

New Morning Magical – 8-16-20

The Father hears you in secret

Let's continue from where we left off yesterday in 1 Corinthians 13:

13 Yet now are remaining faith, expectation, love -- these three. Yet the greatest of these is love.

Faith – or trust, in Hebrew – expectation, and agape love, which will stop at nothing short of accomplishing the Father's purpose: These three qualities do not get discarded, but remain today and looking forward even beyond our limited vision in this eon. How do we know that? Paul places this statement in verse 13 AFTER everything else that precedes it, including the "yet then" statements, which clearly refer to our celestial position.

The first 3 words in Chapter 14 are huge: "*Be pursuing love.*" Be careful here: pursuing the kind of love that Paul is talking about won't look like you might think. He's talking about the Father's kind of love; that which seeks only your highest and best, and it comes with a price. Agape may repel everyone else around you who does not support or serve the Father's best interests in your life. Pursuing this love is entirely worth it, but it may not feel that way during the pursuit. You'll know the Father and the Son in ways you never imagined, but, except for Them, you may also be completely alone. Not lonely, mind you, but alone.

Some years ago, I shared some of my journey of pursuing love. I told this person, "*I would love for you to know the Father like I do,*" and he replied almost immediately, "*I'm not sure I want to know Him like you do.*" Translation: "*That's too big a price for me.*" I have been sorry ever since that I scared him off the path, even though I told him that his relationship with the Father would probably take a very different journey from mine. Still, I understood his thinking and I didn't blame him a bit.

Let's also look at verse 2 of 1 Corinthians 14:

2 For he who is speaking in a language [*that is, in tongues*] is not speaking to men, but to God, for no one is hearing, yet in spirit he is speaking secrets.

This is one of the most delightful aspects of exercising your spirit: You are speaking directly to the Father – no intermediaries – a straight, high-speed connection to the One Who said, "*Let there be you.*" What's better than that? Well, when you hear the Father speak to YOU!

You may never know what your spirit is praying, but that's the beauty of it to me. You don't have to think of what words to pray; you don't have to think at all! You only engage your brain to decide to speak out of your spirit, and it does the rest. It is the most complete form of prayer and communication with the Father you can experience as a human.

In Matthew 6:6, Yeshua said something not unlike Paul's statement in verse 2 that we just read: "*for no one is hearing.*" Here's what Yeshua said in Matthew:

6 "Now you, whenever you may be praying, enter into your storeroom, and, locking your door, pray to your Father Who is in hiding, and your Father, Who is observing in hiding, will be paying you.

7 Now, in praying, you should not use useless repetitions even as those of the nations. For they are supposing that they will be hearkened to in their loquacity.

8 Do not, then, be like them, for aware is God, your Father, of what you have need before you request Him.

The "*useless repetitions*" that Yeshua addresses in verse 7 may be religious chanting rituals that were practiced among Gentiles. If you've ever heard Buddhist chants, you get an idea of what Yeshua meant.

14 For if I should be praying in a language, my spirit is praying, yet my mind is unfruitful.

When Paul says, "*my mind is unfruitful,*" he acknowledges that his mind – our minds – are quiet when we are praying in languages – in tongues. This is a distinguishing fact between the language of your spirit, and reciting or chanting a mantra, as in Transcendental Meditation (TM).

The video on the web page today comes from a news report done several years ago of a scientific study examining the brain activity of people praying in tongues versus people meditating. The video quality isn't high, but you'll learn a startling and important difference between praying in your spirit and meditation or chanting. I won't spoil it for you; you'll see for yourself.

Now, don't be alarmed at this next section from Chapter 14:

34 Let the women in the ecclesias hush, for it is not permitted to them to speak, but let them be subject, according as the law, also is saying.

35 Now, if they want to learn anything, let them be inquiring of their own husbands at home, for it is a shame for a woman to be speaking in the ecclesia.

These two verses can cause an enormous amount of trouble in some churches today, and it's not hard to see why! If you don't know the cultural context, you'd think that Paul is being downright hostile to women. He isn't. The Corinthian ecclesia, made up, you'll recall, mostly of former pagans, had real trouble with unruly women in the assembly, never mind having to deal with former temple prostitutes among the newly converted.

Here's how Paul ends Chapter 14:

40 Yet let all occur respectably and in order.

This is an entirely reasonable statement; but for the state of many in the Corinthian ecclesia, Paul would never have had to be so strident. That's the burden of an apostle, though: always holding up the plumb line, as if to say, as did Isaiah in Chapter 30, verse 21:

This is the way; walk in it,
In case you turn right or in case you turn left.

And this is where we'll leave it today. Tomorrow, we'll get into the big picture laid out in 1 Corinthians Chapter 15, so until then,

May Yahweh bless you and keep you;
May Yahweh light up His face toward you
and be gracious to you;
May Yahweh lift His face to you
and appoint peace for you.

AMEN