

(1)1. "The Two Biggest Prayers I ever Prayed."

Introd:- (1). Here's something that made me think!  
Wonderful! TOPIC. What does that do to you??? What would you put down as biggest thing ever prayed for? Million \$! That's pretty small these days..Soon need that when go for week's groceries! Ever pray bigger than that? How do you judge prayers? OR SHOULD WE? How many of us DO IT? Preachers..Deacons..Elders..wives..husbands???? Did God judge those prayers? After all those people were talking to Him..not to us..(I hope). NOW..while you sit there and do a bit of repenting..let me recite a bit of poetry. I was a high school boy in B.C..some months ago..and to my unthinkable terror I was required to recite a poem at a coming temperance meeting. My relief on our moving to Alberta before the impending date was indescribable. But I so struggled with that wretched thing that I never forgot its beginning..like this: "I've been to the meetin' Nancy, a down at the meetin' hall. And I wish you'd a bee there Nancy, and I wish the same of all. They first asked Parson Peters, if he would please to pray, And such a prayer as Parson prayed, I ain't heered for many a day." The poem ended with the old reprobate (rep. by myself as I recited) signing the pledge..and saying to his wife Nancy "My name's there on the line." Well, he appreciated the Parson's prayer..judged it to be powerful and effective. YOUR PARS  
(2). What about ~~four~~ own prayers? In public..what? Disposal of words? In private..what? Repetitious mumble of spiritual cliches? Do we really pray BIG prayers? Name one? Two? Did God answer them?...Ah! per. there we have the supreme test...Or do we? What about delays..when God says "Wait a while?" How then judge the BIGNESS of a prayer?

I. So imp. that I want to know what God says about this.

(a). What God think about length of prayers? Does He begin to fidget when someone prays on and on..and clock says time for prayer meeting to close..ev.body go home? Do I..you? Hey!..did that strike a nerve? Mine? Yours? Be too bad if Daniel came to our prayer meet. He prayed for 3 weeks! Peter be welcome..he prayed 3 words.. "Lord save me." Solomon prayed in between..yet long dedicated prayer..... Lord Jesus taught His disciples a prayer 66 words long.. 51 of one syllable. When is prayer too long? When for show..Matt. 6:5 "When thou prayest thou shalt not be as the hypocrites..standing in the corners of the streets that they may be SEEN OF MEN..Use not vain repetitions as the heathen do..for they think they shall be heard for their

much speaking." And Lk. 20:47 "Scribes which devour widow's houses, and for a SHOW make LONG prayers." Those...TOO LONG So be careful about judging prayers by length.

(b). How about the words used? They can be beautiful and spir. expressive. Use best words you can as pray..Use Bible words. But again...II Pet. 2:18.."These...(evil men parading as preachers) "speak great swelling words of vanity....Not only show-offs..but deceivers, leading people astray as they admire these highly educated men..Mesmerized by a vocabulary!. Don't judge by words alone,

(c). Some prayers may be merely an exaltation of SELF. So may testimonies that begin, end around pronoun "I".. c/f Lk.18:10-12 "Two men went up into the temple to pray; a Pharisee...a publican. The Pharisee STOOD and prayed WITH HIMSELF...(for himself..about himself)..God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are...(I) fast twice in the week.(I) give tithes of all that I possess." Don't pray like that..God despises it.

(d). What about judging by mirac. results? Again, God can and does answer miraculously..BUT remember.. as Moses confronted magicians of Egypt..Exod.7:11 "The magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments II Thess 2:9 About coming antiX.."Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan, with all power and SIGN and lying wonders." All these not true basis to judge...

I SAM 18:10

II. Well...let's look at some really BIG prayers..God's men

(a). MOSES! how could you do it! In Num. 16 story of his confrontation with rebel Korah..Cried to God "Respect not thou their offering." Then declared their unimaginable death.."And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up." Moses called on God to make JUSTICE prevail..

a BIG prayer..needed today in this time of criminal rebellion Illus:- Armenian persec..thousands slaughtered.."God damn the Shah of Persia." Justice! What a prayer! Big one!

