

Morning Nourishment

John You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and I set you
15:16 that you should go forth and bear fruit and *that* your
 fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father
 in My name, He may give you.

16:23-24 And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Truly, truly, I
 say to you, Whatever you ask the Father in My name,
 He will give to you. Until now you have asked for
 nothing in My name; ask and you shall receive, that
 your joy may be made full.

You need to be clear that to pray in the name of the Lord is not a mere formality or an empty phrase. Rather, it is that when a person lives in the Lord and is practically united with the Lord, his prayer is the Lord praying in him. In such a union many prayers become purified.

All your daily practical living is in union with the Lord. You learn to live before God by the risen Lord. You walk according to His Spirit and allow His Spirit to live in you. Such a living is the basis and support of your praying in the Lord's name. Furthermore, such prayer actually constitutes a part of such a living. (*Lessons on Prayer*, pp. 229-230)

Today's Reading

The branches have been chosen to bear remaining fruit through praying in the Son's name [John 15:16]. When we pray for fruit-bearing, we must pray in the Son's name. To ask in the Lord's name requires us to abide in the Lord and to let Him and His words abide in us that we may actually be one with Him. Then our asking will be His asking. This kind of asking is related to the fruit-bearing and surely will be answered by the Father. As we pray in this way, we must claim that we are one with the Son. We should not beg but rather claim that we are one with Him. Whatever the Son is and has is ours, and we are in His name. Pray in this way.

Concentrating on the [Lord's inner speaking] will make the living Lord so real to us in our spirit. It will make Christ so available and practical. We shall sense the moving and the working of

the Lord who energizes us inwardly...[and] we shall certainly feel impelled to utter something.... This is spiritual prayer, prayer in the spirit. The spiritual prayer expresses the moving of Christ within us: Christ in, through, and as the Word is moving; acting, motivating, and energizing within us. When this happens, we cannot be silent. I believe that we all have experienced this.... Is this kind of prayer simply an expression of our opinion, idea, thought, feeling, or imagination? No, we are expressing that which the Lord moves and energizes within. We become the mouthpiece for the Lord to utter what is within us at that very moment.

In verse 7 the Lord said, "If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you." When we abide in the Lord and let His words abide in us, we are actually one with Him, and He is working within us. Then, whatever we ask, it is not only we who are praying but also He who is praying in our praying. This kind of prayer is related to fruit-bearing (v. 8) and surely it will be fulfilled. We cannot have this kind of prayer on our own. This prayer in the spirit comes from the indwelling Christ, through the Spirit, and by His word. If we abide in the Lord, keep ourselves always in contact and in fellowship with the Lord, and let the Lord with His word live, move, motivate, and energize within us, we will be unable to keep our mouths shut. We will have to utter something. What we speak will be a real prayer in the spirit. This is the expression of the indwelling Christ speaking as the Spirit with His words.

When the Lord's words abide in us, His communication and expression will abide in us. Therefore, we may "ask whatever you will." We shall express by praying what we have received of the Lord, and it shall be done to us. This prayer is not the human, natural prayer; it is the divine prayer, the expression of the divine communication. While the Lord is abiding in us, expressing His thoughts, desires, intentions, and will, we then take His word and put it into expression by means of prayer. (*Life-study of John*, pp. 421, 413-414)

Further Reading: Life-study of John, msgs. 34-35

Enlightenment and inspiration: _____