

Wall of Prayer



April 22, 2015

Dear Faithful Prayer Warriors,

Can you imagine England's Prince William, wanting to be your closest friend? Think of it, each morning you get a text message or a call with the caller ID reading, "Duke of Cambridge." You may be a bit tongue-tide at first, and often left wondering why in the world he chose you to be his friend. Yet, his kind and engaging demeanor draws you to answer the call or respond to the text every time, even looking forward to that royal ID popping up on your phone, whether late into the night or in the wee hours of the morning. The conversations would not be just "chit chat," rather, they would be meaningful conversations about his affection for you and even the inner workings of his family and the goals for his kingdom. You come to know the Prince really well.

Before we get too far into this fantasy, let's consider the reality of Jesus' statement found in the fifteenth chapter of John. "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for His friends. You are my friends...no longer do I call you servants, but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father, I have made known to you." And, then He says it, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give it to you."

The sovereign God of the universe has chosen us! Jesus laid down His life—His body so void of evil, that it was the ONE holy vacuum that could take on the enormous sin of the world and bury it for all time—so that we could become part of His pure and spotless family and eternal kingdom. We are children of the King, our heavenly Father. Our elder Brother is now our truest Friend! We yearn for our lives to bear His "fruits" of love, mercy, gentleness, kindness, patience, peace, honesty, etc., and we plead for the "fruit" of others coming to know Him as we have.

As we study and meditate on His Word, God's very Spirit fills us with His desires, His plans and His love, moving us to praise, confession, thanksgiving and to plead on behalf of others and ourselves. Jesus says it like this in John 15:7-8, "If you abide in Me, and My word abides in You, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." As we abide in Him, His will becomes our "wish" and we ask in prayer for that "wish" to be fulfilled!

We strive to find what pleases Him. I recently read with delight that praying for "all people" pleases "God our Savior who desires that all people be saved and come to the knowledge of truth!" (1 Timothy 2:1-4) Since 1998 our prayer, our "wish" has been that all teens in our area would have someone to pray for them, so they too will "be saved and come to the knowledge of truth." When we think of the grand relationship and purpose we have as chosen children and friends of God, a call from the Duke of Cambridge seems fairly insignificant! I have included a devotional on the back of this letter that reminds us of the price our Friend paid when he laid down His life for us!

In Him,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan".

Susan Admire

"Lord, there is no one besides Thee to help in the battle between the powerful and those who have no strength; so help us, O Lord our God, for we trust in Thee, and in Thy name have come against this multitude. O Lord, Thou art our God; let not man prevail against Thee." 2 Chr. 14:11

LOVE LUSTRES AT CALVARY

MY FATHER,

Enlarge my heart, warm my affections, open my lips,
Supply words that proclaim 'Love lusters at Calvary,'
There grace removes my burdens and heaps them on thy Son,
Made a transgressor, a curse, and sin for me;
There the sword of thy justice smote the man, thy fellow;
There thy infinite attributes were magnified,
And infinite atonement was made;
There infinite punishment was due,
And infinite punishment was endured.

Christ was all anguish that I might be all joy,
Cast off that I might be brought in,
Trodden down as an enemy
that I might be welcomed as a friend,
Surrendered to hell's worst
that I might attain heaven's best,
stripped that I might be clothed,
wounded that I might be healed,
athirst that I might drink,
tormented that I might be comforted,
made a shame that I might inherit glory,
entered darkness that I might have eternal light.

My Saviour wept that all tears might be wiped from my eyes,
groaned that I might have endless song,
endured all pain that I might have unfading health,
bore a thorny crown that I might have a glory-diadem,
bowed his head that I might uplift me,
experienced reproach that I might receive welcome,
closed his eyes in death that I might gaze on unclouded brightness,
expired that I might forever live.

Oh Father, who spared not thine only Son that thou mightiest spare me,
All this transfer thy love designed and accomplished;
Help me to adore thee by lips and life.

O that my every breath might be ecstatic praise,
my every step buoyant with delight, as I see my enemies crushed,
satan baffled, defeated, destroyed,
sin buried in the ocean of reconciling blood,
hell's gates closed,
heaven's portal open.

Go forth, O conquering God, and show me the cross,
Mighty to subdue, comfort and save.

Arthur Bennett, *The Valley of Vision, A collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions*. The Banner of Truth Trust; reprint 2013, Pg. 42.

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