

HOW BUSY IS GOD WHEN YOU PRAY?

I don't know about you of course, but there have been times when I have asked this question:

How 'on *earth*' can God hear all the prayers of all people at once?

How can He possibly be personally involved with my little life when He has the whole Universe (and maybe multi-verses) to control, as well as answering all the prayers of all the Saints?

Aren't we bothering Him sometimes?

Now of course this is a very human question and I am so very human. But maybe just maybe you have also asked this?

Let me tell you what my problem (was).

Like you I had been taught the vital importance of prayer, even continual prayer.

We are to have God in our thoughts at all times throughout the day, and not just on our knees.

But when I see the vast cathedrals with the attending priests, when I look up at the brilliance of the night sky or consider the complexity of the genome code, I am forced to ask along with King David 'What *is* man that you are mindful of him?'

However, I also read in James that when I draw near to God then He will draw near to *me*.

So *that's* encouraging for a start.

I so badly wanted to believe that God was there for me in a very personal way as the Bible indicated.

Therefore to help me further in my limited understanding I reasoned because we live on a round Earth that many seeking God in prayer would be asleep, thus not praying when I was!

I further reasoned that maybe those awake would not all be praying at the same time.

Still further – those who were praying when I was would not be praying about the same thing...

Now you might think I was paranoid, and perhaps you would be right. But can you see how my human reasoning had me limiting God?

I was only speaking from my experience - it's all I knew at the time.

This physical world is so easily the limit of our horizon based on our human experience alone.

Yet we are called to walk by faith not (only) by sight in these matters.

So there was the problem as I saw it.

We live in time and space.

God has put us in a playpen with certain restraints, and at the moment it's all we have experienced even though we know there is a fabulous future promised.

Physical dimensions bound us.

$E=MC^2$ would seem to mark out these boundaries for this physical episode in our continual life.

God has a Great Purpose in so doing.

But our Father is not limited.

God is not limited by the restraints we experience.

That does not imply His distance in terms of space or His distance in terms of time.

God is instant and is everywhere at all time, so He cannot be far from us. Therefore God has no such limitations as we do of space and time.

After all – He *created* these long with all the other dimensions!

The obvious conclusion to this is that God has all the time in the world for us when we pray.

So here is a key:

I am persuaded that when you and I go before the throne of the Universe (as we do) that we go *alone*.

We don't have all the time in the world – there is a train to catch, the children need to be taken to school, the telephone rings.

But God is not so encumbered.

He is the Creator of all after all!

Listen to what theologian A.W.Tozer says:

'An infinite God can give all of Himself to all of His children. He does not distribute Himself so that each may have a part, but to each one He gives all of Himself as fully as if there were no others'.

There! Isn't that so encouraging?

Gary Thomas in 'Sacred Pathways' says this:

'Look at the multitude of Creation. A forest has more plant and animal life than you could study in a lifetime, and shows us how God is capable of doing many things at once. Those who wonder how God can hear so many prayers simultaneously have been out of the forest too long.'

How well said.

So here is my conclusion of the matter.

God made time and space. At present it is all we really know.

We see things sequentially, one thing after another.

We can only do so many things at once, therefore we naturally think according to this experience.

But our God is not so obviously restrained.

When you come before Him He has all the time in the world for you.

You can spend as long as you like. *You* may not have all the time in the world, but He does!

He wants to hear from you and me *far* more than we want to be with Him, and we certainly *do* want to be with Him.

He is a very personal God who delights in His Creation of whom you are the pinnacle.

So let us be encouraged!

But remember: you have to share this One and Only personal Saviour and Creator with all your other brothers and sisters who are treated by God in exactly the same way.

What a Great God we serve. Let us never take Him for granted.