

singing : "Thy mercy my GOD" #11

Welcome friends to another broadcast of "Morsels for Zion's Poor"

A common concept that is found among the multitudes of religious folk, is the notion that a massive amount of prayers will cause the LORD to pay attention to the petitioners. Thus the practice arises of sending out prayer requests, chain letters, or emails that assure us that results are sure to occur if we will just pass them on to others and thereby multiply the number of prayers that are being offered for whatever it is that the "pray-ers" desire. We would never seek to discourage any one from making their requests known unto the LORD but we are certain that men cannot cause GOD to "hear" them due to the volume of requests that are made or how many people are involved in the particular endeavor. The LORD said, *"But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking."*

The Psalmist very plainly tells us that men do not make the LORD "hear" but rather HE "causes" HIS own ear to hear those whose heart HE has prepared to pray. It is this preparation of the heart, which is the precursor to true prayer. *"For your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him."* Prayer that is not performed by the SPIRIT working in the children of GOD, is no prayer at all, but merely the vanity of the flesh seeking to fulfill its own desires by performing empty religious habits. Nothing can prevent true prayer from occurring according to the ordained purpose of GOD, even when HE demonstrates the weakness of our flesh.

The LORD gave HIS disciples some very specific instruction on the matter of prayer contrasting it with the example of those who make a religious show of it. Prayer is to be a very private exercise which is not entered into for the benefit of those who might hear the prayer. *"when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret."* This does not preclude public prayer but it is a warning against "praying" to be heard or seen of men.

True "prayer" is essentially worship. The LORD taught this very principle when HE began HIS model prayer by addressing the FATHER in worship.. *"Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name."* This term "Hallowed", means "holy" or "set apart". HE is that ONE *"Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: "It is therefore fitting that HE be approached in fear and trembling.*

Then HE demonstrated the necessity of a desire to be reconciled to the will and purpose of HIM who does all things according to the good pleasure of HIS will when HE said *"THY will be done, in earth as (it is) in heaven."* Only as the LORD is pleased to give a man a humble heart, can he truly desire the LORD's will rather than his own. Many is the time that men simply add this phrase because they think it proper, rather than casting themselves at HIS feet in genuine submission. *"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us. The "desire of the humble" is the gift of GOD. "to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word." Can the sons of GOD be in any more blessed place than under HIS watchful eye? *"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."* The "desire of the humble" is the only "desire" which will be heard in the courts of heaven. *"God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble."**

The "desire of the humble" is manifested in those who are delighted to see the triumphs of the kingdom of GOD in this world. As HE prayed, *"THY Kingdom come."* This is a very present desire and not one which is relegated to some future age or carnal fulfillment of prophecy. The LORD said, *"it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."* This kingdom is seen by the manifestation of the "fruit of HIS SPIRIT" in the sons of GOD. *the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance."* Can the man who is born of the SPIRIT of GOD desire anything less than that this fruit be found in him?

The "desire of the humble" is seen as a man counts all of his religion, accomplishments, and activities therein to be totally void of any merit and is acquainted with his own sinfulness and who by grace has fled to CHRIST as his only refuge. Oh to be humble before HIM. Is that your desire? *"Thy free grace alone," #11* **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthe poor@windstream.net**