

Tuesday

Talking to the Lord

Today's Scripture Matthew 17:1-8

Imagine that you are one of only three individuals privileged to be taken by Jesus high on a mountain to witness His transfiguration! How amazing to observe the time when, "His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as light" (17:2). What a blessing to see Moses and Elijah and hear these two great servants "talking with Him" (17:3). Luke tells us that Moses and Elijah "spoke of His departure, which He was about to accomplish in Jerusalem" (Luke 17:31). Apparently, they appeared to Jesus to encourage Him as He approached the cross! Just as Moses and Elijah talked with Jesus, Christians today enjoy the wonderful blessing of being able to talk to the Lord.

A few thoughts for today on prayer: Children of God are invited to: "with confidence draw near to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16); "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17), and to "confess your sins to one another and pray for one another" (James 5:16).

Several years ago, Keith Parker relied on the acronym "ACTS" to create the following recipe for effective prayer:

Adoration – Make a habit of beginning every prayer with words of adoration and praise to our holy and awesome God! Jesus began the model prayer by saying, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name" (Matthew 6:9).

Confession – When we have focused on and proclaimed God's holiness, power, and majesty, we are overwhelmed with our personal unworthiness. Then we should spend time in prayer confessing to God the sins and struggles of life and our desperate need for His presence.

Thanksgiving – Following the time of praise and confession, we should spend time thanking God for our wonderful blessings, making sure to "name them one by one."

Supplication – We should conclude our prayer with supplications (requests) for self and for others.

Today, I will...set aside a time to talk to the Lord fervently!