

The Spirit of Prayer...

“...With Groanings That Cannot Be Uttered”

The True Nature of Silent Prayer

THE VERY NATURE OF PRAYER IS UNRESTRICTIVE, UNIVERSAL, EVEN TO THE EXTENT OF GOING BEYOND LANGUAGE, BEYOND VERBAL COMMUNICATION, EXTENDING TO HIGHER SPIRITUAL HARMONICS THAT, AT TIMES, CANNOT BE QUANTIFIED IN SPEECH, EXCEPT IN THE TERMS AS ROMANS 8:26 TEACHES, CAN ONLY BE EXPRESSED IN “GROANINGS THAT CANNOT BE UTTERED”, AS OUR DIVINE MOTHER EXEMPLIFIES IN HER WORK FOR HUMANITY. SHE IS OUR HIGHEST EXAMPLE.

The truth is, LANGUAGE is universal, **but not always “audible”**. This can be especially true even in the inanimate objects of creation, in the range of language scarcely known even to science, that of the whole electromagnetic spectrum of light and beyond, as is testified in Scripture, the language of the heavenly luminaries. Some poetic writers testify that even “flowers have a prayer and a language all of their own”, a silent language, known only to the Creator, for the “whole creation GROANS, waiting for the manifestation of the Sons of YHWH” (Rom. 8). It is so that every THOUGHT has a frequency, a vibration, an inaudible communication, that transmits a message not unlike a radio transmitter. Holy angels record every message we transmit, the recording angel for each living soul, records not only actions but every thought of every living soul.

Isaiah 55 -

55:6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

55:7 **Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.**

55:8 For my thoughts [are] not your thoughts, neither [are] your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

55:9 For [as] the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Psalm 19 -

19:1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork.

19:2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge.

19:3 [There is] no speech nor language, [where] their voice is not heard.

19:4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, **and their words** to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, ...

The wonderful encouraging instruction from the prophets of old, teach us that prayer is our highest privilege, the key to the source for every blessing. Truly, prayer begins in the heart.

Luke 6:45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil **treasure of his heart** bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance **of the heart his mouth speaketh.**

1 Chron. 22:19 Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God; arise therefore, and build ye the sanctuary of the LORD God, to bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and the holy vessels of God, into the house that is to be built to the name of the LORD.

1 Kings 8:39 Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, **whose heart thou knowest;** (for thou, [even] **thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;**)

2 Chron. 6:8 But the LORD said to David my father, Forasmuch as it was in thine heart to build an house for my name, **thou didst well in that it was in thine heart:**

Psalm 19:14 Let the words of my mouth, **and the meditation of my heart**, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Jeremiah 30:24 The fierce anger of the LORD shall not return, until he have done [it], and until **he have performed the intents of his heart**: in the latter days ye shall consider it.

Hebrew 4:12 For the word of God [is] quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] **a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart**.

Proverbs 16:23 - **The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth**, and addeth learning to his lips.

Proverbs 21:2 - Every way of a man [is] right in his own eyes: **but the LORD pondereth the hearts**.

Certainly, as the above Scriptures reveal, the heart does indeed speak, inaudibly, before the mouth utters the words. As the old saying goes, “actions speak louder than words”. Sometimes a mere glance, a slight gesture of the face, the eyes, the hand, can communicate clear instructions. The mind and the heart are inseparable, as Yahshua taught, to guard our thoughts, for the heart is the wellspring of life. This vital connection in the life of the believer, between the heart, the mind and the mouth is the spiritual chain of command as it is written:

"With the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." - Rom. 10:10.

This verse however is specific, in confession of salvation, for example, audible confession that “Yahshua is YHVH” (Jesus is LORD), however this is by no means a general statement of instruction or prohibition in regards to silent prayer. The fact of the matter is, there is NO Scripture to command that ONLY audible prayer is acceptable to our Divine Parents, any more than there is Scriptural injunction

against silent prayer. It is clear however, that what is most important to our Elohim is the condition and communication of the heart, first and foremost. Certainly, it is the heart, even the soul, that is the prime transmitter of prayer to the YAH of Heaven. The fact that Ellen White did encourage silent prayer, as shown in her writings, reveals a deeper issue that must be uncovered.

