

Hearts of Love

Tom & Debbie Tillman "to touch the world for Jesus Christ"

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Hearts of Love is a non-profit ministry, dedicated to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ whenever and wherever we find open doors. Our first priority is to glorify God and lead whomever possible to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Please pray for us faithfully. We need your prayer, and we appreciate it more than we could ever say. Please consider us an extension of your ministry in this world, and support us with your prayer as such.

***May God richly
bless you!***

Tom & Debbie

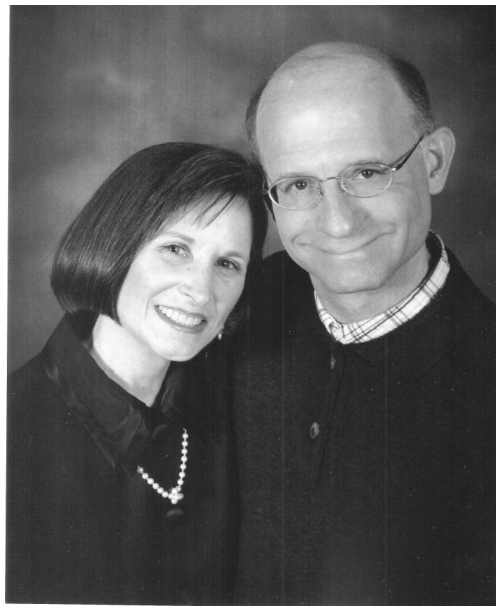
Why Do We Pray?

Many Christians think the main reason we pray is to ask God for things or to ask Him to change something in ours or other's lives and yet, honestly, we often do not receive the thing or the change for which we pray. John wrote, 'I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.' ¹⁴ This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything **according to his will**, he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask (according to His will)—we know that we have what we asked of him.' 1 John 5:13 But James wrote, 'You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives ...' James 4:2

John says that we will have whatever we ask when we are asking according to God's will, while James says that we often ask with wrong motives and so, do not receive what we have asked for... in other words... if we are honest... most of us do not receive most of the things we pray for... do we!

The first thing we fail to recognize is that if God is really Sovereign, if He really is in complete control of everything... and I do believe that is absolutely true... then we have to admit that at this very moment, everything is as it should be according to God's will... all those things, which we pray to be different are as He intends for them to be right now. But that is not to say that He doesn't intend for many things to change in the next moments and that somehow He plans to use our prayer in that evolution.

The reason we know that things are, right now, as they should be, whether seemingly good or bad, is that James tells us that we are to count it all joy when we walk through various trials, knowing that God's plan is to



*He has committed to
us the word of
Reconciliation.*

*Therefore, we are
Ambassadors for Christ.*

2 Corinthians 5:19,20

use those trials to build patience in us. If it seems to us that 'it' is not as we would hope, it is still a God directed trial.

If prayer, in reality, does not change near as much as we would hope, or as much as some claim... what is the purpose of prayer?

To understand the real purpose of prayer, we have to first go back and understand the Old Testament Temple and the Desert Tabernacle before it. (T's) Many believe their purpose was to be an Earthly house for God where human priests could minister to His needs. We know that is not true; we read in Acts 17, 'The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. ²⁵ And He is not served by human hands, as if He needed anything.' The T's had nothing to do with housing God or serving Him.

Through much more study, we could see that the T's were actually fashioned after God's Throne Room in Heaven. Moses had been shown the pattern up on Mt. Sinai and he was told to follow the pattern exactly because it was patterned after God's Throne Room.

This copy of God's Throne Room was the only way sinful man could approach Holy

God and then, only the High Priest could come all the way into the Holy of Holies where God would manifest Himself on the Mercy Seat of the Ark of the Covenant.

The High Priest could approach God only through God's exact prescription and the same is true for us. As the High Priest moved forward, after entering the door of the T's, he first made a sacrifice on the Altar; blood was shed for his sin. Next he came to the Laver for ceremonial washing and cleansing. Then he entered the Holy Place where he passed the Table of Showbread and the seven-fold Candelabra. Then he would take Incense past the Veil into the Holy of Holies where he would sprinkle blood on the Mercy Seat of the Ark. If he did anything deviant of God's direction, he would be struck dead. The T's were the only way sinful man could approach Holy God.

When the T's were erected, it's as if they actually sat within the very Throne Room of God Himself and God would allow Himself to have contact with sinful man in that one mystical place in the Holy of Holies upon the Mercy Seat of the Ark of the Covenant.

