

three things i pray

"pray without ceasing." 1 thess 5:17

there's a plaque on my wall i have had for many years. it serves as a constant reminder of how i want to live my life. i didn't say i always live up to it, just that i strive to. all of us christians are striving to please our Lord if their heart is right. let us not settle in sin, but hate it as God hates it.

DAY BY DAY

THREE THINGS I PRAY

to see thee more clearly  
love thee more dearly  
follow thee more nearly

to see Thee more clearly  
"when You said, "seek My face," my heart said to You,  
"Your face, Lord, i will seek." psa 27:8

scripture tells us to seek His face and then it turns around and says, "you cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live." exo 33:20 is God purposely trying to confuse us?

what do we immediately think when we see someone?  
there's so and so; something about them that readily identifies them to us. it's facial recognition. it's knowing who someone is. well, God doesn't want us to just recognize Him from appearance. "for satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light." 2 cor 11:14

He wants us to recognize Him by who He is. our eyes can deceive us. even words may be perverted, as even now they are seeking to change the meaning of some. it is actions alone that must be our focal point. "even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit." matt 7:17

He wants us to recognize Him by the fruit of His doing. He wants us to be able to discern what is of God and what is not; to be able to say, "my God would not do that!" "those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." heb 5:14 even as a babe learns to recognize their parents by sight, we must learn to recognize our Lord by deeds. i can still recall the words of my mentor who got me into ministry. she used to say, "i know my Father's voice and another's i will not follow."

Love Thee more dearly

"you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength." deut 6:5

i guess that one is pretty much self-explanatory. God wants us to treasure Him as much as He treasures us. after all, did He not seek to create us in His own image? don't they say true beauty is not in someone's outward appearance, but what's inside that counts?

well, our God is beautiful both inside and out. one only needs to look at the jewels God adorned satan with before his fall. "every precious stone was your covering." eze 28:13 that which is created must surely have been created by a greater beauty. only a greater

beauty can even conceive of something as beautiful as satan must have been in his created state before pride entered in.

but we must not be that shallow to love only determinate on one's outward appearance. love overcomes all obstacles and makes even the unlovely lovable. is it no wonder that "love will cover a multitude of sins." 1 pet 4:8 out God is the epitome of love because He is love. our love, birthed as only a seed, will one day blossom into maturity, carrying with it the sweetest fragrance of all.

to follow Thee more nearly  
"for wherever you go, i will go; and wherever you lodge, i will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God." ruth 2:8

ruth could not be dissuaded. she was determined to follow this new life she was committed to and in so doing was rewarded with her boaz; her kinsman redeemer. her bloodline would now be forever mingled with the messiah; the creator of heaven and earth.

just as christians now must endure hardships and remain determined to follow, ruth also suffered ridicule and hardships until the day her kinsman redeemer claimed her as his bride. no longer would she suffer the slings and arrows of words or deeds. now she would be the envy of all others.

"brethren, i do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing i do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are

ahead, i press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." phil 3:13-14  
won't you press with me?

i want to see Him more clearly making me love Him more dearly which will make me determined to follow Him more nearly; all the way to the end - all the way through that narrow gate!