segment on “appropriating faith” is by beholding the perfect Man. {John1:29 and 1 John 3:1}

Appropriating Faith/ Beholding Christ

Look, O look to Jesus and live! You cannot but be charmed with the matchless attractions of the Son of God. Christ was God manifest in the flesh, the mystery hidden for ages, and in our acceptance or rejection of the Saviour of the world are involved eternal interests.

To save the transgressor of God's law, Christ, the one equal with the Father, came to live heaven before men, that they might learn to know what it is to have heaven in the heart. He illustrated what man must be to be worthy of the precious boon of the life that measures with the life of God.

The life of Christ was a life charged with a divine message of the love of God, and He longed intensely to impart this love to others in rich measure. {FE 179.2}

At the condemnation of Jesus in Pilate’s hall, Pilate told all to “Behold Him” who wanted his condemnation and death. Why? A great description is given in the middle paragraph of DA (p.735.4) indicating why. Add to that this beautiful statement in Review and Herald.

The condescension of Christ in behalf of men was a marvel to the angels. Redemption through Christ was to them a mystery of love and wisdom, and it absorbed their interest even more than had the work of creation. Such love amazed and enraptured them. It was so ardent, so matchless, so devoid of selfishness, they could not comprehend it. The creation of man in the beginning, the formation of the heavens and the earth, the beauty and glory with which the Creator had clothed all nature, had called forth the wonder and admiration of the universe of heaven, their reverence and love. But this condescension of their Commander in exchanging a throne for a manger in Bethlehem, and subjecting himself in mockery and insult, poverty and a felon's death, called forth from the shining hosts of heaven the highest adoration and the deepest joy. Their joy and praise burst forth, at the announcement to the shepherds on the hills of Bethlehem, in the song, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." {RH, July 15, 1909 par. 3}

Joining the Body of Christ

We receive peace from God because of the established fact that I “have been justified,” so I’m now able to be truthful, open, and honest. It’s *because* God is generous with us in the condition we’re in—this hopeless, helpless, ungodly condition—that we’re enabled to be truthful.

And Christ is offering to come in, through the Spirit, and bring changes from the inside out. He’s not offering improved performance. He’s offering to actually come in and indwell us. One thing I love about God is His ability to incarnate Himself in human flesh. Whenever He visits earth, He always takes on human flesh.

When believers truly enter into faith, they are then filled with a desire to declare this reality. This is what baptism is all about—a public declaration that you are connecting with the body of Christ to become a functioning part of it. God’s response to baptism as always been the anointing of the Spirit.

So, when God anoints us through His Spirit it is to activate us for service. These gifts given to men are outlined in 1 Corinthians 12. This is when real growth occurs.

If we really believe we are living in the last days and God needs a united people, we will certainly seek Him for that anointing daily and look to use the gifts He has given us to bless the body. Next week we will study the radical change that comes as we continue to behold the Lamb of God.

The Science of Faith

Part 9 –Appropriating Faith 3

We must always keep in mind that everything which comes to us is “supplied to man through the One unspeakable Gift.” (8T 287)

The life of Christ is given only to those of us who, by faith, take hold of God’s love gift to them in the sacrificial offering of His Son. As we do, God promises to abide in us are fulfilled. One of the most effective ways this happens is by giving God permission.

Appropriating Faith/ The ‘Let’ Principle

How many Scriptures are recorded in God’s book utilizing the “Let” principle. Here are a few in the book of Psalms.

Ps. 5:11 - But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.

Ps. 25:21 - Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee.

Ps.34:3 - O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

Ps.35:27 - Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.

There are many in the New Testament as well that are recorded for our admonition. As we ‘let’ the Holy Spirit bring the mind of Jesus into us throughout the day, we are transformed into His image.