It is evident, PRAYER, IS NOT ALWAYS REQUIRED TO BE AUDIBLE. THERE IS NO COMMAND TO ALWAYS SPEAK IN PRAYER. NOWHERE IN SCRIPTURE ARE WE WARNED AGAINST SILENT PRAYER. This being so, to construct a teaching against such a DIVINE OPTION (silent prayer), and at times a necessity, based upon the circumstances, we need to look closer at

AN EMERGING ISSUE

“To the Law and to the Testimony, --- if they speak not according to this word there is no light in them” Isaiah 8:20.

“The TESTIMONY of Yahshua is the Spirit of Prophecy” - Rev. 19:10.

2 Peter 1:19 "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, **and the day star arise in your hearts:**

1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake [as they were] moved by the Holy Ghost.

From the Pen of Inspiration:

“We may commune with God in our hearts; we may walk in companionship with Christ. When engaged in our daily labor, **we may breathe out our heart’s desire, inaudible to any human ear; but that word cannot die away into silence, nor can it be lost.** Nothing can drown the soul’s desire. It rises above the din of the street, above the noise of machinery. It is God to whom we are speaking, and our prayer is heard. “ {Pr 7.2}

When reviewing the above statement of prayer from Ellen White let us consider if there is any spiritual or moral issue therein evident, any taint of error in this statement or a myriad of other similar statements? Is there any Scriptural prohibition or warning to such a method of petition to our Divine source? No, there is not.

The “emerging issue” here is this. First, it is the issue of undermining confidence in the general counsels and commentaries of the Spirit of Prophecy. **Ellen White’s many statements on silent prayer in particular CANNOT be proven wrong, either on a moral basis or on a Scriptural basis.**

Remember, absence of direct evidence proves nothing, unless there is a moral issue or a spiritual issue. Her statement on prayer is not a doctrinal position, not a prophetic statement in the least. It is a statement of RELATIONSHIP between the believer and the Creator. There should be no controversy on a point that no one in their right spiritual mind would want to controvert, would think to controvert, attempting to intervene between our sovereign spiritual duty to individually communicate with our Savior, based on our needs, based upon any given circumstance of life, to pray either audibly or inaudibly.

Who is any man to say so, to say otherwise, particularly in direct opposition with the established and historical Pen of Inspiration? Remember, “the spirits of the prophets are SUBJECT to the prophets”. 1 Corinthians 14:32

NEXT ISSUE – SOLA SCRIPTURA!

“The Bible and the Bible ALONE”. This is indeed a fine line issue, a somewhat sensitive issue, because is it based on a true principle, yet, we must be careful here. Ellen White does indeed teach that our doctrines should be based on the Bible alone, or words to that effect, major doctrines YES, but commentary, not always. Such a cry to base our teaching on SCRIPTURE ALONE can and does lead to rejection of the “TESTIMONY” of Yahshua (Rev. 19:10). This was the case historically with Desmond Ford and 300 SDA ministers who followed him to reject the PLATFORM of the whole Advent Movement.

Although Ellen White does in fact uphold a basis of “Sola Scriptura”, not so much the Bible ALONE, but the Bible FIRST as the basis of all key doctrinal positions. Her position is in harmony with “the LAW (Scripture) and the TESTIMONY (Spirit of Prophecy).”

You see, mainstream Christianity today raises the same issue, that of “Sola Scriptura”, not in a correct way however, for they reject any counsel from the “Pen of Inspiration”. But the instruction of 2 Peter 1:19 is clear, “we have a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed,” The Advent Movement today has this “more sure word of prophecy” in the Pen of Ellen White, Victor Houteff, Ben Roden, Lois Roden, and the office of today!

Case in point: Where did Ellen White get the idea of “**a glorious star** containing Jesus new name”, in Early Writings page 15, when she is referencing the three seals of Revelation 3:12. YET, there is no “glorious star” mentioned in Revelation 3:12. Ellen White was given a “more sure word of prophecy”, although NOT expressly stated in Revelation 3:12, yet NOT in the least in conflict with the verse in Revelation, or in the spirit of the verse and the truth of the THREE Seals.

The bottom line here is: With those who receive the Three Seals of Revelation 3:12, it is “to the Law **AND** to the **Testimony**”; not truly “Sola Scriptura”.

