




1

“You can safely assume that you’ve created God in your own image when it turns out that God **hates all the same people you do.**”

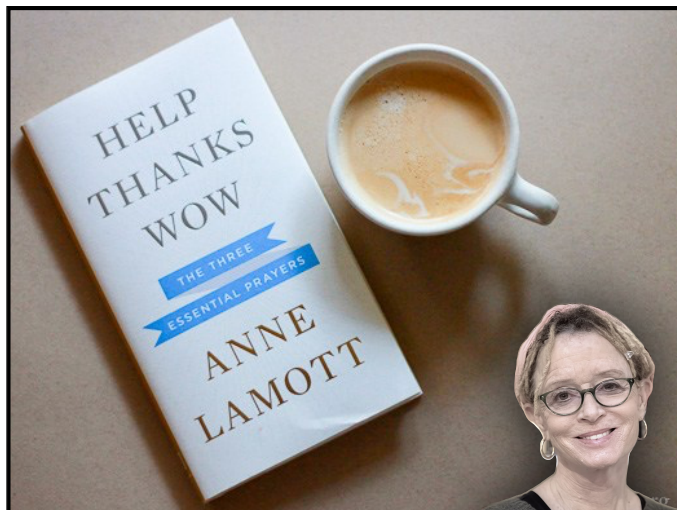
“One of the differences between you and God is that **God never thinks He is you.**”

“Three things I can’t change: **the past, the truth, & you.**”
I can only work on me.

Anne Lamott



2




3

“Help”
1 Peter 5:7

“casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.”

Our anguish, anxieties, & anger are **symptoms & signs** that we can **learn** a lot from

What do we **expect** God to do in caring for us?



4

Spiritual formation consists of:

Knowing ourselves
Accepting ourselves
Getting over ourselves
Sacrificially giving ourselves

Being in touch with our heart’s **core longings** is vital to knowing ourself.


Our core longings are for a **serenity, security, & significance**
found only in Christ,
that the world can’t give or take away.

5

Romans 8

“26 And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for **we do not know how to pray as we should**, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; 27 and **He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is**, because He intercedes for the saints **according to the will of God.**”

Do we realize that **“the mind of the Spirit”** may escape our mind?



6



John 14:14

“If you ask Me **anything** in My name, I will do it.”

The promise seems to be about the granting of any request.

But what does it mean to “ask in Jesus name”?



7

Psalms 37:4

“**Delight yourself in the LORD**, and he will give you **the desires of your heart**.”

How do we **delight** and what is our **desire**?

1 John 5

“¹⁴ And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything **according to His will**, He hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.”

Does “**His will**” refer to:

- our style,
- our faith,
- **or what we ask for?**



8

Colossians 1:3

“We **give thanks** to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **praying always for you**,”

CONTEXT

is key to hearing the Spirit’s voice in reading the Scripture.

1. **The circumstances** of the author and reader.
2. **The mood** of the author of Colossians.

9

Paul’s readers

then and now find it tempting to seek hope in something more than Christ.

Gnosticism (Jesus + New Age spirituality)

“2:3 **In him** are hidden all the treasures of wisdom & knowledge”

Docetism (Jesus + following his example)

“2:9 For **in him** the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily”

Judaizers (Legalism + keeping the Law)

“2:16-17 Let no one pass judgment on food, days, ... they are but a shadow of what is to come **in Christ**”

Syncretism (Jesus + psychology, politics, self-actualization, etc.)

“2:10 You have been filled **in him**.”

ETC.

Multiple heresies share one thing in common -

“Christ is not enough”!

10

Paul’s circumstances were challenging and unpleasant.

Ephesians 6

“¹⁹ and pray on my behalf, ... to **make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel**, ²⁰ for which I **am an ambassador in chains**; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, **as I ought to speak**.”

- He was in prison when he wrote Eph. & Col. & **later was beheaded in Rome under Nero.**
- He shows us that in the midst of & in spite of **any circumstance**

“Christ is enough”!

11

Jesus’ circumstances were challenging and unpleasant.

Luke 22:42

“Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from me; yet not My will, but Yours be done.”

Jesus (as a human) **modeled for us** the need to submit our will to God’s will.



12

Paul's mood
was joyful, peaceful, ministry focused

1 Corinthians 11:1

"Be **imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.**"

- He is teaching by reminding and modeling,
especially under the restrictions of prison.

Colossians 1:24

"Now **I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake,**"

1 Corinthians 15:19

"If we have **hoped in Christ in this life only,**
we are of all men most to be pitied."

"Christ is enough!"

13

In praying
it is better to have the right
heart in what we pray for
rather than

a strong faith in the
wrong means and for
the wrong things.

14

Colossians and Ephesians

Our wealth in Christ

ch. 1-2 (1-3)

Our walk in Christ

ch. 3-4 (4-6)

Colossians 1

"³ **We give thanks to God**, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ... ⁵ because of the **hope laid up for you in heaven**, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel,"

Ephesians 1

"¹⁶ (I) do not cease **giving thanks for you**, while making mention of you in my **prayers**; ... ¹⁸ so that you may know what is the **hope** of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His **inheritance** in the saints,"

15

Colossians and Ephesians

Our wealth in Christ

ch. 1-2 (1-3)

Our walk in Christ

ch. 3-4 (4-6)

Colossians 1:9

"For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased **to pray for you** and to ask that you may be **filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,**"

Ephesians 3

"¹⁴ For this reason, **I bow my knees** before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be **strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man;**"

16

Colossians and Ephesians

Our wealth in Christ

ch. 1-2 (1-3)

Our walk in Christ

ch. 3-4 (4-6)

Colossians 4

"³ **praying at the same time for us as well**, that God may open up to us a door for the word, **so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ**, for which I have also been imprisoned; ⁴ in order **that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.**"

Ephesians 6

"¹⁹ and **pray on my behalf**, that utterance may be given **to me** in the opening of my mouth, to **make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel**, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in **proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.**"

17

Colossians and Ephesians

Our wealth in Christ

ch. 1-2 (1-3)

Our walk in Christ

ch. 3-4 (4-6)

He is first giving
thanks for our

INHERITANCE
and **HOPE**
"in Christ".

He is also praying
that we grow
strong in

FAITH and LOVE.

He is finally praying
that we proclaim
with courage

the GOSPEL.

He prays that we will:

"get it"

"groom it"

"give it"

18

In prayer we give critical attention to:

- **style** (Lord's Prayer, tongues, posture, etc.),
- **time** (Meals, Bedtime, Always, etc.),
- **to whom** (Father, Son, H.S, Mary, saints),
- **faith** (expectations, passion, etc.)



. . . but too little critical
attention to:
for what.

"Christ is enough"!

19

Colossians

Next week
Col.1:3-12



20