

Draw Me Close to You Michael W Smith

Draw me close to you
Never let me go
I lay it all down again
To hear you say that I'm your friend
You are my desire
No one else will do
Cause nothing else can take your place
To feel the warmth of your embrace
Help me find the way
Bring me back to you

You're all I want
You're all I've ever needed
You're all I want
Help me know you are near

Thank you for Joining us

Prayer Leader
Mary Timko
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Centering Space
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Teach me Lord the Truth
of Your Love and Compassion
as I Journey to You



Centering Space

A ministry of prayer,
listening & direction

Our prayer is characterized
by silence

Be still and know that I am God!

In that silence we listen for a new word.
God is present in all our lives.
God cares for us, and
our life experiences are a source
of deepening knowledge of God and self.

Inspired by God's Word in the silence
we share from our hearts.

To Ponder: Mary Timko

William Cleary's thoughts on prayer really stuck with me. I don't believe that God listens and cares less than our dogs do. Throughout history, God created covenants with our forefathers in faith, "I will take you as my people and I will be your God" (Exodus 6:7). We are made with a spark of the divine within us. But we also have a void within us created by our humanness and we constantly search for God to fill that void.

Within Macrina Wiederkehr's book, *A Tree full of Angels*, there is a chapter called "Feasting at the Table of Daily Life." She compares the events of our daily life to crumbs that we can use to make our daily bread from God. Throughout she speaks of God in one glorious encompassing way, as Love.

Wiederkehr includes her prayers in response to a raging storm, and a call to love; a prayer about childhood memories and one on her own dried up heart. But each moment of prayer is placed before God believing that it will be acknowledged and responded to. God cannot help but be involved. God created us. And being in a relationship with God is the very reason for our life. It is our final end.

Perhaps we can't pinch or sway God. But we can learn from the example Jesus sets for us in the Gospel. He often goes out into the quiet to be alone with his Father to pray. Jesus tells us a parable about a nagging old woman who constantly bothers a judge to rule in her favor. Jesus tries to stress the importance of a relationship with God in many parables. And, St Paul tells us, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1Thessalonians 5:17).

The apostles asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. They wanted what Jesus had with Abba, a relationship. Wiederkehr's prayers for the people who left tracks in the sand, prayers about the wonder of people scurrying through malls, and the prayer for her own dried up heart, allowed Wiederkehr to realize that her longing to be in a relationship with God was her first desire. She also realized that God is always there to listen, God does not abandon us. It is the unsteadiness of our human soul that turns away. And, it is always God who calls us back.

Reading: A Tree Full of Angels by Macrina Wiederkehr

Alone
All-one
Alone with God
All-one with God
Being alone with God
Being all-one with God
All-one
Alone.

It is a terrible grace.
An awesome gift,
but terrifying all the same.
There is no way to get there
except to lose yourself,
to lose what you know of yourself.
And then, the battle is over.
There will be nothing left but God.

Being alone, all-one, with God
is a terrible and beautiful grace.
terrible, because
the only way there
is to lose yourself.

Beautiful, because
when you lose yourself
there is no one left but God.
You are all-one
Alone with God!

It happened to Jesus
It can happen to you
If you stay with Jesus
It will happen to you.

Alone
All-one
Alone with God
All-one with God
Now I understand
why Jesus went out to the desert hills so often
alone.....