

Prayer: Part One – Calling on the Lord

Genesis 4:26...then began men to call upon the name of the Lord

Now men had obviously been talking with God, communing with God before this scripture, however imperfect that communion may have been. Man was in darkness and we know that God has no fellowship with darkness. And yet God must have given man limited access to his presence. Adam's first recorded conversation with God is the result of his answering God's question "Adam, where are you?." Adam's response to God, in the broadest sense, is prayer in that he is dialoguing with God.

Sometimes we may find ourselves talking with God and telling him our doubts, and giving him our excuses until God checks us and gives us his final word. Nothing for us to do but say "Yes Lord."

The next form of prayer we see is in the giving of sacrifice: thanksgiving, acknowledgement that it is God who has provided, Gen.4:3,4. No words are recorded, although there might have been words said at the time of the sacrifice; but the act of thanksgiving, nonverbal, is a form of prayer. Something is being communicated in the heart. Because of God's response to the brothers we find that one heart was wrong, and his sacrifice was not accepted, and one heart was right, and his sacrifice was accepted.

It teaches us that the act of prayer is not enough; our hearts must be right in order for prayer, worship, praise, etc. , to be accepted by God.

Again, in response to God's inquiry "Where is Abel, you brother", Cain answers God with a lie and a question. When God gives his judgment Cain cries out "My punishment is more than I can bear, driven from the land and your presence and anyone that finds me will kill me." God responds by putting a mark of protection on Cain. God responded with mercy to Cain's cry.

Gen 4:26 – Then God gives Eve another Son, a new beginning. Then men began to call upon the name of the Lord. Maybe now publicly, organized worship. But also the margins of scripture indicate that "men began to call themselves by the name of the Lord." Possibly there were those who did not distinguish themselves as being called by the name of the Lord, those who didn't give thanks, who didn't worship.

Gen 6:9 - ...Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God. Noah had communion with God, talked with him, worshipped him. Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Gen. 6:13 God speaks to Noah. Gen. 8:20 Noah built an altar to the Lord and offered sacrifice and God responded I will not smite any more every living thing , . God blesses Noah and his sons (Gen 9) and tells them of the covenant. In Genesis 9:25 Noah curses Canaan and blesses his other sons.

We can neither curse nor bless of ourselves; we are entreating God, calling on Him to honor what we say. He does that because of our relationship with Him. When we "walk with Him" we can entreat the Lord.