

The Beauty of His Face

The prayer of praise

Introduction

Everybody loves love. We start off valuing **stuff**, but as time goes on we realize more and more that relationship is so much more important, and also hard to come by.

We especially like romantic relationships. One of the things that shows you that the thing has switched from just a business relationship to something romantic is that your interest in who the person is becomes your greatest interest.

Curiosity....

S.S. 1:7 "Tell me, O you whom my soul loves, where do you pasture *your flock*, where do you make *it* lie down at noon?"

For some reason we often miss out on this in our faith.

Last week talked about the ellipse: praise/ petition, with thanksgiving and confession.

1. To know Him

Acts 17:22-23

And Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. "For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' What therefore you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you.

Worshipping in ignorance. How ironic.

John 17:3

"And this is eternal life that they know you the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you sent."

How are you doing? Do you find Him fascinating? Or boring?

"God has set eternity in our hearts and we have chosen time instead. He is trying to interest us in a glorious tomorrow and we are settling for an inglorious today. We are bogged down in local interests and have lost sight of eternal purposes. We improvise and muddle along, hoping for heaven at last but showing no eagerness to get there, correct in doctrine but weary of prayer and bored with God." (The Set of the Sail, Tozer, p.93)

Hosea 6:3

"So let us know, let us press on to know the Lord. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; and He will come to us like the rain, like the the spring rain that waters the earth."

2. Practicing praise

How long can you go praising Him?

Illustration of Walt: 2 yrs old. At Burger King for breakfast. Milk mustache, mouth full of food, cardboard crown on crooked. "I love you Daddy."

Acts 13:2 And while they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

- a) **Silence.** It is so hard to give God our attention, and it is what He most wants.
- b) **Music** and singing. Hymns. Poems.
- c) **Getting to know Him.** Admiring Him.

Being distracted by Him. Who is He anyway? What is He thinking? What is He like? Take notes.

Example of notes: God never has needs. He doesn't need air, water, food, or light. He doesn't need companionship, servants, a house, or band-aids. He doesn't need books, an exercise program, a telephone, or a Bible. He is not troubled by temptation, gray hairs, forgetfulness, fatigue, or sunburn. He never needs encouragement or praise. He is never unsure. He never yawns or has a back ache. He never stumbles or drops things accidentally. He doesn't need a bicycle, car, private jet, or space shuttle, because He is always already everywhere. He never needs an update or a newsletter for He is already in complete contact with every need in every place. He never has to ask a question because He already possesses all the answers since past eternity. He never needs a watch because He is in all times at the same time and therefore does not experience the passage of time. (Clay)

Asking Him to reveal Himself.

2Cor.3:18 "But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit."

- d) Using **Scripture.** Read Psalms.

Biggest book in the Bible is Psalms. Main topic is praise. Pick out your favorite psalms and mark them.

Ps. 46: God is our refuge and strength...

Ps. 113: "Praise the Lord, praise o servants of the Lord..."

- e) His **attributes.**

The Omniscience of God

God knows everything; everything possible, everything; all events, all creatures, of the past, the present, and the future. He is perfectly acquainted with every detail in the life of every being in heaven, in earth, and in hell. Nothing escapes his notice, nothing can be hidden from him, nothing is forgotten by him. His knowledge is perfect. He never is mistaken, never change, never overlooks anything. (Pink)

"And there is no creature hidden from his sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of him with whom we have to do." (Heb.4:13)

f) His **names**.

Lord and Savior
Messiah
Alpha and Omega
My High Priest
The Living Word
The Open Door

The Resurrection
The Lion of Judah
The Prince of Peace
The Way, Truth, Life
The Good Shepherd
The True Vine
The Lamb of God

The Bread of Life
The Light of the World
The Head of the Church
The Lily of the Valley
The King of kings
The Lord of lords

g) List of **adjectives**.

Majestic
Perfect
Immortal
Eternal
Invisible
Merciful
Immaculate

Wise
Good
Holy
Just
Wrathful
All-knowing
Abundant

Refreshing
Awesome
Wonderful
Industrious
Immense
Exciting

In my life:

- GA Tech going out an hour every night "Where are you Lord?";
- in Costa Rica with my notebook "Who are you Lord?";
- in 1989 leaning toward prayer.

3. Helpful Illustrations

1. breathing heaven's air: enjoy it! This is where you are most alive.
2. tanned in His "sunshine": you don't get a tan in 15 seconds
3. utilizing praise as a powerful spiritual weapon:

- girl at Silvia's house running into a wall of praise
- missionary Sam Sasser in Micronesia (book by James Morocco)

Conclusion

Well, dear friends, how are you doing? I encourage you to draw near to the throne of grace. Don't be afraid. It's O.K. This is something He is doing in you.

Psalm 42

"As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for Thee, O God."

Hosea 6:3

"So let us know, let us press on to know the Lord. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; and He will come to us like the rain, like the spring rain that waters the earth."

"Satisfied"

Draw me to Thee, till far within Thy rest,
In stillness of Thy peace, Thy voice I hear –
For ever quieted upon Thy breast,
So loved, so near.

For me, O Lord, the world is all too small,
For I have seen Thy face,
Where Thine eternal love irradiates all
Within the secret place.
And therefore from all others, from all else,
Draw Thou my soul to Thee ...
... Yea – Thou hast broken the enchanter's spells,
and I am free.

Now in the haven of untroubled rest
I land at last,
The hunger, and the thirst, and weary quest
for ever past.
There, Lord, to lose in bliss of Thine embrace
The rebellious will;
There, in the radiance of Thy blessed face,
Be hushed and still;
There, speechless at Thy pierced feet
See none and nought beside,
And know but this – that Thou art sweet,
And I am satisfied.

- Gerhard Tersteegen, 1697-1769

Tr. Unknown