

Praying with God's Heart

By James W. Goll

Session Two: Where Compassion and Passion Unite

I. Expecting a Promise

- A. What is prayer?**
- B. What is prophecy?**
- C. The power of a blessing**

II. What Is Prayer Passion?

A. A Battle of Last Days Passions

It is time for the Bride of Christ to be filled with passion for her Bridegroom and offer extravagant displays of love. What better place to exhibit boundless zeal and holy passion than in the place of prayer? Abounding love overflows in communication one to another. Our extravagant love for our Savior may as well overflow into a form of prayer passion.

B. Basic Ingredients from Dr. Wesley Duewel

1. Prayer passion incubates in a heart of love.
2. It grows out of holy desire.
3. It may be a special gift of God, empowering you for the precise moment He wants to use you in prayer.
4. It often springs forth when God has opened your eyes in a new way to a particular need.
5. It may escalate gradually from a deepening conviction of the urgency of those needs and God's willingness to meet them.
6. It grows as you continue to give yourself to prayer.
7. It will revitalize and strengthen your faith.

C. Lessons from Charles Finney

1. Prayer passion isn't always loud, demonstrative praying. At times, it may be quiet or even silent prayer.
2. It is not synonymous with physical exertion. The effectiveness of our spiritual wrestling in prayer cannot be judged by our physical activity or stance. Of course, at times the use of various postures is fitting, and can help give expression to the cry of our soul. (But whatever you do, don't try to work up spiritual intensity by your own human effort. That does not help you or God.)

3. It does not guarantee immediately answered prayer. Many prayers are heard and responded to instantly without protracted praying, and many prayer desires of the heart are answered as you simply “delight yourself in the LORD” (Psalm 37:4).
4. It does not earn you better status with the Father. Fervency in passionate prayer is an outworking of the Spirit’s ministry of grace within you.

III. Expressions of the Heart Beyond Words

A. Testimonies from People of Prayer

1. Several Salvation Army officers asked General Booth, “How can we save the lost?” Booth’s return letter stated only, “Try tears.”
2. Ira Stanphill - “My church will never grow while my eyes are dry.”
3. Basilea Schlink writes, “The first characteristic of the Kingdom of heaven is the overflowing joy that comes from contrition and repentance... Tears of contrition soften even the hardest hearts.”
4. David Brainerd, October 18, 1780 wrote, “My soul was exceedingly melted, and bitterly mourned over my exceeding sinfulness and vileness. I never before had felt so pungent and deep a sense of the odious nature of sin as at this time. My soul was then carried forth in love to God and had a lively sense of God’s love to me.”

B. Foundational Scriptures

1. Rom. 12:15 - “*Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep*” (NKJV).
2. II Corinthians 1:3-4 - “*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God*” (NIV).
3. Psalm 51:17 - “*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise*” (KJV).

C. Examples from Key Biblical Figures

1. From the Life of David, the Psalmist King
 - a. Psalm 6:6-7 - “*I am worn out from groaning; all night long I flood my bed with weeping and drench my couch with tears. My eyes grow weak with sorrow; they fail because of all my foes*” (NIV).
 - b. Psalm 13:2 - “*How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me?*” (NIV)
 - c. Psalm 31:9 - “*Be merciful to me, O Lord, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and my body with grief*” (NIV).
 - d. Psalm 69:3 - “*I am weary with my crying; my throat is dry; my eyes fail while I wait for my God*” (NKJV).
 - e. Psalm 69:10 - “*When I weep and fast, I must endure scorn*” (NIV).

2. From the Life of Jeremiah, the Weeping Prophet
 - a. Jeremiah 9:1 - *“Oh, that my head were waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!”* (NKJV)
 - b. Jeremiah 31:15-17 - *“Thus says the Lord: ‘A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted for her children, because they are no more. Refrain your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for your work shall be rewarded,’ says the Lord, ‘and they shall come back from the land of the enemy. There is hope in your future’, says the Lord, ‘that your children shall come back to their own border’”* (NKJV).
 - c. Lamentations 1:2 - *“She weeps bitterly in the night, her tears are on her cheeks...”* (NKJV).
 - d. Lamentations 2:18-19 - *“Their heart cried out to the Lord, ‘O wall of the daughter of Zion, let tears run down like a river day and night; give yourself no relief; give your eyes no rest. Arise, cry out in the night, at the beginning of the watches; pour out your heart like water before the face of the Lord. Lift your hands toward Him for the life of your young children, who faint from hunger at the head of every street’”* (NKJV).

