



Sharing

Elijah Prayer Discipleship School

Becoming an instrument of prayer

Building Fathers House

A Dwelling Place for God by the Spirit

www.buildingfathershouse.org

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

Workshop no. 4 : “We” as a secret to answered prayer – Our Father.

John 17:20-23 Neither for these only do I pray, but for them also that believe on Me through their word; 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. And the glory which thou hast given Me I have given unto them; that they may be one, even as We [are] one; I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be perfected into one; that the world may know that thou didst send Me, and lovedst them, even as thou lovedst Me.

Purpose of workshop : To look into the secret of “we” in our prayer-life.

Intended Goal: To understand the secret behind the power of prayer as WE SEE OURSELVES AS PART OF THE FAMILY , KINGDOM OF GOD in the exercising of a lifestyle of prayer.

Scripture readings:

*Luke 11:2 And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, **Our Father** which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. (just a reminder that we are children of a loving God)*

Eph 5:1-2 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour.

*John 13:15-17 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. **If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.***

*Romans 14:8 For whether we live, **we live unto the Lord;** and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: **whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.***

*Proverbs 18:1 **He that separates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound wisdom.***

*Hebrews 10:25 **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.***

Galatians 6:2 *Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.*

John 1:12-13 *But as many as received him, to them gave He the right to become children of God, [even] to them that believe on His name: who were **born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.** (Jesus said if your are not born again you cannot enter the Kingdom)*

John 8:35 *And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: [but] the Son abideth ever.*

John 2:16-17 *And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise. And His disciples remembered that it was written, **The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.** (Psalm 69:9 For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches *shame* of them that reproached *shamed* thee are fallen upon me.) - **we should be consumed with our Fathers house and should not allow shame to come upon our Fathers house** – or His household.*

Isaiah 56:7 *Even them will I bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in **My house of prayer:** their burnt offerings and their sacrifices [shall be] accepted upon Mine altar; for Mine house shall be called an **house of prayer for all people.***

1 Timothy 3:15 *But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to **behave thyself in the house of God,** which is the **church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.***

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

Romans 15:6 *That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the **Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

Mat 18:19-20 *Again I say to you that if **two of you shall agree on earth** as regarding anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them by My Father in Heaven. **For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst.***

Philippians 2:2 *Fulfil ye my joy, that ye **be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.***

Philippians 1:27 *Only let your conversation be as it be-cometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in **one spirit, with one mind** striving together for the faith of the gospel;*

1 John 3:17 *But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his **brother** have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? (Prayer for a brother that left the Fathers house)*

Matt 20:1 *For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man [that is] an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. (consider the mentioned parable – they laboured together, they received the same reward)*

Matt 22:11-12 *And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. (consider the parable what is the wedding garment – in those days all wedding guest received a garment to put on, this garment signified oneness)*

Food for thought :

In reference to the above mentioned scriptures, the following points came up for consideration :

- Jesus said “*when ye pray, say, **Our Father***”, by saying our Father we commit ourself to the family and household of God. Not only do you acknowledge God as our Father but we have to acknowledge that we are part of a family, that same family – the household of God.
- In considering our Father, we are called to walk in obedience to our Father, as we love one another “*as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God*”. So we also should offer ourselves – not be self-centred.
- Jesus said “*As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. John 17:18*” We have been send into this world by our Lord to express the love of the our Father for His children, even to/for those who are lost – we are to follow the example of our Lord and Saviour. The Son of the living God by whom we also became sons and daughters.
- The Word called on us to “*not forsake the assembling of ourselves together*”, meaning that as a family we must come together so that in our togetherness we can build one another up in the oneness of faith and in the knowledge of Christ as we have received different gifts, for the mentioned purpose – we are called unto the family of God, not a church or a denomination. There is nothing wrong with the church as long as we can acknowledge that it is not our church, for Jesus said I will build My church. We are part of the church – body of Christ.
- That as members of the same household we must bear one another’s burdens, in a house the children need to do their part in washing and just helping with the general maintenance. If one find it difficult the brother/sister must lovingly give himself to help. Jesus gave Himself to call all of us into this one household where the Father is glorified.
- (Jesus said if your are not born again you cannot enter the Kingdom), we “*were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*” we received this new life by grace and not by anything that we have willed or did, so we can not claim any position with regard to the Father to whom we belong. We were born into this family by the will of God, therefore we cannot make any claims to this fellowship we have, apart from belonging to our Father. It is **not the pastor who called you into this new life – it is God**, the pastor was only the instrument in the hands of God. (You just had to receive this gift in faith through Jesus Christ – Eph 2:8)
- Jesus said that He is the door, the true Shepherd, and that all the others are hirelings, the hireling is not there for the concern of the sheep his concern is for his reward “... *an hireling looketh for [the reward of] his work:2 Job 7:2*”. Jesus paid a price for us, He paid by His blood. Therefore we belong to Him – **consider to who's fold do you belong.**

