

October 15, 2021

FRIDAY AFTERNOON ONLINE PRAYER RCF

CS Lewis when writing about the experience of the Holy Spirit to someone who had enjoyed a rich sensation of the Spirit's presence:

*“Accept these sensations with thankfulness as birthday cards from God, but remember that they are only greetings, not the real gift... **The real thing is the gift of the Holy Spirit which can't usually be — perhaps not ever — experienced as a sensation or emotion.** The sensations are merely the response of your nervous system. Don't depend on them. Otherwise when they go and you are once more emotionally flat (as you certainly will be quite soon), you might think that the real thing had gone too. But it won't. It will be there when you can't feel it. **Maybe even be most operative when you can feel it least.**”*

Augustine's prayer to the Holy Spirit

Breathe in me O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.

Act in me O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.

Draw my heart O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy.

Strengthen me O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy.

***Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy.
Amen.***

(Ask the Holy Spirit to prepare you to receive from him, and to ready us and instruct us how we may pray)

There is a drought of wisdom Lord in our land. My own life feels parched for want of this godly skill from you. But I remember this morning the touching story of the newly minted King Solomon when he was likely only 12 years old. You invited him to ask for anything. For anything Lord! And he replied as I'd like to come today:

“Now, Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?” (1 Kings 3)

Father, I'm no king. But I feel an echo of what young Solomon must have felt. I don't know how to carry out my duties. Not all of them. There are so many choices to make.

Lord, I do not know what to do, but my eyes are on you!

So many decisions that swarm all day long like a cloud of irritating gnats. It's hard to know when to do what and when. It's hard to know what's best in any situation. And it's honestly hard to know what's most pleasing to you, also. I wish that were more clear. I am confused Lord.

Lord, I do not know what to do, but my eyes are on you!

And while I have moments of self-satisfaction that are surely no good, I have far more when I am thoroughly unimpressed, even disgusted with myself. I want so badly to be different, Father.

Lord, I do not know what to do, but my eyes are on you!

And so I come to you with my confusion.

I come to you with the befuddling thoughts that keep me locked up inside and up at night.

I come to you with my on-again, off-again allegiance to you.

Lord, I do not know what to do, but my eyes are on you!

I come to you with my nagging fear about what is going to happen to those that I love, or to myself or even our country.

I come to you with my dissatisfactions...when I know I should be content.

Jesus, I come to you...

Won't you please make something of me?

Create in me in pure heart, and renew a right spirit within me!

Alter me. Renew me. Direct me. Cleanse me.

Won't you please give me the wisdom to be rightly oriented to You and others, to myself and to your world?

Create in me in pure heart, and renew a right spirit within me!

Jesus, I offer myself to you even now.

(Spend a few moments telling the Lord what's bothering you, confusing you, worrying you; Any big decisions? Overwhelmed at work? At parenting? At the singleness entrusted to you? In the marriage entrusted to you?)

Like young Solomon I ask:

Give me wisdom today and all weekend in my work, play, and relationships.

Hear me, dear Lord.

Give me wisdom today with my words; to know what to say and what not to say, and to figure out when it's important to remain silent, and when it's vital to speak up.

Hear me, dear Lord.

Give me wisdom in stewarding the time entrusted to me today. Like Solomon, let me consider myself your servant being tasked with matters of critical importance to you. Show me how to carry out all the mundane and exceptional affairs I'll encounter today.

Hear me, dear Lord.

And Lord, as you adore your church, I plead likewise for wisdom for the leaders at Rock Creek: our elders, deacons, staff, small group leaders, pastors. Give them discerning hearts of compassionate wisdom so that they may shepherd, lead, teach, and govern the one-anothering community that you are authoring at Rock Creek.

Hear me, dear Lord.

Let our children, students and adults, have discernment, instructed tongues, perceptive ears, curious minds and deep humility so that your

people of all ages may increase in having the words and ways of the Savior formatively etched on their hearts and minds even as we seek you individually and corporately together on Sunday.

Hear me, dear Lord.

Father, give our entire worshipping community at Rock Creek, the same renovating confidence and wisdom as Jehoshaphat as he reasoned with you in the face of a formidable enemy:

“Lord, the God of our ancestors, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you....

For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.” (2 Chron. 20)

Lord, I do not know what to do, but my eyes are on you!

Let me remember that refrain in my life, even today, so that I'll swiftly seek your wisdom, intervention, intentions, and movement in all I do.

Lord, I do not know what to do, but my eyes are on you!

For while I often do not know what to do, my eyes are on You and that seems like the best place for them to be O Lord.

Lord, I do not know what to do, but my eyes are on you!

Please do not abandon the works of your hands. This I plead in the name of Jesus Christ my Lord, Amen.