



Sharing

Elijah Prayer Discipleship School

Becoming an instrument of prayer

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Building Fathers House

A Dwelling Place for God by the Spirit

(Discipleship=doing the will of God walking in submission to the authority of God so that you can become an instrument of authority)

Workshop no. 21 : "Prayer evangelism" - The role of "children" in prayer - total surrender as we humble ourselves as children in the sight of God.

Matthew 18:10 Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I say to you that in Heaven their angels always behold the face of My Father in Heaven.

Purpose of this workshop: To consider "children" in prayer in relationship to our Father in Heaven.

Intended Goal: To encourage the believer to be converted to the likeness of children before a loving Father.

Scripture readings :

Matthew 18:3-10 And said, Verily I say unto you, ***Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh! Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire. Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.***

Leviticus 16:12-13 *And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the LORD, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the veil: And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not:*

Numbers 16:44-48 *And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Get you up from among this congregation, that I may consume them as in a moment. And they fell upon their faces. And Moses said unto Aaron, **Take a censer, and put fire therein from off the altar, and put on incense, and go quickly unto the congregation, and make an atonement for them:** for there is wrath gone out from the LORD; the plague is begun. And Aaron took as Moses commanded, and ran into the midst of the congregation; and, behold, the plague was begun among the people: and he put on incense, and made an atonement for the people. **And he stood between the dead and the living; and the plague was stayed.***

Psalms 141:2 *Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.*

1Samuel 1:13-14 *Now **Hannah, she spake in her heart;** only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken.*

1Samuel 13:14 *But now thy kingdom shall not continue: **the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart,** and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.*

1Samuel 16:7 *But the LORD said unto Samuel, **Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him:** for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.*

1Samuel 2:35 *And I will raise me up a faithful priest, that shall do according to that which is in mine heart and in my mind: and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before mine anointed for ever.*

Nehemiah 9:8 *And **foundest his heart faithful before thee,** and madest a covenant with him to give the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Jebusites, and the Girgashites, to give it, I say, to his seed, and hast performed thy words; for thou art righteous:*

Psalms 24:4 *He that hath **clean hands, and a pure heart;** who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.*

Matthew 5:8 *Blessed are the **pure in heart:** for they shall see God.*

Hebrews 10:21-22 *And having an high priest over the house of God; **Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.***

*Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.***

*Luke 16:15 And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but **God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.***

*1Peter 5:5-6 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for **God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:***

Food for thought :

If we consider the answer of Jesus when His disciples wanted to know **who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven**. Jesus first gave a warning, saying if we do not humble ourselves we will not even enter the Kingdom of Heaven, saying we must become like children and then we will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. In His answer He did not address the strife, as if there is one greater than the other, He however said that these humble little ones should not be despised for in Heaven their angels are in the presence of **God - Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven**. God is the greatest, **we should not strive to become the greatest, we should be converted to children of the greatest. "That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven"**. Jesus answered as if this fact that the angels of these little ones are in the presence of God, is what is important.

The importance of being converted as to one of these little ones, become only evident once we consider what the angels are doing in the presence of God. In revelation we see that the angels presented the prayers of the saints before the throne of God by taking two elements, incense and fire, that represented the prayers of the saints.

In Psalm 141:2 these elements - the fire and the incense is explained. The prayer as in the act of **worship** is the sacrifice (fire) that is made, while the incense is the **heart** in which the sacrifice of worship is made.

What Jesus in effect taught His disciples, is that instead of striving or considering who is the greatest, they must rather seek to be converted to become like little children in their hearts. **For it is the prayers of these little ones that is continuously before the throne of God**. Because the incense offered with their prayers is pure - it is from a pure undefiled heart with no strife as to who is the greatest, but only in the knowledge that they are with **their Father, who is the greatest**.

