

Volume 1, Day 28: PRAYER: Affectionate Dialog

Prayer is an ongoing conversation with God in which I simply present things to Him or ask Him questions, a dialog of sorts. I'm listening for Him to express Himself in His ways as I go through the day. We are finding our way into a rhythm of conversation and life together. My prayer life changed drastically in this journey.

Before I became confident in the Father's affection for me, I prayed a lot. But I prayed my fears. I prayed my anxieties. I prayed for things I wanted. And I prayed intensely. I was desperately hoping that God would give them to me or my friends for whom I was praying.

When I began to be at ease in His love, I wasn't as anxious anymore. I wasn't as needy for the things I wanted God to do in my life. I didn't need a big ministry with great book sales volume anymore. So those things that I had been praying for ceased. Anxiety was no longer driving my prayer life anymore. And, to be honest, I felt like I was losing something valuable to me.

But as time went on, I learned that I was losing something that had never worked anyway. And I ask you this, "For all the prayer lists you have, how much of that did God actually do for you?" For most of us, the answer is, "Very little." Occasionally something happens regarding those lists. I am confident that God meant us to live in genuine dialog with Him, but not by reciting prayer lists.

Prayer is about the things God wants to give us, not Him giving us the things we're requesting or expecting of Him. So now that I have engaged in conversation with Him, I find myself asking these kinds of things. I just pray, "God, what are you giving me today? Who are you putting in my life that I get to love? What do you want to show me about yourself? How do I live in your life and grace?"