Ellen White says concerning herself in relation to the Bible:

"Lay Sister White right to one side: lay her to one side. Don't you never quote my words again as long as you live, until you can obey the Bible. When you take the Bible and make that your food, and your meat, and your drink, and make that the elements of your character, when you can do that you will know better how to receive some counsel from God. But here is the Word, the precious Word, exalted before you today. And don't you give a rap any more what 'Sister White said' -- 'Sister White said this,' and 'Sister White said that,' and 'Sister White said the other thing.' But say, 'Thus saith the Lord God of Israel,' and then you do just what the Lord God of Israel does, and what he says." - SpM 167.2

"But don't you quote Sister White. I don't want you ever to quote Sister White until

you get your vantage ground where you know where you are. Quote the Bible. Talk the Bible. It is full of meat, full of fatness. Carry it right out in your life, and you will know more Bible than you know now. You will have fresh matter - O, you will have precious matter; you won't be going over and over the same ground, and you will see a world saved." - SpM 174.1

The principle that Sister White taught the church was to never use her words in place of Scripture, certainly on any major topic of our faith.

THE HEART – GRAND CENTRAL STATION, THE SEAT OF COMMUNICATION

Why do people talk to themselves? Why was Abraham's servant in effect talking to himself, in his heart, when Rebecca came to the well? Oh, I don't think Abraham's servant was really talking to himself, he was in verity praying silently to YAH to fulfill his mission. The mincing of words in Genesis 24:45, as to the word "in" or "to" is in this context the same meaning. The servant was speaking "in" or "to" his heart because there was his master's Elohim, directing him, listening to him, fulfilling the prayer and the oath of the faithful servant. So, we must not think that the Elohim of Abraham was not listening in to the servant's sincere prayer, or even just the deep desire of his heart to fulfill his master's will?

1 Kings 8:39 - Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, [even] **thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;**)

Matthew 13:15 - For this people's heart is waxed gross, and [their] ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with [their] eyes and hear with [their] ears, **and should understand with [their] heart,** and should be converted, and I should heal them.

Question: Do people understand with their mind ONLY? Apparently not, at least not of itself (the mind) since the mind and the heart are rather inseparable, at

least in the Divine economy. That which Yahshua is most interested is “the heart”, the seat of the mind, every true desire. This is where Yahshua and the Most High are looking to communicate with us. The words of men, of humanity, can be illusory, misleading, and at certain times, in a state of great emotion, even confusion, where there may be no words that can rightly represent what is felt in the heart, but the condition and very words of the heart reveal everything to Elohim. This is why our Divine Mother “makes intercession with GROANINGS that cannot be UTTERED.”

Deuteronomy 30:6 - **And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart**, and the heart of thy seed, **to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart**, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.

Ezekiel 11:19 - And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take **the stony heart** out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:

1 Thes. 3:13 - To the end he may **stablish your hearts** unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

It is evident that the seat of Divine interest, the place of universal communication, is in the seat of the HEART.

THIS IS WHY THE SERVANT OF ABRAHAM WAS SPEAKING “IN” OR “TO” HIS HEART, TO FULFILL HIS MISSION. DIVINE AGENCIES LOOK FOR THE HEART THAT IS IN TUNE WITH HEAVEN, THE HEART THAT RESONATES WITH HEAVENLY PRINCIPLES.

General Review

There are two known examples of silent prayer:

"Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken." - 1 Sam. 1:13

Hannah was "in bitterness of soul" (1 Sam. 9:10) which was so agonizing that she could not utter a sound. Even then though, her lips still moved in the prayer. The record has it that her prayer was not ignored by heaven, and that it was indeed answered in the positive.

The other example is that of Abraham's servant while at the well to find a wife for Isaac:

"And before I had done speaking in my heart, behold, Rebekah come forth with her pitcher on her shoulder; and she went down unto the well, and drew water: and I said unto her, Let me drink, I pray thee." - Gen. 24:45

We are admonished in Scripture to:

"Pray without ceasing." - 1 Thessalonians 5:17

This above verse speaks for itself, without any provision, stipulations, or rider, that is, to PRAY, any which way you can, either verbal, non-verbal, or written.

