

## Monday Morning Rewind – June 7, 2010

Good morning! On Sabbath we concluded our series on the Lord's Prayer with a petition for deliverance from evil and a doxology of praise.

Even as the BP oil spill is coating pelicans and other marine life, evil covers humanity in the blackness of disease, guilt, and wickedness. "The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores." (Isa. 1:6)

The pelicans cannot deliver themselves from the poisonous oil without human intervention, and neither can we deliver ourselves from the poison of sin without divine intervention. So Jesus teaches us to pray, *Deliver us from evil!*

Don't miss that the deliverance is *from* evil, not *in* evil. The word "From" is "apo" which means "off" or "away from" something near; separation, departure, cessation, completion, reversal." Evil is something we are to be separated "from"--its effects completely reversed. Anything short of this is not deliverance but *accommodation*. That's not the meaning of the prayer. We want to get it [sin] off, and to have God take it away!

What are some of the forms of evil that we must have deliverance from?

**1. Deliver us from the evil of doubt.** One of the evils that results from giving in to temptation is the guilt and shame the enemy brings that causes us to doubt that God could love and forgive us. If we doubt His love for us we will wither and die spiritually even while sitting on the pew. Fear of hearing a "guilty" verdict on the Day of Judgment will fill us with dread, making it impossible to rest confidently in the grace of Christ.

The following statement from Ellen White gives hope to those who doubt: "Many who are really conscientious, and who desire to live for God, he too often leads to dwell upon their own faults and weaknesses, and thus by separating them from Christ he hopes to gain the victory. We should not make self the center and indulge anxiety and fear as to whether we shall be saved. All this turns the soul away from the Source of our strength. Commit the keeping of your soul to God, and trust in Him. Talk and think of Jesus. Let self be lost in Him. Put away all doubt; dismiss your fears. Say with the apostle Paul, 'I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.' Galatians 2:20. Rest in God. He is able to keep that which you have committed to Him. If you will leave yourself in His hands, He will bring you off more than conqueror through Him that has loved you." (*Steps to Christ*, pp. 71, 72)

### **2. Deliver us from worthless and futile efforts to cover our own sinfulness!**

When Adam and Eve sinned, they hid from Christ. This is the enemy's goal—to make us feel too ashamed in our nakedness to come to Jesus. But it is precisely because of our nakedness that we must come to Jesus because He's the only One with proper clothing! All our attempts to cover up are inadequate, as "filthy rags" and leave us exposed.

**3. Deliver us from the evil one.** 1 Peter 5:8 likens the enemy to a roaring lion on the prowl. But God has a good track record with lions. (See Daniel 6:27.)

Our enemy is powerful but he is defeated. His power over me is only and always the power I give him. The weakest child of God on his or her knees is more than a match for Satan and all his angels if we use our sovereign will to choose to call on the Lord. Hebrews 2:18 says "For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour [run to the cry of] them that are tempted." This is how Jesus delivers us. We cry, He runs! We cry, He runs...and shuts the lion's mouth! And so we claim the promise: "The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen." (2 Tim 4:18)

**4. Deliver us from the evil of isolation.** The Lord's prayer makes it crystal clear that you were never intended to battle evil alone. Nowhere does the singular pronoun "I," "me," or "mine" appear. It is *our* Father; Give *us* our daily bread; Forgive *us* as we forgive others; Lead *us*. . . , deliver *us* from evil.

American individualism isn't a good fit in the kingdom of heaven. God intends for us to experience deliverance from sin and the fullness of kingdom life as a community! We are to reflect trinity oneness--an inter-dependent system of individual parts coming together as one for the glory and praise of God.

Don't sit in your house surrounded by temptations, resentment, bitterness, doubt and the devil. You need fellowship! You need connection! You need the prayers of those you love and who love you. When we come together for worship on Sabbath or on Wednesday nights, or in our home groups, we can counter Satan's actions by encouraging each other to fight the good fight of faith. We open the Word together and replace the seeds of truth that the enemy has worked in the meantime to snatch out of our hearts. Without this connection you will grow cold. Your convictions will weaken. Your sense of sin will become dull and lax. And there will be too many distractions to pull you away from the Word and prayer.

Perhaps the greatest evil we need deliverance from is giving up and disregarding the prayer in its entirety. It's the failure to enter into kinship with the King, and not acknowledge God as our father; the failure to recognize His holiness and the power of His character; turning our back on His Kingdom and living only for the kingdoms of this world; making our will supreme instead of His; not depending on Him for our daily bread—including the Bread of Heaven; rejecting God's forgiveness because of our unwillingness to forgive others; wandering into temptation and falling victim to the evil that comes from letting go of God's hand. This is the greatest evil of all, and many so-called Christians live exactly like this and wonder why they don't have more victory in their lives.

But the prayer doesn't end here. Once evil is removed, the void left behind must be filled. The doxology fills the void. "For thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory forever, Amen." (Matt. 6:13) God's kingdom, God's power, God's glory is to forever satisfy us and replace our cravings for "Egypt."

The prayer ends where it began—in praise to God. Every petition in between is possible only in the context of God's kingdom, God's power, and God's glory. This includes the petition for deliverance.

In ancient times authorities would tie a corpse to a criminal and make him carry it until he would die from contact with the rotting flesh. This is what Paul meant when he cried, "Who will deliver me from the body of this death!" (See Romans 7:24). Are you still carrying around a rotting corpse of bitterness, hurt feelings, doubt, or sin that you can't shake? It's time to *get it off!* God's kingdom, God's power, and God's glory sets you free.

The Kingdom has come! Satan has fallen like lightning. His kingdom is cast down. It is time for the Son to rise with healing in His wings. The authority of all-mighty God is in your hands and in your heart. We have a world to win, an abundant life to live, and a soon-returning King at whose feet we will cast our crowns. And so we pray as the Lord taught us... "Thy Kingdom Come." - Pastor Randy

p.s. Enjoy camp meeting services this week, starting Tuesday night, June 8. Fresh Encounter members are planning to gather at the Given's tent at Gem State Academy Wednesday night. It will be a Fresh "Camp Meeting" Encounter. Join the fun!

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2 Chron. 7:14

*"The need is great. The key is prayer. The time is now."*