

JOHN 16:23-32
September 9, 1989
ROME GEORGIA
February 14, 2016

“Most Americans pray. Most Americans believe in the power of prayer. They may not all pray to the same god, but they pray. On Wednesday afternoon, **three gunmen went into a Christmas party in California and began killing people.** They were Islamic radicals. Two were married and are now dead, leaving behind an orphan. The attack, according to the police, was not spontaneous, but was well planned and orchestrated.

As the attack was unfolding, **various people on social media began offering up prayers** for the fallen and those in harm’s way. **Presidential candidates offered up prayers.** This has happened in the past. **Barack Obama, Nancy Pelosi, Hillary Clinton, and others have all responded in the same way in the past. But Wednesday was different.**

As statements of prayers poured in, noted voices on the **American political left** began lashing out and **shaming those doing so.**

Zack Ford of the liberal Think Progress tweeted, **“Stop thinking. Stop praying. Look up Einstein’s definition of “insanity.” Start acting on gun violence prevention measures.”**

Senator Chris Murphy of Connecticut tweeted, **“Your ‘thoughts’ should be about steps to take to stop this carnage. Your ‘prayers’ should be for forgiveness if you do nothing – again.”**

The headline of the New York Daily News declared, **“God Isn’t Fixing This.”**

Markos Moulitsas, the founder of the liberal site DailyKos, first tweeted blaming Republicans for the shooting, writing, **“Yo GOP, kinda hard to talk about ‘keeping people safe’ when your peeps are shooting up America.”** Then, when it turned out not to be Republicans doing the shooting, he turned to mocking thoughts and prayers. Among several tweets was, **“You know what won’t do s*** to stop mass shooting? ‘Praying’.”**

Gene Weingarten, a columnist for the Washington Post, joined in with, **“Dear ‘thoughts and prayers’ people: Please shut up and slink away. You are the problem, and everyone knows it.”**

Erik Erikson 12/4/15 Mocking God Is Not Done Without Consequence - Erick on the Radio

There are no shortage of people who want to help us with our prayer lives. Some want us simply to shut up – because in their opinion – prayer is fruitless. **“the sit down and shut-up crowd”** as above.

Others want us to direct our prayers to increase our personal wealth and status in this life – **“Name it and Claim it.”**

Some want us to keep our prayer life as a closely guarded secret – others want to write books about their prayer life.

I strongly recommend that we consult the One to whom we pray and the One in whose name we have the privilege of prayer.

I. THE APPROPRIATION OF OUR FAITH - 23-24

John 16:23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall **ask the Father in my name**, he will give *it* you.

16:24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

PRAYER THROUGH THE NAME OF THE SON

"Verily, Verily = **Most Assuredly**" V. **23**. WHAT WE ASK IN HIS NAME - WILL BE DONE.

This is uncharted territory for the disciples in the Upper Room. Remember, this is all being told to a group of men who were totally immersed in and familiar with the Old Testament and its relationship to the people of God – the Jew.

It is clearer to the believers of today who have had the benefit of the NT writers. We know our prayers are effectual - **Because** we ourselves are "**ACCEPTED IN THE BELOVED**", that is, "**GOD FOR CHRIST'S SAKE HAS FORGIVEN US**" - **therefore** - our petitions are heard!

Ephesians 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, WHEREIN HE HATH MADE US ACCEPTED IN THE BELOVED.

Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as **GOD FOR CHRIST'S SAKE HATH FORGIVEN YOU**.

Our forgiveness before God, and hence our acceptability before God, is **based solely on what Jesus has done for us**. It is not by our merit etc.

Likewise, the answers to prayers that we offer, only come when we "**ask the Father**" "**in the name of the Son**." it is by **His** intercession, that our prayers are heard.

RE-READ **22**. ". . . **YOUR JOY NO MAN TAKETH FROM YOU**"

YET, WE HAVE BELIEVERS WHO APPARENTLY HAVE NO JOY! WHY IS THAT?

Consider this carefully - if I have a **tool**, and someone steals it, it is no longer mine, and is therefore of no value to me. But, if I have a tool, and fail to use it to lighten by work load, it is nobody's fault but my own!

JESUS GIVES US ETERNAL JOY THAT NO MAN CAN TAKE FROM US. IT IS OUR PERMANENT POSSESSION FROM ONE WHO LOVES US.

BUT IF WE FAIL TO APPROPRIATE THAT TOOL, IF WE FAIL TO USE IT ACCORDING TO INSTRUCTIONS, IT WILL BE OF NO VALUE TO US!

JESUS PROMISES THAT IF WE PRAY IN HIS NAME, GOD WILL ANSWER OUR PRAYERS, AND – OUR JOY WILL BE FULL

THROUGH THE NAME OF JESUS THERE IS:

- POWER TO HEAL THE SICK - **Acts 3:6**
- POWER TO RAISE THE DEAD TO LIFE - **Acts 20:31**

- POWER TO CAST OUT DEMONS - Acts 16:18
- POWER TO BEND EVERY KNEE AND CAUSE EVERY TONGUE TO CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD INDEED! Phil. 2

AND, THERE IS CERTAINLY ENOUGH POWER IN THAT NAME TO **SLAP YOU IN THE FACE**, BRING YOU TO YOUR SENSES, AND CAUSE YOU TO **HAVE FULL JOY** IN YOUR WALK WITH GOD!

WHEN YOU HAVE NO "JOY", - WHEN YOU ARE SAD AND LONELY, - THE ONLY THING THAT YOU WANT IS TO BE LEFT ALONE!

