



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – July 14, 2013

Heart to Heart...

How much time do you really spend in prayer? Let's be serious about our relationship to our Lord with this question. It seems we speak about prayer, preach on prayer, have classes on prayer and mention it in our conversations in statements like: "I'll pray for you!" Do we really?

Does it seem strange that when we have a complaint against someone in the church, maybe the elders, preachers, deacons or just another member of Christ's body and never pray to God for help? As a result of the complaint, attitudes start being developed and it's not toward godliness and unity. We become discontent and eventually will voice that complaint that has stuck with us so long. Given the right opportunity, we will let it pour forth like a river overflowing its banks. Some just leave and they aren't happy!

What about prayer instead of allowing a complaint to stick in our hearts? Do we really see God as the real answer in those areas we feel like are being neglected or we feel mistreated? Has it ever occurred to you that what it is you are complaining about might be the will of God? Some might protest and say that God wants us doing this or that or that God wouldn't allow this! But how do you know? Has it ever occurred to you that God may be saying, "Not now!"? Many times in Scriptures we find God allowing certain things done or not done as part of His will to get things where they need to be!

Paul instructed the church at Thessalonica to "***Pray without ceasing.***" (I Thessalonians 5:17) Why? Because all answers and directions for our lives and for the church lay with the Lord!! Prayer is faith trusting! Prayer is entrusting our lives to Him! Prayer is our attitude toward the Lord! Prayer is what keeps our attitudes pure and proper by not allowing complaints to rule our hearts! Prayer is work that calls us from ourselves to submit to the Lord's will since it is His body He directs.

Next time you find yourself upset at another brother or a direction you think we need to head as a whole, express that to God and watch! Express your concerns to God but be willing to leave those concerns at His feet to allow Him to do as He pleases. If you trustingly do that, you will find your life settle down and see things more clearly than ever before. I know times that in prayer, it was exposed that I was the one on the wrong side with my attitude! For that I thank God helping me see. When you find an attitude or complaint starting to arise in your heart, PRAY! The prayers of the righteous can accomplish much. Do we believe that? Prayer will soften your heart. Prayer will keep you in line with the will of the Lord as long as you aren't self-seeking. Prayer keeps God at the center of your heart and wrong attitudes far away.

Pray! Those first century saints prayed fervently, even among the difficulties encountered in life and in the church. If you want to see change, pray to God for the change knowing that change always begins with me!! Think about it!!!

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