In relation to the above and the scripture reading, it is clear that we belong to one family the family of God our Father, we belong to one fold and there is but one Shepherd and the sheep know His voice, therefore we must be of one mind and heart.

Jesus as the Son of God and therefore our older Brother was zealous for God our Father and for His house, – a house of prayer, **we must be like-minded**. Jesus said if a Kingdom is divided against itself how can it stand? - we are one family belonging to one Kingdom, being divided is saying that we are against the Kingdom of God.

In being of one mind and heart we must earnestly seek the Kingdom of God, not on the basis of I want to enter, but on the basis that we as a family, as the body of Christ wants to see the Kingdom of God manifesting on earth as it is in heaven.

Mathews 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. But seek the Kingdom on the basis of a love that is founded in a pure heart, a clear conscious and a true believe for “The first of all the commandments [is], Hear; O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this [is] the first commandment. Mar 12:29-30” In reference to Israel, the Word refers to the family of God, therefore the Word said “Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. Mat 5:23-24”

I in them, and thou in me, that they may be perfected into one; This glory, the adoption and the gift of the Spirit, ought to have the effect that we become one, as God and the Son is one, so we should be one in Them. Being one in the Spirit we also need to work towards one Kingdom. We cannot be one in Christ and pray to our Father if we have a party spirit or labour to build our own kingdom. **In the spirit of love in Christ Jesus we should oppose any such thing and labour to destroy it.**

Remember your brother and sister is he who hear and obey to the Word of God. Luke 8:21.

Prayer is the most effective way of breaking down barriers between God's children – it is impossible to harbour emotions against one and the other while we are in the presence of our Father.

True story :

The prodigal son – the older brother did not rejoice for he did not see what the father saw – a returning son. *“And he said, A certain man had two sons: And the younger of them said to [his] father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth [to me]. And he divided unto them [his] living. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would faint have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put [it] on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on [his] feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill [it]; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry. Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and in-treated him. And he answering said to [his] father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf. And he said unto him, Son,*

thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found. Luke 15:11-32”
An illustrative story as an example of the Kingdom of heaven :

A Holy man was having a conversation with the Lord one day and said, 'Lord, I would like to know what Heaven and Hell are like.'

The Lord led the holy man to two doors. He opened one of the doors and the holy man looked in. In the middle of the room was a large round table. In the middle of the table was a large pot of stew, which smelled delicious and made the holy man's mouth water. The people sitting around the table were thin and sickly. They appeared to be famished. They were holding spoons with very long handles that were strapped to their arms and each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful. But because the handle was longer than their arms, they could not get the spoons back into their mouths. The holy man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering.

The Lord said, 'You have seen Hell.

They went to the next room and opened the door. It was exactly the same as the first one.

There was the large round table with the large pot of stew which made the holy man's mouth water. The people were equipped with the same long-handled spoons, but here the people were well nourished and plump, laughing and talking. The holy man said, 'I don't understand.

'It is simple,' said the Lord. 'It requires but one skill. You see, **they have learned to feed each other.** The greedy think only of themselves.' When Jesus died on the cross, he was thinking of you.