It is this childlike attitude - the purity of heart that makes the sacrifice acceptable before God. It is not the age nor the words of wisdom, **it is the heart**. God said unto Samuel in *1Samuel 16:7* **But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.**

Today, believers talk about the Joshua generation, as the new generation of young people - but in considering Joshua, we see it is not speaking of a generation that is of a certain age, it is a generation that in **their hearts are prepared to place their trust in God and in His ability in a childlike manner. Joshua and Caleb believed and were prepared to place their lives in the hands of God as they trust in God and in His ability, they did not consider their own inability. Even when Caleb reached the age of 85 years he still had the same childlike heart when he said,** *Joshua 14:10-12 And now, behold, the LORD hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the LORD spake this word unto Moses, while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, I am this day fourscore and five years old. As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in. Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the LORD spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: if so be the LORD will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the LORD said.* (It is only when we become like children that our own inability is of less importance)

I can remember that when I was in primary school, we would always boast about our earthly fathers and how strong they are, as if everything will be possible for them. This is the childlike character that I believe Jesus referred to. A character that do not think of self but are prepared to lay down his own life in order to receive the true life that live to glorify the Father - Jesus said in *John 17:1 These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, **Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:*** A character that do not strive for attention but would rather give honor to the Father. Jesus seek only to be glorified so that He can glorify the Father, He did not seek self, He had a character of self surrender, trusting in a loving Father - "not My will be done, but Thy will be done".

Jesus taught His disciples that there are special qualities that children possess that would be necessary for them to learn if they want to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. **Humility** being the primary character we as disciples need to be converted to "Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:4). **Respect** for those who are least esteemed: "And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me" (Matthew 18:5). **Absolute Faith:** "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me ..." (Matthew 18:6).

In our subject verse we are told: "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven." Based on their character they, these little ones, have influence in the Kingdom of God.

By striving we start accrediting ourselves which is evil in the sight of God and results in unheard prayers, for we pray not in a child like manner.

True stories :

2Ch 26:1-23 Then all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in the room of his father Amaziah. He built Eloth, and restored it to Judah, after that the king

slept with his fathers. Sixteen years old was Uzziah when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Jecoliah of Jerusalem. And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah did. **And he sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God: and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him to prosper.** And he went forth and warred against the Philistines, and brake down the wall of Gath, and the wall of Jabneh, and the wall of Ashdod, and built cities about Ashdod, and among the Philistines. And God helped him against the Philistines, and against the Arabians that dwelt in Gurbaal, and the Mehunims. And the Ammonites gave gifts to Uzziah: and his name spread abroad even to the entering in of Egypt; for he strengthened himself exceedingly. Moreover Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the corner gate, and at the valley gate, and at the turning of the wall, and fortified them. Also he built towers in the desert, and digged many wells: for he had much cattle, both in the low country, and in the plains: husbandmen also, and vine dressers in the mountains, and in Carmel: for he loved husbandry. Moreover Uzziah had an host of fighting men, that went out to war by bands, according to the number of their account by the hand of Jeiel the scribe and Maaseiah the ruler, under the hand of Hananiah, one of the king's captains. The whole number of the chief of the fathers of the mighty men of valour were two thousand and six hundred. And under their hand was an army, three hundred thousand and seven thousand and five hundred, that made war with mighty power, to help the king against the enemy. And Uzziah prepared for them throughout all the host shields, and spears, and helmets, and habergeons, and bows, and slings to cast stones. And he made in Jerusalem engines, invented by cunning men, to be on the towers and upon the bulwarks, to shoot arrows and great stones withal. And his name spread far abroad; for he was marvellously helped, till he was strong. **But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense.** And Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him fourscore priests of the LORD, that were valiant men: And they withstood Uzziah the king, and said unto him, **It appertaineth not unto thee, Uzziah, to burn incense unto the LORD, but to the priests the sons of Aaron, that are consecrated to burn incense: go out of the sanctuary; for thou hast trespassed; neither shall it be for thine honour from the LORD God.** Then Uzziah was wroth, and had a censer in his hand to burn incense: and while he was wroth (angry) with the priests, the leprosy even rose up in his forehead before the priests in the house of the LORD, from beside the incense altar. And Azariah the chief priest, and all the priests, looked upon him, and, behold, he was leprous in his forehead, and they thrust him out from thence; yea, himself hastened also to go out, because the LORD had smitten him. And Uzziah the king was a leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a several (separate) house, being a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the LORD: and Jotham his son was over the king's house, judging the people of the land. Now the rest of the acts of Uzziah, first and last, did Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, write. So Uzziah slept with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the field of the burial which belonged to the kings; for they said, He is a leper: and Jotham his son reigned in his stead.

