

2011
Merry Christmas

This past week I have spent a lot of time at the grain center loading out corn. Whenever I use the grain center, I always ask the Lord to Bless every component of it so all will work well. Is my prayer a selfish prayer, or a divine prayer?

Just as a watched pot never seems to boil, a watched grain auger never seems to fail, but leave it for 2 minutes and something will invariably go wrong. Therefore, as I sat in my work van and watched the corn augers and grain leg do their work, I used that time to reflect on God and His Creation, and my relationship with Him.

Christmas is a time to reflect on what God began with His only Begotten Son, Jesus. I do not pretend to fully understand the mind of God, but from what I have learned from the Bible, my fellowship with Jesus, and my life's experiences, here are my thought processes.

God created us in His Image, with a free will, so that we could choose to Love Him in return, and not be forced or programmed to Worship Him as a robot would be programmed. God tells us in Psalms 37:23 that He delights in our steps, and us, if we are godly. How can we ever be godly? By trusting in Jesus too not only forgive us of all our sins, past, present and future, but to make us into a Beloved Child of God. That is a unique delight and relationships we can all have with The Lord. No one else can delight God for us or in our place. That is why Jesus can be our Personal Savior. Our finite relationship with the Infinite God is unique!

Being made in God's Image has many ramifications, but for the sake of simplicity, I just want to think of one aspect of that complex subject right now. What does God see in the mirror when He looks at me? Do I reflect His Image, or do I reflect myself? Too many times, I must confess that God never sees a clear reflection of Himself in me, but only a cloudy image. How can I change that? One way is to overcome my selfishness by praying what I will call a "Divine Prayer".

By asking for God to Bless us for His sake first, and then our sake, His Blessings can then set us free to focus on bringing Him Delight, Joy and Pleasure. What an awesome ability and privilege we have in being able to be a Blessing to God!

Psalms 16:11 tells us that God will show us the path of life, that being in His Presence brings fullness of Joy, and at His right hand are Pleasures forevermore. As we focus on Jesus, His birth as a human baby to become a Holy Man, it allows us to reflect on the opportunity and privilege we have of being accounted righteous as we ask Jesus to be our Savior.

The next time you pray and ask God to Bless whatever it is that you are doing, or have concerns about, or care for, ask with the attitude and faith that it isn't just for you. Be aware of the opportunity that it is also for His benefit as well, as you uniquely bless Him with a reflection of His Image in your life. This is a new concept for me, and I pray that it will be a blessing to you also.

Marilyn and I wish you a very Merry Christmas with the fullness of God's Blessings upon you and your families.

Bill and Marilyn Fordham