BUT THE BELIEVER DOES NOT WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE! (in fact, we are never alone). WHEN YOU HAVE "**FULL JOY**" THEN AND ONLY THEN WILL YOU ENJOY FULL FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FATHER AND WITH HIS FAMILY!

I. THE APPROPRIATION OF OUR FAITH - 23-24

II. THE APPLICATION OF OUR FAITH - 25-27

FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FATHER

The Father has been plainly revealed to the children of God. We may fellowship with Him freely, we may approach His throne of grace boldly, and He will answer our petitions gladly when we pray in the Name Of the Son -

"**John 16:27** FOR THE FATHER HIMSELF LOVETH YOU, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.

THIS IS CLEAR - to the point - just as Jesus says here.

John 16:25 These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father.

Jesus promised them that he would no longer speak to them in figurative language which only dimly revealed spiritual things to partially enlightened hearers stuck in **unfulfilled history**.

But soon, **through prayer in the Name Of Jesus and new fellowship with the Father in the Name Of Jesus** - they would be able to "plainly" know the things of the father. (CF. 13-14)

John 16:13 Howbeit **when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth**: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

16:14 **He shall glorify me**: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you

THIS IS ALL POSSIBLE BECAUSE GOD LOVES US! BUT SOMETIMES, AS THE DISCIPLES DID HERE, WE LEAP AHEAD OF THAT WHICH GOD IS TRYING TO SHOW US.

THE APPROPRIATION OF OUR FAITH - 23-24
THE APPLICATION OF OUR FAITH - 25-27

II. THE UNDERSTANDING OF OUR FAITH - 28-30

LEARNING FROM THE SPIRIT ABOUT THE SON WHO REVEALS THE FATHER!

John 16:28-30 READ

The disciples wanted the "plain" revelation of the Father, and they wanted it now. They jumped on the next words that Jesus spoke and announced that **now they had arrived, (in their minds) they knew it all now . . .**

In Reality, THIS WAS NOT ALL THAT CHRIST REFERRED TO IN HIS PROMISE TO SPEAK PLAINLY.

APPLICATION: WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL TODAY AS WE MOVE AHEAD IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE. WE LEARN A NEW TRUTH AND IMMEDIATELY WE THINK THAT WE HAVE ARRIVED, WE HAVE REACHED THE ULTIMATE IN SPIRITUAL GROWTH ETC.

BE CAREFUL ! THE DISCIPLES FELT THIS WAY AND JESUS HAD TO QUESTION THEIR BELIEF.

John 16:31-32 Jesus answered them, **DO YE NOW BELIEVE?** Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that YE SHALL BE SCATTERED, EVERY MAN TO HIS OWN, AND SHALL LEAVE ME ALONE: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

"His Own" is equivalent to "Our Own"; Interests, Pursuits, Familiar Surroundings, Private Affairs Etc.

MANY THERE ARE WHO THINK THAT THEY HAVE LEARNED ALL THAT THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, WHO THINK THAT THEY HAVE NO NEED TO BE TAUGHT ETC. **THESE ARE THEY WHO HAVE RETREATED TO "THEIR OWN THINGS" TO THEIR OWN "HOME" NIV, NASB.**

WE WILL NOT HAVE "ARRIVED" IN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH UNTIL WE SEE HIM "FACE TO FACE!"

1Co 13:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

"Now speakest thou plainly and speakest no proverb." refers to the plain teaching of Jesus to his followers that is **revealed by the Holy Spirit.**

I am not talking about some type of **theologicales** that we learn to speak and understand, even the basics of the faith need careful reconsideration on an ongoing basis!

THE FOLLOWING NOTICE WAS SENT HOME WITH SOME HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:

"Our school's cross-graded, multi-ethnic, individualized learning program is designed to enhance the concept of an open-ended learning program on the continuum of multi-ethnic, academically enriched learning, using the identified intellectually-gifted child as the agent of his own learning." ONE PARENT SENT BACK A NOTE WHICH READ "I have a college degree, speak two foreign languages, and four Indian dialects . . . but I haven't the faintest idea what you are talking about." **db 8-9-81.**

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT:

"EVANGELISM IS ONE "BEGGAR" TELLING ANOTHER "BEGGAR" WHERE TO FIND BREAD" (thot:db 8-9-81.)

That simple statement bears serious consideration when you are sharing the gospel!

A starving man telling another where he may get a piece of bread feels no compunction whatsoever to explain the process where-by the bread came into being!

Picture this:"The bread is available to you, but first let me explain some things to you.

Explanation of the baking process, . . .

But of course the bread itself could not be made without the wheat,

Explanation of the growth of wheat including its geographic growing area . . .

History of cultivated crops and the spread of civilization etc. etc. etc.

DOES THIS SOUND RIDICULOUS? Sometimes when we share the "plan of salvation" with others, we say too much! We do not so much need to trace the history of how the BREAD OF LIFE came to us - as we do the fact that **He is come and that He gives life.**

PEOPLE AROUND US ARE STARVING! THEY DON'T CARE WHERE THE BREAD CAME FROM (disciples did not understand fully until much later.)

Even to this day, the unregenerate man cannot understand certain things about the salvation process.) THERE ARE INTERESTED ONLY IN EATING THE BREAD OF LIFE! (many who ate of the bread when the 5,000 were fed did not know where it came from, yet they ate and were filled! Later, the disciples were able to spread the word!)