

**Welcome friends to another broadcast of “Morsels for Zion’s Poor”**

In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul wrote, *“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.”* Here, he is specifically describing the desire of the sons of GOD, to be done with the struggles with sin which are a result of our present state of abiding in this mortal body. He is referring to the hope of the resurrection which they have been given in CHRIST and the expectation that they have of putting on the immortality to which they have been appointed.

Those who are “born again” are *“his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”* It is to them that Paul writes this exhortation, *“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”* These are the garments which the LORD has specifically fitted to each one of those who are called by HIS grace and HE is the ONE who clothes them so that they *“shall not be found naked.”* Thus we find that they are both exhorted and prompted to the activity of prayer. He is describing the method by which HE is pleased to keep and preserve those sons in whom HE has given this “EARNEST”. He goes on to say, Prayer is as “natural” to the spiritual man as sin is to the flesh. It is impossible to exhort men to pray who have no inclination towards it just as it is to exhort men to put on the armor of GOD who have never been “fitted” for it. David could not go forth to battle in Saul’s armor as fine as it was nor might I add could Saul have fit himself to David’s “armor” regardless of his effort.

Natural praying is that which arises out of the common religious nature of men which would move them to seek some help in situations from which they find no easy solutions. As when a child is sick, a storm is approaching, or the electric bill is due and there is no money in the bank. The commonality of natural praying which can be found in all men is seen in those ten lepers who *“lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.”* Yet the reality and rarity of true prayer is manifested in the fact that only one of them, *“when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks.”* True “praying” is that which must be prompted by the SPIRIT and carried out in the sons of GOD by HIS power and presence.

That “praying” of which Paul speaks is first and foremost an act of worship, recognizing the glory which surrounds HIM to whom it is addressed. The LORD said, *“But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:”* The SPIRIT bears witness to the sons of GOD of the preeminence of CHRIST JESUS in whom the fullness of the GODHEAD dwells. That “praying” of which Paul speaks is not a “half hearted” attempt nor something that the sons of GOD are forced to do when all other efforts have failed. This is no stop gap method, rather it is an assault on the gates of heaven by those who are convinced that they have no other HELP. Even as HIS *“awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish”*, when the storm threatened their destruction.

This forms the very basis of the “supplication” of which Paul speaks, it is a resolve borne into the very hearts of GOD’s people which would move them to confess with Peter, *“Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.”* Supplication is “making a request”. Prayer is not specifically supplication, since one can simply worship the LORD in praying and praying can also be simply giving thanks for our manifold blessings. However true praying does sometimes include supplication and is the result of faith in the ONE to whom the sons of GOD pray unto. Paul says, *“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”* The children of GOD are not to fret and worry over the cares of this world but rather in a SPIRIT of worship and thanks to bring their needs unto the LORD. This is not because HE does not know our needs but rather, that the faith which HE has given to us might be exercised by prayer and supplication. *“But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.”* Do you pray as the heathen or by the SPIRIT?

*“Thy free grace alone,”* #11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at [forthe poor@windstream.net](mailto:forthe poor@windstream.net)**