

The Triumvirate Approach to God

Texts: Psalm 65:2-4: “O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come. Iniquities prevail against me: as for our transgressions, thou shalt purge them away. Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto Thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.”

Psalm 55:16, 17: “As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me. Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.”

It is of great comfort to know that when we come before God in prayer He hears us. And that is what He said He does, “O thou that hearest prayer...” (Psalm 65:2a). In Isaiah 58:9a it says, “Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and He shall say, Here I am....” It needs to be understood that the words of this verse are spoken of a child of God in absolute obedience to God. In the next chapter it reads, “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear” (Isaiah 59:2). I am certain there is not a person within the sound of my voice who wants to live in this state.

The phrase, “...Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto Thee...” (Psalm 65:2a) has arrested my thoughts and my prayer today is that this will arrest your thoughts as well. From the wording, we see the Lord takes the initiative. In Ezekiel 22:30 He tells us, “And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.”

Psalm 55:1, 2a begins with these words, “Give ear unto my prayer, O God; hide not Thyself from my supplications. Attend unto me, and hear me....” As we read the rest of verse 2 through verse 15, David is complaining because of betrayal and hurt. He even goes so far as to talk about flying away as a dove and dwelling in the wilderness far away from people, especially the close friend that chose to become David’s enemy. Then in Psalm 55:16, David takes courage and is resolved not to run from man, but instead, run to God, “As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me.” Then in the midst of David’s conflict and irresolution, he, through the Spirit of the Lord, reveals the threefold approach to God, “Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and He shall hear my voice.” Let’s examine this:

I. EVENING, THE BEGINNING APPROACH

We usually think of beginning our day with God in the morning. However, from the dawn of creation, it appears that Adam and Eve's daily communion with God began in the evening. Genesis 3:8a: "And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day..." Why begin the day here? Because God began the first day of creation at nightfall and every subsequent day following. Genesis 1:5: "And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day." Genesis 1:8-31 records the second through sixth day all say the same thing: "And the evening and the morning were the second,"... "third" ... "fourth" ... "fifth" ... and "sixth day." It appears that God want us to know that as darkness falls, this is not where the day or even life itself ends; it ends in the light. This principle is illustrated in Proverbs 4:18: "But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." Psalm 3:5b: "...weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

Before night comes in full force, let us begin in the twilight to seek God's face. The darkness will be much easier to handle if we have first approached God. This is important to keep in mind:

A. Night is a time of great temptation to despair or depart from a holy walk.

It was at the end of the day that Elijah got so depressed that the Bible says in 1Kings 19:4, "But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers." I Thessalonians 5:7b says, "...They that be drunken are drunken in the night." The night is when the strange woman tempted the young man. We read in Proverbs 7:9, "In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night." How much grief we might be saved from when we begin the evening with prayer!

B. Night is a time of recalibration for the day to follow.

Psalm 127:2b: "...He giveth his beloved sleep." Ecclesiastes 5:12: "The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep." Psalm 4:8: "I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety."

II. MORNING, THE PRESERVING APPROACH

The Lord wants to preserve us from evil and empower us to serve Him, "From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same..." (Psalm 113:3a). We find these words in Psalm 121:8: "The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore." From the time we leave our house in the morning until the coming in at evening, God desires His name to

be glorified and for us to be unscathed by the effects of the world in which we must live.

The patriarchs and our Lord Himself were men who began their day with prayer. Genesis 19:27: "And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the LORD." David said in Psalm 5:3, "My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up." Psalm 88:13: "But unto thee have I cried, O LORD; and in the morning shall my prayer prevent thee." Psalm 119:147: "I prevented the dawning of the morning, and cried: I hoped in thy word." Psalm 143:8: "Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee." Our Lord arose early in the morning to pray after His busy day as it is recorded in Mark 1:35: "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed."

Here are passages of Scripture that tell us God desires to communicate with us in the morning when we first awaken: Job 7: 17, 18; Isaiah 50:4; Lamentations 3:22, 23; Ezekiel 12:8.

III. NOON, THE EMPOWERING APPROACH

1Kings 18:27 informs us, "And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, (the false prophets of Baal) and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked." It is in the midst of our daily activities that we need God's power to carry us through. In the middle of Elijah's day there was a surge of boldness that accompanied the mighty power of God that was working in the prophet. It appears that the battle between David and Goliath took place around noon or thereabouts because we see that David rose early in the morning to go to the valley of Elah where he met and defeated Goliath and there was enough light after the battle for the Israelites to chase down the Philistines and spoil their tents. Our needs may not require the strength that David and Elijah had on their eventful days, but we still need God's strength to do what God wants us to do. Joseph found strength to resist the temptations of a wicked woman. Genesis 39:10: "And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her."

Our Lord taught us to pray in Luke 11:3, "Give us day by day our daily bread." In the midst of our busy days, we need not to think that we can carry on without our Lord's strength and ability. Noon is a great time to approach our Lord for power to do the business that each day requires. Deuteronomy 8:18a: "But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth...." II Corinthians 4:16: "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day."

Conclusion:

It is God's desire for us to spend day and night living in His presence with His power (I Thessalonians 5:17; Luke 18:1). This triumvirate of prayer will help keep us there.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnny Pope". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.