

The PRAYER OF GENUINE GRATITUDE

The prayer of genuine gratitude might also be called the prayer of profound praise to the Most High.

It is possible to pray the prayer of genuine gratitude to Him even in the greatest adversity. We can learn how to praise Him in absolute sincerity and integrity even in the worse of times. We can discover the secret of honest prayer and praise that releases His power to change us and to change circumstances amid any calamity. We can offer Him forthright thanksgiving in utter transparency.

Only in this way will we ever be changed from being *victims* of our circumstances to becoming *victors* in Christ Jesus.

Here is the supreme secret to the prayer of Praise! I am acutely aware that always, always the living Lord is here. He is not a remote, distant deity. He is here.

Again, let it be said here in tenderness: There is only one way to pray with praise amid all the darkness. Ask God Himself for the calm courage and strength of will to focus your attention upon His own presence with you. Cultivate His intimate companionship. He is here to help, to heal, and to make you whole! All is well.

It is possible to pray with genuine gratitude under every circumstance in life. God does not mock us. He does not put us into the furnace of affliction to test our faith in Himself. He allows the tough times to come for two purposes;

- 1. To show us His amazing faithfulness to us in the furnace of our afflictions.**
- 2. To change and conform our own character to His own.**

Once we accept this tremendous truth we are under girded with His peace. When troubles come I can then wait quietly on God. He and He alone can sustain me in the storms of life. He does not forsake me. His noble commitment to me as ever of old is (Josh. 1:9).

“Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid neither be thou dismayed; for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”

Having explained the enormous part played by God in all the experiences of life, no matter what assails us, let me now point out our part in offering up to Him our prayer of praise. There are three actions of my will (or heart) involved. Here is a supreme secret to a life of victory in Christ.

- 1. In true humility and open honesty before Him, I acknowledge He is God, that He arranges all my affairs with only my best interest in mind, because He loves me. This applies even when things appear to my view, to be awry.**
- 2. Without opposing Him in the trial, I accept everything that happens along life’s path as His provision. This is the path of peace.
I do not fight life, trying in my own strength to change everything or everyone. They, instead, are quietly accepted and allowed to modify and mature me into Christ’s own character.**
- 3. In sincerity I actually approve of what God my Father does and how He decides to do it. This strong action, initiated by His presence at work within my life and soul, sets His gracious Spirit free to do abundantly more than I can ever hope or imagine.**

I praise Him joyfully, for it is He who is at work in me both to will and do His good pleasure. This is to walk with God in peace, power, and praise. Then in all honor I can declare boldly,

It is God who brought me here!

It is God who can keep and sustain me here!

It is God who will lead me on from here!

Adapted from His Way to Pray W. Philip Keller