

October 24, 2021

## PRAYER CENTERS IN GOD

More than merely seeking things from God, true prayer seeks God Himself, for when we have Him we have all that we need. Prayer is simply the turning of the soul to God. David describes it as the lifting up of the soul to the living God. “Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul” (Psalm 25:1 KJV). That is a beautiful description of prayer.

Prayer at its best reveals a soul made thirsty for God, just for God alone. Count von Zinzendorf was a great man of prayer. Why? He sought the Giver rather than the gifts. He said, “I have one passion; it is He, He alone.”

How can we have a prayer life that is centered not merely in petition, asking for things? Two thoughts are suggested. First of all, we need a realization of God’s glory, and then a realization of God’s grace. In coming before the Lord in prayer, it is well to simply reflect on who He is according to God’s Word. This should help us to praise and worship Him according to His attributes; His holiness, power, wisdom, justice, mercy, and so forth. The great hymn in the *Concordia*, “My God, How Wonderful Thou Art,” reflects the writer’s attention to the Person of God and the subsequent worship. His spirit of worship is called forth in consideration of God’s “endless wisdom, boundless power, and awful purity.”

We need a fresh biblical vision of God in our day, God in His glory and God in His grace. The reason for our frequent failures is that we see people rather than God. When Luther saw God, Reformation fires began to burn. When Jonathan Edwards saw God, the “Great Awakening” began. When John Wesley saw God, the world became his parish. When George Mueller saw God, thousands of orphans were fed. Oh may God help us to see Him in His Word and enable us to respond in prayerful worship and willing service!

—Dr. Francis W. Monseth, excerpt from recently published *One Thing I Seek: Selected Writings of Francis W. Monseth*, AFLC Heritage Series Volume V (Minneapolis: Ambassador Publications, 2021), 6.

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