God's authority :

*“But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made **both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition [between us];** Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, [even] the law of commandments [contained] in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain **one new man,** [so] making peace; And that he might **reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross,** having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. **For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.** Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but **fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;** And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [stone]; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are built together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. Ephesians 2:13-22 “*

*“For as **the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body:** so also [is] Christ. For by **one Spirit are we all baptized into one body,** whether [we be] Jews or Gentiles, whether [we be] bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. **For the body is not one member, but many.** If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body [were] an eye, where [were] the hearing? If the whole [were] hearing, where [were] the smelling? **But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.** And if they were all one member, where [were] the body? **But now [are they] many members, yet but one body.** And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: **1Corinthians 12:12-22”***

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [His] purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestined [to be] conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Moreover whom he did predestined, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. Romans 8:28-30

“No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of [this] life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. And if a man also strive for masteries, [yet] is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully. 2 Timothy 2:4-5” (reminding us of the Word where Jesus said I do not know you, your lawless ones, when we strive we can only strive in accordance to God's will and plan)

“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Ephesians 5:31-32 (a more vivid example of we being one cannot be found- being the bride unto a bridegroom-a wife waiting to be betrothed. Thinking of myself, I would love to become part of the bride of Christ, but with a bride divided, the question would be, to whom should I belong if I want to be a bride, the answer can only be one, I should belong to the bridegroom – Jesus Christ.)

From whence [come] wars and fightings among you? [come they] not hence, [even] of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume [it] upon your lusts. Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Jam 4:1-4

And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. Luke 11:2

Conclusion :

*And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, **Our Father** which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. Luke 11:2*

There is a lot of suggestions that we have the key in our hand!

but can it be that “we” are the key.

That God is waiting on us **to be united as He waited on the Israelites (as a family/wife unto God) to be united** before being released from their captivity in Egypt and being allowed to enter the promised rest?

When we look at the parable of the wedding feast, we find that the King came down and saw a man without a wedding garment, in those day the King would supply the garment and the only reason that someone would be without a garment is based on his own unwillingness to take it. The reason for not accepting the garment can be many fold, it maybe that he did not want to cover his own splendour with the garment the King supplied, it maybe that he was just in rebellion and did not want to listen to the servants of the King, we will only know when we meet the King. But one thing that is an acceptable answer is that the King was displeased, and he immediately recognized that the man did not have the garment on, that in itself suggest that all the guest had the same garment on – unity. That garment is of cause the garment we received when we received Jesus Christ. But like the colours of different teams or party, Jesus garment is of one colour – united in His name under the blood of the Lamb.

The wedding garment in the parable represented the pure, spotless character which Christ's true followers will possess. To the church it is given "that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white," "not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing." Eph. 5:27. The fine linen, says the Scripture, "is the righteousness of saints." Rev. 19:8. It is the righteousness of Christ, His own unblemished character, that through faith is imparted to all who receive Him as their personal Saviour. **That character is in unity with His Father, and demands unity of His followers as in John 17.**

Only the covering which Christ Himself has provided can make us meet to appear in God's presence. This covering, the robe of His own righteousness, Christ will put upon every repenting, believing soul. "I counsel thee," He says, "to buy of Me . . . white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear." *I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou were cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and [that] the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Rev 3:15-19*

This robe, woven in the loom of heaven, has in it not one thread of human devising. Christ in His humanity wrought out a perfect character, and this character He offers to impart to us. "All our righteousness are as filthy rags." Isa. 64:6. Everything that we of ourselves can do is defiled by sin. But the Son of God "was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin." Sin is defined to be "the transgression of the law." 1 John 3:5, 4. But

Nevertheless I have [somewhat] against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Rev 2:4 I can remember that when I first came to the Lord, my love for Him was so overwhelming that I did not consider the church or denominations, for me it was just Jesus. I also remember that as we ministered in prison, one lady surrendered herself into the loving hands of a loving Father as she received and acknowledge Jesus Christ as her Savior. One day a pastor came asking the prisoners to what denomination do they belong, and the mentioned lady answered "I do not know about denominations, but I know Jesus Christ" - to whom do you belong, and if we say we belong to Him, Jesus Christ and our Father, are you prepared to acknowledge that you belong to a family and surrender in obedience to follow – to acknowledge your brother and sister in different denominations as you pray for them, as they pray for you.

The Word in James 4:1-4 is clear we receive not because we ask amiss. The word amiss, means to be out of order, that is to be not in line with the will of God/against God's commandments. Being in the context of the Word in James, we ask in a selfish desire for ourselves and not in accordance to the will of God – as Jesus said I say and do only as I received from the Father.

And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. John 17:19

Questions to be answered :

1. Who are *we*?
2. In Christ Jesus to whom do *we belong*?
3. In belonging, what *does it mean* to be of one family?
4. What is the *characteristic of Jesus* that we need to express in our prayer-life?
5. How will we *implement* the "we" in a practical manner in our prayer-life?