

# Prayer after Deconstruction

## Introduction:

Have you been left wondering why your prayers went unanswered? Did you feel it had something to do with the idea, that maybe you didn't have enough faith or the right kind of faith?

## Scenario 1

Much of my upbringing aligned me with the "Fall" Redemption" pathway with an obsession with original sin. I realized that much of this emphasis has placed me in a courtroom with God as a Judge. Metaphorically, Gen 3, with its emphasis on the fall, was presented to me as my most original story. Being guilty and feelings of unworthiness shaped my early childhood perception of myself, especially when the first things said about me as a baby were that I was "born" a problem to God." The overall flow of this Gospel was this: when you turn from God, God turns from you. If you turn back to God, God will turn back to you. This places salvation in our hands. Our response becomes everything. This scenario leaves us with the nagging question: Is God only facing me when I decide to face him?

- How does this scenario affect your prayer life?
- Does this scenario require prayer to get God to turn towards you?
- Do you think God allows people to suffer because we didn't pray for them?
- What is your posture in this scenario when you think about petitionary prayer? Does God overturn the free will of those you pray for? EX: Prayer for loved ones salvation?
- Will God only release his love if we beg him? Prayer chains? Does God require a certain number of people to make the request before he intervenes?

## Scenario 2

Much freedom came to me as I anchored myself in Gen. 1 as my most original story. This enabled me to celebrate the beautiful truth that God likes me and calls me good. Instead of thinking that I need to get back in His embrace, I have this deep sense that I have always been in the hands of God. (Irenaeus) He has never let go of me. The very essence of who I am is anchored in God's grace. And I believe I am to live "from" this" position as my base camp. This more orthodox healing/therapeutic gospel has helped me to understand that God is not "watching me" as a judge but "watching out for me" as in the story of the prodigal son. The overall flow of this healing Gospel was this: when we turn from God, God doesn't turn from us. God is always turned toward us.

- God is actively loving with or without our prayers. How does this make you feel?
- Instead of praying to God, what would happen if we pray with God? Align ourselves with his uncontrolling love... What would happen if we listen with God?

- How do we pray with God, if we see him as a caring non-coercive God who loves the world through us?
- What do you think of the idea of conspiring prayer? --- when we live in his embrace --- and become a conduit of God's grace in a broken world? Prayer example: Lord, Show us, help us!
- In scenario 2, does God require prayer?
- How does I Corinthians 13 affect your prayer if you exchange Love with God?