God's authority :

1Peter 1:22-23 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: **Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.**

John 3:3-7 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.** Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? **Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.** Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

1John 2:13-14 I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. **I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.** I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Mark 4:30-32 And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it? **It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth: But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it.**

Mark 10:15 Verily I say unto you, **Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.**

Luke 9:62 And Jesus said unto him, **No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**

Romans 8:14-17 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; **but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.**

Galatians 4:4-7 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, **To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.** And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. **Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.**

*Ephesians 3:12 In whom we have **boldness and access with confidence by the faith** of him.*

*Hebrews 10:19-25 Having therefore, brethren, **boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;** And having an high priest over the house of God; **Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith,** having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for he is faithful that promised; And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good work. Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

Conclusion :

In considering that we have been **redeemed through the blood of Jesus to be reconciled** to our Father in Heaven. Our **position is that of a child** in our Fathers House.

And in our Fathers House, which is called a house of prayer, it is all about meeting with our Father. But the meeting is at will but in accordance to the terms and conditions the Fathers have set before us. The mentioned terms and conditions is not a restriction, it is given so that each one of His children can meet with a loving but Holy Father. King Uzzai did not adhere to the terms and conditions, but considered his position as king more important than his position as child.

Jesus said "My Fathers house is a house of prayer" it is a meeting place for the redeemed children of God. As being redeemed, we have been redeemed through Jesus who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. In considering the pattern that God gave unto Moses, when He instructed Moses to build a tent of meeting exactly as the one God showed him, we conclude that there is a heavenly tabernacle not build by hands. It is in the mentioned tabernacle that Jesus is seated on the right Hand of our Father. It is also referring to the same that Jesus said the little ones' angels is in the face of God, were our prayers are presented before God.

When considering the pattern we do not exclude what Jesus did for all of us on the cross, we look into the pattern as redeemed children of God. The pattern is not applicable as a way, **for Jesus is the only way**, but in considering, it is a constant reminder to transform us into the image of a child of God. Jesus said He is the beginning and the end, we are redeemed in the beginning to become in the very image of our Redeemer in the end. This is a process, and as in any house, the children are brought up in their fathers house under his guidance. Likewise we as redeemed children of God through Christ Jesus need to stay in our Fathers house so that we can be transformed. God's house is called a house of prayer, but through the tabernacle God showed us a pattern, that Jesus brought into fulfillment. The pattern is however the same.

The Way, Truth and Life are three distinct areas of transformation. As in the tabernacle there is 3 distinct areas of moving into the presence of God - the outer court, the Holies and the Holy of Holies. But each is dealing with our growth as children, and when Jesus said do not despise the

little ones for their angels is before God, these little ones have already discovered the pattern to be transformed in our Fathers House.

So how can we enter again and become children, as Jesus answered Nicodemus on the question. *John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. Jesus answered by saying that unless we be born of water and of the Spirit we cannot enter the Kingdom of God.*

The Furniture in the Tabernacle

Outer court - Being reborn a child of God - to be reborn not in the flesh but by the Spirit and water. 1Pe 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. (the outer court)

Show bread - Be humble - We do not live by bread alone but by every Word of God, Jesus is the bread of life and the Word of God. The show bread is a reminder that we are in His presence, it is not about who we are, it is all about who God is.

Golden lamp-stand - Respect - The power from above to enable us to be a witness unto Christ. Not to do but to be Christlike. The golden lamp stand is a reminder we have been empowered to do the will of God, and not to boast of ourselves but to boast of God.

Altar of incense - Absolute Faith - Total surrender in communion with a loving Father, surrendering self in obedience to God. Not my will be done but the will of the Father. It is to hear from God and to do accordingly.

In considering Samuel, it was his willingness to listen and do that made him an effective instrument in the hands of God. It had nothing to do with age for God used Samuel as a child and a crown man. But what qualified Samuel was his unconditional obedience, in a child like manner. Likewise if we consider Jeremiah The Lord said in *Jeremiah 1:6-9* *Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD. Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.*

Being saved is not the end, it is only the beginning. Consider what Jesus said concerning the seed that fell in good ground. *Matthew 13:8-9* *But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

Colossians 1:9-10 *For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

A child is always seeking to know more, never thinking he knows all, likewise we must be in the presence of our Father in Heaven.

If you give to God everything that you have, He give you everything that He have - that is the greatest blessing!

Questions to be answered :

1. Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?
2. What two elements is presented before God as the prayers of the little ones?
3. Explain the Joshua generation?
4. What is our Father's House about?
5. Explain the basic pattern of the tabernacle of Moses?