

Tuesday's Touch #67

...from Pastor Ed ...May 4, 2010

Morning Prayer

My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up. Psalm 5:3

But to You I have cried out, O LORD, and in the morning my prayer comes before You. Psalm 88:13

In the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed. Mark 1:35

Holy Father,

As I come upon the dawn of another day, I come to thee in Christ, and he in me, and you in us, by that blessed union wrought by thy Holy Spirit in new creation. Because of the finished work of my Redeemer, sealed to me in his own blood, I come in the full assurance that you love me with that same effusion of infinite love with which you have loved him always. In thy Son I am immersed in a love which is the very essence of that divine triune communion within your own eternal Being.

O Holy Father, forgive me the wretched deadness of my mortal flesh that does not dwell continually in the ecstasy of that love; that actually grows weary of such unspeakable communion. What more evidence can there be of the vileness of my yet unglorified dust? Grant me in your deep mercies to be again quickened in my spirit to walk in the light of your countenance and in the power of your love; to walk in the Spirit and thus not fulfill the desires of the flesh.

I come before thee also in the full assurance of knowing that you have ordained the pathway of my pilgrimage for this day; and that your first will for me, and my greatest good and joy, lies in the bearing of your image and glory through each circumstance and encounter of my waking hours. May I remember that it is faithfulness in the unfolding events of each day, and not in my own ambitious plans, that you most magnify your name, advance your kingdom, and direct my steps in your will. This is the primary path along which the Good Shepherd travels in the gathering of his sheep, and by which the blessed Bridegroom secures his blood-bought bride. Seal it to my heart that if I am not faithful in the incidental "little things," I am not faithful at all.

Father, when I must, in the liberty of Christ, plan, choose, purpose, or determine my own course, grant me the wisdom and guidance to marry my gifts and calling to the ministry of love, and to persevere therein; for you have promised a good harvest to those who do not grow weary and who faint not in the good work.

As I seek first your kingdom and your righteousness, may I implicitly trust you

for the necessities of life this day, knowing that if I do not labor diligently, neither should I eat. May my heart overflow with thanksgiving to thee as I receive my daily bread.

Deliver me from all unnecessary encounters with evil, and bind the enemy of my soul to the wheel of your good purposes and loving providence. When I must face him, let me stand in the full panoply of the grace of Christ: truth, righteousness, a peace grounded in the gospel, a mind renewed in salvation, a shield of faith, wielding the sword of your Word in love, and praying always.

My Lord, grant me to discover this day even more of the riches of *Christ-in-me*, as you anoint my eyes with your Spirit to behold wondrous things out of your Word. Grant me to draw water from the wells of salvation with joy, that rivers of living water may flow out of me to your glory.

Gracious Father, when I come to the end of this day, may I be blessed to know that some time has been redeemed, that others have been blessed in love, and that you have received some measure of glory through Christ dwelling in me.

Eternal Father, from you and through you and unto you are all things, to whom be glory and honor, majesty and power, forever and ever.

Amen.