

PRAYER STUDY 20  
"Communion with God-Part 3"

HABBUKKAH 2:1-2

*"I will stand at my GUARD POST, and I will Keep WATCH AND SEE what He will SPEAK to me. Then the Lord said, RECORD THE VISION."*

1. BE STILL.
  2. HAVE VISION.
  3. LISTEN TO SPONTANEOUS INNER THOUGHTS.
  4. JOURNAL.
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1. What is Prayer, anyway?
2. Praying with an idol in your heart.

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What is Prayer?

Prayer is two lovers sharing love together. Jesus said, "No longer do I call you servants. I now call you friends."(John 15:15) We are building a friendship/lover relationship with Jesus when we pray. We are not doing something, but being with Someone.

1. STAGE 1-CASUAL  
I speak of the world outside me(sports, weather).
2. STAGE 2-BEGINNING TRUST  
I speak of what I think and feel.
3. STAGE 3-DEEP TRUST  
I share my dreams, mistakes, frustrations.
4. STAGE 4-INTIMACY  
I sit quietly with my Friend, experiencing a Presence beyond words.
5. STAGE 5-UNION  
I become one with that Person, speaking, feeling and acting with His Reactions.

*Prayer is not doing something, but being with Someone. Until I become one with Him, until I become the expression of Jesus. We do not intrinsically become Jesus. But when we have gazed upon Him(Heb. 12:2) with loving affection fro so long, we become a reflection of His glory(2 Cor. 3:18), taking on His character(Gal. 5:22-23)and His power(1 Cor. 12:7-11). A union has taken place in our spirits(1 Cor. 6:17), and "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live but Christ lives in me..."(Gal. 2:20)*

MARK VIRKLER

## Praying with an Idol in Your Heart

Being aware of where you are fixing your eyes when you pray will give you tremendous insight in how to purify your journaling. Consider the following verse:

*...any man in the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, puts right before his face the stumbling block of his iniquity, and then comes to the prophet, I the Lord will be brought to give him an answer in the matter in view of the multitude of his idols. Ezekiel 14:4*

“When I come to the Lord in prayer, I am to be a living sacrifice. I must have laid down my will and be totally sold out to God’s will concerning the issue about which I am praying. If that is not my attitude, I am to pray for God to form that spirit within me before I begin praying about the issue at hand. If I pray about the issue while I still have a definite direction about it in my own heart, that “definite direction” of my own will interferes with the signals coming from the throne of God and causes me to believe that God is confirming the direction I felt, whether He actually is nor not. In other words, if I pray about an item and the item is more prominent in my vision or my consciousness than my vision of the Lord, the answer that comes back will be from the item rather than from the Lord. On the other hand, if my vision of the Lord is more prominent in my consciousness than my vision of the issue I am praying about, then the answer will come back from the Lord and will be pure revelation, not contaminated by my own desires. The principle is that the intuitive flow comes out of the vision that I am holding before my eyes. That is why I am commanded to fix my eyes on Jesus, the Author and Finisher of my faith. Thus, the vision will be pure.”

An example of having an idol is the story of Balaam. Balak wanted Balaam in Numbers 22 to come to him and to curse Balak’s enemies, the Israelites. The Lord spoke to Balaam and said not to go with Balak’s messengers and not to curse the Israelites, God’s chosen people. But Balak sent messengers again with the promise of honor, gold and riches, if Balaam would come. Balaam wanted the gold and riches and honor. He went to the Lord with an idol in his heart, and the Lord gave him an answer consistent with the idol in his heart and told him, “Sure! Go ahead!” However, God was angry with Balaam and sent an angel with a sword to block his path. Other examples of Israel praying with an idol in their hearts and receiving answers that brought hurt to their lives are Israel begging for a king and Israel lusting for meat in the wilderness. God gave it to them, but along with it He sent a wasting disease. (Ps. 106:14, 15)