**Divine Communication**

I heard the prayers of my new friends in my Life Bible Study class when I first arrived at the church. I was amazed at how articulate and heartfelt they were. Would I be able to pray like that one day? I honestly didn't know. But I wanted what they had!

*If only one day I could have what they had!*

I had never heard prayers like that, but I wanted to know what it would take to get me there. Every time our group bowed for prayer, I would plead with God that no one would ask me to pray...I wasn't ready. But I was also intently listening to this divine communication that was happening.

Week by week, month by month, year by year, my prayers began to change. It went from "Dear God, please..." to "Father God, you are mighty, you are holy...I pray that each one of my remaining days will honor and glorify you." Did you see it? My prayers went from childlike to communication with the Father, which was a deep abiding relationship. Honestly, neither is better than the other...they were both my heartfelt prayer, but I wanted to grow in my faith.

I spent so much time on my knees before the Lord praying scripture and memorizing the Word. I didn't read my prayers that were written out decades ago by a godly person, and they weren't "how to pray" Googled...this was my spiritual journey in a relationship that happened one day at a time.

As time passed, I learned from godly men and women because I kept showing up and staying connected with the life of the church and my Life Bible Study.

Many days were spent praying for my children, as we find in Lamentations 2:19,

*Arise, cry out in the night,
    as the watches of the night begin;
pour out your heart like water
    in the presence of the Lord.
Lift up your hands to him
    for the lives of your children,*

And many days were spent getting right with God and those around me. Lamentations 3:19-27 is an excellent space to land no matter what has happened in life,

***19****I remember my affliction and my wandering,
    the bitterness and the gall.****20****I well remember them,
    and my soul is downcast within me.****21****Yet this I call to mind
    and therefore I have hope:*

***22****Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed,
    for his compassions never fail.****23****They are new every morning;
    great is your faithfulness.****24****I say to myself, “The Lord is my portion;
    therefore I will wait for him.”*

***25****The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him,
    to the one who seeks him;****26****it is good to wait quietly
    for the salvation of the Lord.****27****It is good for a man to bear the yoke
    while he is young.*

I couldn't believe it, but I was asked to pray in a small group one day. Did I think I was ready? No! But I knew to grow and mature in my faith, I had to keep taking the following steps...even when I was uncomfortable. It took a lot of courage, but I was always thankful that no one criticized or laughed at me.

Use each day to receive what the Lord has given and keep taking everything to the Lord in prayer! Will we hit bumps in the road? Absolutely! But each one gets us closer to the one who set the path before us.

If we have not met, I want you to know that my name is Holly, and I walked into this church 22 years ago with a five-year-old daughter and a two-month-old son in tow. This church embraced me but bigger than that, the gospel and what God did in my life changed this common girl forever! And I know He will do the same for you! He will! Enjoy the SPF ministry and the newsletter, and get excited about what God has in store for you and your children!

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