"For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, *do not cease to pray for you*, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding." Colossians 1:9

"For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;" Romans 1:9

These verses again show the basis of Scripture on this point of prayer, either verbal or non-verbal, that also would include silent prayer.

"Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress: have mercy upon me and hear my prayer." - Psalm 4:1

"Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my meditation.
Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray."

My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up." Psalm 5:1-3

"Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth." Psalm 54:2

"Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice." Psalm 55:17

These few verses are but a small representation of a much larger collection of scriptures speaking plainly on the audible nature of true prayer.

These Scriptures above do evidence the validity and need of AUDIBLE PRAYER, yet these verses say nothing to discredit silent prayer, not in the least.

We also briefly discussed the role of angels in bringing our prayers to heaven as mentioned by Ellen White. For example:

"Heaven is brought near to earth by that mystic ladder, the base of which is firmly planted on the earth, while the topmost round reaches the throne of the Infinite. Angels are constantly ascending and descending this ladder of shining brightness, bearing the prayers of the needy and distressed to the Father above, and bringing blessings and hope, courage and help, to the children of men." - Acts of the Apostles p. 153

In the open and ethical nature of the Father's character, all things are done in a honest, forthright, upfront, candid, judicial process, so that all the free moral agents of the creation, angels in particular, can see the Father has been FAIR, open, honest, and subject to His own laws and principles. It is certain that Deity, all of the Divine Family, knows all things, for They are omniscient, YET the Divine Family waits for the report from eyewitnesses (recording angels) before acting, before a decision is made.

The Divine Family knew well the secret intentions of Lucifer in the first rebellion. They could have ended it immediately, yet They waited to see who would be true and faithful, letting each one make their decision, then, at a certain time, waited for a report from the Archangel, that it was time to drive out the rebels, that the

accusations against the Divine character had gone far enough, a line had been crossed. It was at this time “there was war in heaven”. The Father’s waiting for confirmation from the angelic report was not in vain, but rather manifests His character to let the process unfold in an open, judicial and notarized manner. It is the same with prayers carried to Heaven.

The Heavenly Family could do it all, without any help. If this was the case however what work would the angels have to perform? This in light of the whole creation looking on, I say that there is no vain or superfluous effort or process in the Heavenly Family in dealing with sin and its record. In a sense, THEY do answer to the whole of creation, in preservation of the spirit of love, free-will, heartfelt worship and service, by and to every free moral agent, to all created beings.

We are also told that "Satan cannot read our thoughts, but he can see our actions, hear our words; and from his long knowledge of human family, he can shape his temptations to take advantage of our weak points of character." - RH, May 19, 1891 par. 9

Also, "Satan has his evil angels around us: and though they cannot read men's thoughts, they closely watch their words and actions." Gospel Workers (1892) p. 417

One brother stated that “since Satan, who was the highest of angels, cannot read our thoughts that it would not be without reason to assume that ALL angels cannot read our thoughts. If this was so, when one prays only in his head how is it that the angels will know what to bring to the Father?”

The statements from Inspiration cannot be read into or misread to think the limitations placed on Satan and his angels also apply to the **holy** angels.

The holy angels are given the task and the ability to record every action and every thought of every living soul to complete the Divine record, for the purpose of the judgment, the books of heaven (Dan. 7:10).

We are the property of the Creator, both the righteous and the wicked, and it is His RIGHT to know all this is going on in His/Their creation, for the good of the

creation, the same as it is the RIGHT for an employer to know what communications you are doing on their computers at work, on the employers time as well.

The Creator has a Divine judicial process, that “in the mouth of two or three witnesses a thing is established”. If Deity ONLY can read our thoughts then it would be unfair to indict, prosecute or charge a sinner with a sinful thought for instance, because then the CREATOR ONLY would have the evidential knowledge of the sin, particularly of hidden sin!

The Creator cannot violate His own law and judicial process. Look at the earthly judicial system. Is mans’ judicial process more fair than the Divine judicial process? The book of Job asks this question about three times. “Is mortal man more JUST than Eloah?” It is a rhetorical question, but the answer is NO. The holy angels do indeed have the ability to RECORD our every conscious thought, even our dreams. There is no gap in the Divine record of sin, comprehensive in every aspect and manifestation. It is evident that there are actually at least two Divine records of every action and every event, every thought of our lives:

1) The recording Angel, and by extension the “books of heaven”.