3. From the Life of Paul, the Apostolic Builder
 - a. Acts 20:10 - *“Serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears...”* (NKJV).
 - b. Acts 20:31 - *“...for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night or day with tears”* (NKJV).
 - c. II Corinthians 2:4 - *“For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears...”* (NKJV).
 - d. II Corinthians 7:5-7 - *“For when we came into Macedonia, this body of ours had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn - conflicts on the outside, fears within. But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, and not only by his coming but also by the comfort you had given him. He told us about your longing for me, your deep sorrow, your ardent concern for me, so that my joy was greater than ever”* (NIV).
 - e. Philippians 2:27 - *“Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow”* (NIV).

IV. The Prayer Passion of Jesus

A. Examples from the Life of Jesus Christ

1. Luke 7:38 - *“And as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them”* (NIV).
2. Luke 19:41 - *“As He approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He wept over it”* (NIV).
3. Matthew 26:38 - *“Then He said to them, ‘My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with Me’”* (NIV).

B. Jesus' Prayer of Desperation from John 11

1. His Prayer of Compassion for His Friend

John 11:33-38 - *"When Jesus saw her sobbing, and the Jews who came with her [also] sobbing, He was deeply moved* in spirit and troubled. [He chafed in spirit and sighed and was disturbed.] And He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to Him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept. The Jews said, 'See how [tenderly] He loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not He who opened a blind man's eyes have prevented this man from dying?' Now Jesus, again sighing repeatedly and deeply disquieted, approached the tomb. It was a cave (a hole in the rock), and a boulder lay against [the entrance to close] it."* (AMP)

*groaned - KJV

2. John 11:33-35 - *"When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. 'Where have you laid him?' He asked. 'Come and see, Lord,' they replied. Jesus wept."* (NIV)

3. Deeply Moved Defined:

- a. Strong's Concordance - *enbrimaonai* - "to snort with anger, to have indignation on, to sigh with chagrin (which implies being distressed), to groan, and to murmur against."
- b. American Heritage Dictionary - "a snort: as a 'rough, noisy sound made by breathing forcefully through the nostrils', to make an abrupt noise."

C. What Was the Prayer the Father Heard?

The Father leaned His head to hear a prayer of desperation from His only Son. It was not a prayer in the form of an understandable language, but rather came from a deep place of His inner being where Passion and Compassion united.

V. THE INVITATION IS EXTENDED

A. The Place Where Passion and Compassion Unite

Do you want to have a convergence occur in your life where Passion for Jesus and His unfailing Word are mixed with a revelation of the merciful heart of God? Yes, this is the place where Passion and Compassion unite.

B. Prayer of Richard Foster

"Gracious Jesus, it is easier for me to approach You with my mind than with my tears. I do not know how to pray from the emotive center of my life or even how to get in touch with that part of me. Still, I come to You just as I am.

I am sorry for my many rejections of your overtures of love. Please forgive all my offenses against your law. I repent of my callous and insensitive ways. Break my stony heart with the things that break your heart.

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Jesus, you went through your greatest trial in unashamed agony and wept tears of deep, deep sorrow. In remembrance of your sorrow help me to weep over my sin... and my sins. For Your sake and in Your Name, I pray. Amen.”

C. Now It's Your Turn

Your Word declares, Lord, that You welcome the broken and contrite of heart. So today we present ourselves to You. We trust that by Your great grace, we would come in humility leaning on our beloved Jesus, not trusting in our strength but in the working of Your might. We desire to see the uniting of true compassion and passion equally blended together in our lives.

Lord, grant us the gift of tears flowing from a tender heart to see life spring forth from situations and circumstances that seem so lifeless. We desire Your heart. Take us deeper into the place where Prayer Passion consumes us. Let streams of compassionate tears and contagious joy flow from our heart to Yours and Your heart to ours. Amen and Amen!