



Daily Reflections

May 09 2020

Scripture

John 14:7-14

Jesus said to his disciples:

“If you know me, then you will also know my Father.
From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to Jesus,

“Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us.”

Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you for so long a time
and you still do not know me, Philip?

Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.

How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own.

The Father who dwells in me is doing his works.

Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me,
or else, believe because of the works themselves.

Amen, amen, I say to you,

whoever believes in me will do the works that I do,
and will do greater ones than these,

because I am going to the Father.

And whatever you ask in my name, I will do,
so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

If you ask anything of me in my name, I will do it.”

Our Scripture Reflection

Some of the most wonderful and yet troubling words of Our Lord are found in His promise: "And whatever you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son."

Why are His words troubling? Because many have asked but they have not received, or so they think. Many have wondered why it seems to take so long to have prayers answered. Do these statements sound familiar? What are we to do?

1. Before I ask, I need to spend some time to distinguish between what I want and what I NEED.
2. Before I ask, have I taken the time to get to know the Lord, and especially, His desires for me?
3. Is "my will" as closely as possible united to His will?
4. When I pray, "Thy will be done", do I REALLY mean it?

My Friends, we need to work at a true and deep relationship with Our Lord. The beauty of it all is that He is waiting for you.....

Food for your Journey

Most people who recite theologian Reinhold Niebuhr's Serenity Prayer — a favorite of the Twelve-Step recovery movement — only quote the first line: "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

But there's more to it than that. Here are the remaining, seldom-quoted lines:

"Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardship as the pathway to peace; taking, as [Jesus] did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that he will make all things right if I surrender to his will; that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with him forever in the next."

Do you see how those additional lines change the meaning of the whole prayer?

If you end with the first sentence, serenity can become a kind of goal we can achieve. Even though the prayer says, "God grant me the serenity," it's easy to skip over that. The result is, serenity becomes a sort of faded, washed-out positive thinking: Just think peaceful thoughts, and everything will be all right.

This is very far indeed from Paul's meaning in the letter to the Romans. He speaks here about "peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." The peace we crave is not won through some kind of persistent psychological self-discipline like that of an athlete training for a race. It's peace with God Paul's speaking about here, not peace within ourselves. There is such a thing as sin in this world, and sin is fundamentally offensive to God. The only way we can be freed from sin's curse, and therefore achieve peace with God, is to have an advocate plead our case.

Fortunately, that advocate is none other than God's own Son, so a successful pleading is assured.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Wake me up to the fact that the loneliness, the lack of peace and the void I experience so often is actually Your call to me to go deeper with You. Help me to grow beyond my surface level relationship with You. Take me deeper and bring me closer, Lord. Amen