2) In the mind of every person is a record, our own memory, a perfect record of our lives which is never lost, even in death. Many who die, or almost completely die clinically, state universally that their WHOLE life passes before them at the instant of death or at the point just before complete unconsciousness. I believe this event at death is an event of uploading for storage, for a testimony, as a complete record of our lives. This is by Divine design for every person who has lived, for the books of Heaven. Our own words and actions will either testify for us or against us one day in the heavenly record.

3) In the laws of physics, the law of conservation states that NOTHING is ever lost. No form of energy is ever lost, whether of light, motion, radiation or sound, two of which are key recording processes. This being a true law of physics, even the energy of thought is never lost. The energy of sin will one day be destroyed by a direct act of the Creator. Nevertheless, all forms of energy can ONLY be changed, not destroyed or lost. Cosmologists have proven that the very SOUND of creation

STILL reverberates in the cosmos in the form of microwaves. We should not think for a moment that Divine ingenuity has only a single way or just a couple of means to record every event in creation and every event of every human life.

In summary:

The blessing of silent prayer in particular is that it can be accomplished no matter what circumstance in life one may face, whether for an injured person if they were unable to pray in an instant of deep circumstantial crisis or someone who is paralyzed, had a stroke, in a state of shock, aphasic, unable to speak, etc..

Since Deity can read minds then certainly They can also read the heart since these two organs are strongly interconnected. As I have presented in the first half of this study, it is the “heart” that our Divine mediators are most interested in for our redemption.

In the face of Scripture example and Spirit of Prophecy counsel on silent prayer, some very clear statements, we may find comfort in our relationship with the Heavenly Family, no matter what circumstance we face in life.

There is a compilation by Ellen White on the topic of “Prayer”, so titled.

Let us close with these few statements:

LINKED WITH GOD THROUGH PRAYER.— “It is a wonderful thing that we can pray effectually; that unworthy, erring mortals possess the power of offering their requests to God. What higher power can man desire than this,—to be linked with the infinite God? Feeble, sinful man has the privilege of speaking to his Maker. We may utter words that reach the throne of the Monarch of the universe. We may speak with Jesus as we walk by the way, and He says, I am at thy right hand.” {Pr 7.1}

“We may commune with God in our hearts; we may walk in companion-ship with Christ. When engaged in our daily labor, we may breathe out our heart’s desire, inaudible to any human ear; but that word cannot die away into silence, nor can it be lost. Nothing can drown the soul’s desire. It rises above the din of the street,

above the noise of machinery. It is God to whom we are speaking, and our prayer is heard.” {Pr 7.2}

“Ask, then; ask, and ye shall receive. Ask for humility, wisdom, courage, increase of faith. To every sincere prayer an answer will come. It may not come just as you desire, or at the time you look for it; but it will come in the way and at the time that will best meet your need. The prayers you offer in loneliness, in weariness, in trial, God answers, not always according to your expectations, but always for your good.”—(Gospel Workers, 258.) {Pr 7.3}

“An intensity such as never before was seen is taking possession of the world. In amusement, in moneymaking, in the contest for power, in the very struggle for existence, there is a terrible force that engrosses body and mind and soul. In the midst of this maddening rush, God is speaking. He bids us come apart and commune with Him. “Be still, and know that I am God.” Psalm 46:10. {Pr 320.1}

“Many, even in their seasons of devotion, fail of receiving the blessing of real communion with God. They are in too great haste. With hurried steps they press through the circle of Christ’s loving presence, pausing perhaps a moment within the sacred precincts, but not waiting for counsel. They have no time to remain with the divine Teacher. With their burdens they return to their work.” {Pr 320.2}

“These workers can never attain the highest success until they learn the secret of strength. They must give themselves time to think, to pray, to wait upon God for a renewal of physical, mental, and spiritual power. They need the uplifting influence of His Spirit. Receiving this, they will be quickened by fresh life. The wearied frame and tired brain will be refreshed, the burdened heart will be lightened.” {Pr 320.3}

We must, in order to be over comers, cultivate the spirit and the attitude of prayer in all things, every action of daily living, every waking moment.

Shalom and Blessings, your fellow servant in the service of The BRANCH