We can pray this way even in regards to our children. This can be effective even in crisis praying for them and for others. We can say in essence, “Father, I’d like You to really bring crisis into the life of this person, but I’m going to trust You with the level of the crisis, because You know what they need better than I do. Remember, God is much more interested in the growth of our children than we are, because He wants the privilege of having them with Him throughout eternity. And He knows, much better than we do, what it means to live in the presence of a holy God.

God is not planning to take the seed of sin and rebellion back into His kingdom, and if its’ in me, I’m not going to be there. This wouldn’t be because He doesn’t love me. It would be an evidence that I refused Him *permission* to root sin and selfishness out of me, due to how painful that experience is.

Appropriating Faith also involves action. Notice this beautiful statement how we can bless others:

Those who go into the byways and hedges will find others of a widely different character, who need their ministry. There are those who are living up to all the light they have, and are serving God the best they know how. But they realize that there is a great work to be done for themselves and for those about them. They are longing for an increased knowledge of God, but they have only begun to see the glimmering of greater light. They are praying with tears that God will send them the blessing which by faith they discern afar off... Many of them are in very humble circumstances, and because of this they are unnoticed by the world. There are many of whom ministers and churches know nothing. But in lowly, miserable places they are the Lord's witnesses. They may have had little light and few opportunities for Christian training, but in the midst of nakedness, hunger, and cold they are seeking to minister to others. Let the stewards of the manifold grace of God seek out these souls, visit their homes, and through the power of the Holy Spirit minister to their needs. Study the Bible with them and pray with them with that simplicity which the Holy Spirit inspires. Christ will give His servants a message that will be as the bread of heaven to the soul. The precious blessing will be carried from heart to heart, from family to family. {COL 234.2}

More on the subject of appropriating faith next time.

The Science of Faith
Part 10 –Appropriating Faith 4

The Mind of Christ brings the will of God into your mind. Below is a SOP expression of this in the classic book, *The Desire of Ages*, page 668:

All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses.

Think about it, this is probably one of the most powerful statements on the principle of *permission* in the SOP. The word ‘consent’ = permission, giving Christ permission to identify with us in our thoughts and aims, thus blending our hearts and minds into harmony with His mind. This is the highest privilege of a human being in our fallen condition—to receive the mind of Christ. What does this really mean? It means “God’s infleshment” again in humanity. This was the whole purpose of the sanctuary system, so that God could be able to have divinity dwell in humanity.

Appropriating Faith/ The Permission Response

As we saw in last week’s study, the permission response is very similar to the ‘Let’ principle. When we give God permission, we ‘let’ Him do what He has been working all our lives to get us to realize—He just needs our permission to fix it.

Some New Testament Scriptures which teach this are as follows: Col.3:15, Matt.11:28, Heb.12:2 and the one dealing with the mind of Christ, Phil 2:5.

Recall, when we put on the mind of Christ, we receive new thoughts and new feelings. And thoughts and feelings together make up our character. When we put on the mind of Christ, we actually can have new feelings toward people who have perhaps wronged us in the past. Because remember, it’s the mind of Christ that comes into you so that you actually feel differently, no matter what anybody has done to us.

If we are to be born from above daily, this means *–new birth*. One of the most profound realities on this in the SOP is what Ellen White stated in RH July 7, 1904:

“A new standard of character is set up,--the life of Christ.”

So, this week experiment with this ever-exciting reality. By beholding Him, we are changed even from glory to glory by the Spirit of the Lord. Allow yourself to see this ‘new standard of character’ and experience it. Doesn’t the Scriptures say, “Taste and see that the Lord is good?”

If you fall short, like I seem today often, remember, you don’t fall out of grace, for it is grace that picks you back up and allows the mind of Christ to be in you again. Wow! O, if we could just experience this reality constantly. Truly, we would go on from glory to glory. “The meekness and lowliness of Jesus comprises the whole gospel.” {20 MR 1117

Until next time, rejoice that we still have time to ‘reflect the image of Jesus, fully.’
The Lord will not leave us nor forsake us.