When the High Priest approached in humble submission to God's authority and commands, He actually met with God.

In that one place at that one moment, Heaven and Earth, God and Man met together.

Fast forward to the Cross: Jesus Christ said, I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life; no one comes to God except through Me. Now, as we approach God, Jesus Christ is our only doorway to God. As the Lamb of God, His shed blood on the Altar covers all our sin. As the Laver, He provides our complete washing and cleansing from any and all sin. He is the Bread of Life and He is the Light of the World. When we come to Him, by Faith, God's Holy Spirit lives within us. The Menorah, with seven lamps, represent the Seven Fold Spirit of God: In Isaiah 11 we read of the seven characteristics of the Holy Spirit. Speaking of the coming Messiah... 'A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

The **Spirit of the Lord** will rest on Him—the **Spirit of Wisdom** and of **Understanding**, the **Spirit of Counsel** and of **Might**, the **Spirit of the Knowledge** and **Fear of the Lord**—and He will delight in the Fear of the Lord.

Remember: the fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom.

The Altar of Incense represents our prayer, our praise and our worship. Then, since the Veil to the Holy of Holies was torn at the Crucifixion, we have direct access to God, Himself. We have been chosen by God as Kings and Priests unto Himself, He will always supply all of our needs. Jesus Christ fulfilled all the Law with all its requirements for us. We are Holy and Acceptable to God, in Jesus Christ. He is our door of access. His blood covers all our sin. He has washed and cleansed us. He is our Bread of Life, He has put His Holy Spirit within us, our prayers go directly to God and He commands us to come boldly into His presence at all times, to come to His Throne of Mercy... to the Mercy Seat.

The T's caused the People and the High Priest to come into alignment with the Throne Room of God. What is the main purpose of our prayer? It does the same.

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Paul wrote that we are even now seated with Him in Heavenly Places; that is a fact. Our Spirits are one with Him and we are there with Him at all times. Our flesh always wants to rebel and turn away from God. Our Souls must always make the choice to either draw near to God or to allow our flesh to stray from God. When we choose to sin, to follow our flesh away from God's will... it is as though we are the three pieces of a stretched out line of paper dolls. Our spirit is seated with Christ on His Throne while our flesh pulls away from God and our souls are in the middle, deciding. When we choose to draw near to God, when we choose to kneel before Him in prayer... our Souls are choosing to pull our flesh back into alignment so that we are no longer stretched out like paper dolls, but we are all together in oneness before Him.

James wrote, 'Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.' The writer of Hebrews wrote, 'Come boldly before the Throne of Grace to find help in time of need.' Paul told us to 'set our minds (our Souls) on the things above, not on things of the Earth.

Here, then, is the most important function of prayer, praise and worship in our lives. When we come to Him and kneel in prayer before Him, we are placing ourselves into alignment with God and into alignment in the very Throne Room of His Presence just like the

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Tabernacle and Temple did for Israel and especially the High Priest. Our spirits commune with Him, we set our Souls on Him, choosing to praise and worship Him and we are forcing our flesh to submit to His Lordship and to glorify Him while all the angels, both elect and fallen, see a sinful man, choosing to submit and willingly kneeling before the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Elect angels rejoice as we glorify God and fallen angels are terrified as they remember that one day soon, they will be forced to kneel before Him and declare He is Lord of all, just before they are thrown into the Lake of Fire, forever.

Often, our prayers are asking God to remove a current trial but His Word tells us that we are to rejoice in each trial, knowing that He is using it to sanctify us, to further mold us into the image and likeness of the Lord Jesus Christ and to build in us our most important attribute: patience, which is the first and foremost quality of Love: 'Love is patient, love is kind etc.

We cannot love God without patience and we cannot love others without patience. And it must start with our being patient, forgiving and loving ourselves. The more patient and forgiving we are with ourselves when we fail, the sooner and quicker we will be to come back into alignment with Him, coming to Him in confession, prayer, praise and worship.

If we are not patient with ourselves, we will never be patient with others and we will not be patient with God, choosing to trust Him in the trial, knowing that He loves us and is causing it to work for our good and His glory.

All the prayer in the World is meaningless unless we know the One to Whom we are praying. We can only know and trust Him and His love for us through knowing His Word; It is the lamp unto our feet and the light unto our paths. Then as we come to know Him, filled by His Holy Spirit... we become the light of the World.

God loves us and He invites us to come to Him anytime and all the time. He is always waiting to spend time with us. Do we love Him enough to want to spend time with Him?

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The Harvest is Great, but the laborers are few. Matt 9:38

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