

Prem (GCSSM student)

Success & – God’s Delight in Our Prayers

I. Knowing Father – Basis of A Prosperous Soul

John 17:3 And this is eternal life, **that they know you** the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

Beholding **love** becoming **love**

A. Our Father’s Joy in Our Lives

2 Cor 5:6 NIV Therefore we are **always confident** and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord.

7 For we **live by faith**, not by sight. **8** ...

9 So we make it our goal¹ **to please him**, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.

B. The Father’s Joy in Our Knowledge of His Nature

Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing

1. It’s all about HIM! In our emphasis on Prayer, our focus is on the pleasures of God rather than the prayers of man. Our aspiration is to be more thrilled by divine beauty than by radical devotion.

2. He is Love. He doesn’t want us to work for the things He freely provides.

Jer 2:12 ESV Be appalled, O heavens, at this;
be shocked, be utterly desolate,
declares the LORD,

13 for my people have committed two evils:
they have **forsaken** me,
the fountain of living waters,
and **hewed out cisterns** for themselves,
broken cisterns that can hold no water.

¹ φιλοτιμούμεθα (philotimoumetha) – to vie for, to aspire
NASB - our ambition; ESV- our aim

Our Father calls Himself ***“THE FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATERS.”***

He is like an clear, cold refreshing mountain spring. Continually self-replenishing, overflowing, needing nothing.

He likens our efforts to digging a leaky cistern, a watering trough.

The glory of a spring is that people come and drink.

No need to lug buckets up the hill, no need to pump water to the spring.

A watering trough needs buckets, needs us to pump water to it.

He Delights When We Come to Him

His glory is to **supply our needs!** He delights in our **THIRST**. He has more joy in giving than receiving.

I am among you as one who serves. [Luke 22:27](#)

[Acts 20:35 ESV](#) In all things I have shown you that by **working hard** in this way we must **help the weak** and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, **‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’**”

He Delights When We Trust Him

[Heb 11:6 ESV](#) And **without faith it is impossible to please him**, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

[Rom 14:23b ESV](#) For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

[Heb 11:4 ESV](#) **By faith** Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.

He Delights When We Use His Gifts

1 Pet 4:10 ESV As each has received a gift,² **use it to serve** one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: **11** whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; **whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies**—in order that in everything **God may be glorified through Jesus Christ**. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

He is GLORIFIED when we serve IN THE STRENGTH He gives. It's the living faith connection, the mountain spring.

Like a gift giver at Christmas, he loves it when he sees us using the bow and arrow he gave us, the BB gun, the .22, the chainsaw, wearing the necklace, the dress.

C. His Delight in our Prayers

He is a Community of Persons! The Holy Trinity. He partners with us in His Works as we Participate in His Divine Nature.

Prov 15:8 NKJ The sacrifice of the wicked *is* an abomination to the LORD,

But ***the prayer of the upright is His delight.***

Sacrifice of the wicked — you can do the right thing on the surface, but have bad motives in the heart.

Worship so people notice you. Manipulative Offerings, etc.

He **delights** in the UPRIGHT (Not perfect, but upright – honest, straight heart)

Isa 66:1 ESV Thus says the LORD:

“Heaven is my throne,

and the earth is my footstool;

what is the house that you would build for me,

² χάρισμα (charisma) – a “gracelet,” gift of grace

and what is the place of my rest?
2 All these things my hand has made,
and so all these things came to be,
declares the LORD.

But this is **the one to whom I will look**: (for his pleasure)
he who is **humble** and **contrite** in spirit
and **trembles at my word**.

Those who honor, **revere His words**, who have a holy fear of
disobeying the words of the Lord.

Who **trust in His mercies** rather than their own perfection.

Ps 147:7 **ESV** Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre!

8 He covers the heavens with clouds;
he prepares rain for the earth;
he makes grass grow on the hills.

9 He gives to the beasts their food,
and to the young ravens that cry.

10 **His delight** is not in the strength of the horse,
nor his pleasure in the legs of a man,

11 but **the LORD takes pleasure** in those who fear him,
in those **who hope in his steadfast love** (chesed).

He Delights in Answering the Prayers of the Upright

John 14:13 **ESV** Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that
the Father may be glorified in the Son.

The Father is glorified when His nature --Lover, Giver, Flowing
Fountain – is revealed.

HIS FAVORITE FOOD IS ANSWERING PRAYERS... OUR FA-
THER IS FULFILLED, SATISFIED BY MEETING NEEDS.

When our Father is hungry, He looks for prayers to answer.

2 Chr 16:9a ESV For the **eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth**, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him.

Ps 50:12 ESV "If I were hungry, I would not tell you,
for the world and its fullness are mine.

13 Do I eat the flesh of bulls

or drink the blood of goats?

14 Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,

and perform your vows to the Most High,

15 and **call upon me** in the day of trouble;

I will **deliver** you, and you shall **glorify me.**"

II. Partnering with Him in Our Prayers

God Waits for Prayer to Send His Word – the **primary means of power in the service of God's Word (sword)**

2 Thess 3:1 NKJ Finally, brethren, **pray** for us, **that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified**, just as *it is* with you, 2 and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith.

Here the WORD is pictured as an athlete running a race.

ESV – speed ahead NIV – spread rapidly

That it MAY run, is linked to our prayers!! God links His Sovereign Grace and the GLORY of the WORD to the prayers of his people!

The WORD is sped and its GLORY manifested AS WE PRAY!

MISSIONS, 7 MOUNTAINS – All depend on Prayer!

PRAY FOR US! PRAY FOR US!

Prayer and the effective release (that the word by glorified, that men and women, boys and girls drink and are transformed!)

Eph 6:19 NIV Pray also **for me, that** whenever I open my mouth, **words may be given me** so that I will fearlessly **make known the mystery** of the gospel, **20** for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Paul is revealing that EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION is released through prayer!

Col 4:2 ESV Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. **3** At the same time, **pray also for us,** that **God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ,** on account of which I am in prison— **4 that I may make it clear,** which is **how I ought to speak.**

III. Praying in the Strength He Provides

FINISHING THE HOLY ASSIGNMENT

In the strength God provides – GRACE.

1 Pet 4:10 ESV As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: **11** whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who **serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified** through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

GRACE, GRACE! For prayer

The NERVE that moves the mighty ARM that swings the SWORD of the WORD.