(b). And there's Joshua..in day of battle.."Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon, and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon" Prayer was behind that command.."Then spake Joshua to the Lord" is the beginning of the sentence in Josh.10:12.

You dare make as big a prayer as that? Would I? VICTORY How about Daniel, faced with death-in-the-morning?

Prom. to tell Neb. his dream..and interpret it also..

So came to 3 companions..Dan.2:18 "Desire mercies of the God of heaven." REVEALING OF GOD'S WILL - BIG

(c). And we all know about Elijah's BIG prayer..I Kings 18:36 "Lord God of Abraham..let it be known this day that thou art the Lord God, and that I am thy servant..."Then the fire of the Lord fell." A BIG ONE..or his own death if no answer. That was REVIVAL PRAYING. Shall we????

(d). On we can go..into NT. Here's a big one..Peter in prison..chained to two soldiers..keepers before door.. But in house of Mary, mother of John Mark..people PRAYING. IT WAS A BIG PRAYER..even though not much faith mixed with it. What do we do when case is hopeless..and faith weak? That is time to pray a BIG ONE..And Peter came knocking at door..delivered..and Rhoda!..and <sup>he</sup> ~~rest~~!..DELIVERANCE. Need pray that in these days of Satanic oppression..when so many need deliv. of Spirit of God? Dare pray BIG ONE? (e). Well. let's get right up to date. Berean Bible College needs buildings..BIG ONES..costing BIG MONEY..Or is it? Plenty of money around. Prob. is the transfer of it.. from pockets, banks, bonds..into Bldg. Fund treasury.. IT'S TIME TO PRAY A BIG ONE! For only Spirit of God able.. 200 X \$1,000 INITIAL - \$30 MONTH = 15000.

III. Well....decided on biggest prayers yet? Two of them?

(a). If this ~~were~~ neat little Bible Class..it would be deep int. to chat around circle..get opinion of each one. Per. many diff. views be expressed. Tonight I shall speak my piece..leave the discussion with you as travel home. Here are my two biggest prayers:-

1. I came very close to this one..in story of two men at prayer..Phar..publican. Lk..18:13 "And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, GOD BE MERCIFUL TO ME A SINNER." In words like that I prayed the first BIG prayer of my life. BIG? Bigger than any man can describe. How dare I! A SINNER..hell-bound..and sinning on the way..shut out from God..already condemned. No hope. Soul black as midnight. Helpless..hopeless..LOST and feet on brink of a lost eternity. AND YET..like that poor publican..and by grace of God I was able call on Him for HIS MERCY..not for justice (That would have sent me to hell instantly)..MERCIFUL TO ME. THE BIGGEST PRAYER! And it was answered for publican.."This man went down to his house JUSTIFIED"..made right in God's sight. AND ANSWERED for me I ~~pass~~ with this direct..right to point..yet loving question..Have you prayed that prayer? 7 words..MIGHTY. Ans. never fails.."The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from sin"..Available to any SINNER..changes to SAINT.

2. The second Biggest Prayer in my life was this one... Saul of Tarsus..on his way to kill Christians, fell to the ground under impact of a great light from heaven.. heard voice of risen Saviour.."Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? " "Who art thou, Lord". "I am Jesus." and His prayer:- "LORD, WHAT WILT THOU HAVE ME TO DO?" In that moment his life turned around..to unceasing service for Lord Jesus...AND DAY CAME WHEN I PRAYED THAT

PRAYER..and, God enabling me, I bel. I prayed it with  
sincere heart..and asked God enable me to live it.  
What did it mean in life? ALL...ALL...ALL...for Jesus!  
His alone...always..life under His direction..AT HIS COMMAND.  
LORD..PRINCE..COMMANDER..LEADER..KING! Saved to Serve in  
the indwelling and ondwelling power of the Holy Spirit!

Conclus:- 1. There is strange talk abroad today. New to me.  
Recently a survey taken in general public area..as to what  
people felt was biggest problem. Ans:- "WHO AM I?" When  
that problem asked of Univ. students..90% confessed same  
thing..WHO AM I? Strange and new. In my unrecent youth such  
a thing nev. crossed mind..It seems I was too busy being..  
no time ask "Who am I?" A new philosophy of our day.  
Often called Existentialism...an introspective self-life..  
man exists in order to WILL HIMSELF to act..the active  
participation of the will, rather than the reason, in con-  
fronting the problems of a NON MORAL or ABSURD UNIVERSE...  
No God..no design to life..no moral absolutes..I WILL TO  
ACT..and that's all there is to life. Final fruit of evol.  
theory..animism..relativism..epicurianism..hedonism..and  
Communism..all centering on puny little man..and life ABSURD.  
Little wonder so many saying "Who am I?" CONFUSION..  
DESPAIR. Why live aright? Why live at all? *Vacuum - No Reason - No drugs - occultism*  
2. How you getting along? Who are you? Who am I?....  
I am many things..FATHER, HUSBAND, GRANDFATHER, MAN, X'N,  
CHURCH MEMBER, CITIZEN, PRESIDENT, ELDER (SON, STUDENT,  
TEACHER)...That's 13 of me..quite a crew to manage!

STEWARD ←  
Ah yes! That's the chief problem..HOW TO MANAGE ALL OF ME!  
And this is where second BIGGEST PRAYER BEGINS.  
How to get all this together AND DIRECT TOWARDS WORTH WHILE  
GOAL.

It is poss. get life together..and then direct all of it  
to futility...To self-aggrandisement..to wealth accumulation.  
and still end up saying "WHO AM I? WHAT LIFE MEAN..WHY LIVE?"  
The successful, glowing life, full of thrilling joy..is the  
lot and reward of the man, woman who prays the two prayers..  
First to receive saving mercy of God..Second to rest the  
life under direction of the LORD of the Universe. THAT  
is true goal of life..like this:- Rev.4:11 "Thou art wor...y  
O LORD, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast  
created all things, and FOR THY PLEASURE they are and were  
created." I am 13 or more people. Do I as a man PLEASE GOD  
..as Father..Husband..Citizen..STEWARD..PLEASE GOD? GOAL.  
"LORD, WHAT WILT THOU HAVE ME TO DO..TO PLEASE THEE?"



Illus:- In Carisbrooke Castle..Isle of Wight.. there is a deep well. For many years a donkey in little room above..walking round and round..Whole task. No partic. starting or stopping place. What is result of gyrations of that poor beast? HE IS DRAWING WATER FROM THE DEEP WELL BENEATH! People could enjoy drink of cold water on sweltering day by aid of that donkey. It takes real discernment to see use of lowly labours..Goal.

A young woman of smart set spoke to Pastor about dull members of his congreg. "Look at Mr. Aslett..What does he know about life..life with capital L?" Pastor did look..remembered..his faith at midnight hour when two of his children died from scarlet fever. That he was still poor but refused compromise in financial matter that would have made wealthy..yet continued as a steward who PLEASED GOD. Often cheered others by simple testimony. He looked like poor old donkey to that smart young woman..going in monotonous circle..BUT HE KNEW HOW TO DRAW WATER OF LIFE FROM WELLS OF SALVATION..HE KNEW HOW TO PLEASE GOD..HE KNEW WHO HE WAS..CHILD AND SERVANT OF THE LIVING GOD. HE HAD PRAYED THE TWO BIGGEST PRAYERS.

Have we? Will we? There is nothing better in life.  
and for X'n..<sup>"If Lord"</sup>"What wilt thou have me to do?"  
with life, time, body, money, talents/????

← (Deut 12:8.."Ye shall not do after all the things that we do here this day, EVERY MAN WHATSOEVER IS RIGHT IN HIS OWN EYES.")

I Sam.18:10 "And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he PROPHECISED in the midst of the house."

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