

# Gospel Reflections | June 2012

6-3-12

Real faith is not self-righteous, arrogant, or presumptuous. But neither is it feeble and mealy-mouthed. We are never instructed to pray saying, "Dear Jesus, I'm sorry to bother you. You're busy. You may not even be able to help. I'm not sure I have the right guy. You probably have more important people to attend to. But if you can, and if you don't mind, and if you have a few moments, could you consider my problems?" Jesus loves gutsy faith much more than he loves safe faith. In fact, there is nothing Jesus likes more in the gospels than desperate people expressing their humble confidence that he can take care of anything. Just look at the woman with twelve year's of bleeding, the Centurion with an ill servant, or the Canaanite lady with the sick girl. They all asked for much and Jesus praised them for it. -Kevin DeYoung

6-10-12

If you are in need, and without resources to help yourself, I'm sorry. The feeling of helplessness is painful. If you are strong, confident, able-bodied and competent, it won't last forever. Whatever your stage of life, whatever your experience, know that God is not disappointed or annoyed by your brokenness. Rather, he is your help when you are helpless, he is your strength in your weakness, he gives pardon to the sinner, he gives grace to the broken, he bestows love on the unlovable, and he gives rest to the weary.-Matt Johnson

6-17-12

Knowing and enjoying God is one of the greatest aims of worship. We do not have to separate ourselves from him in our temptation, or even our sin. Instead, we can draw near to our understanding Lord who is able to sympathize with and redeem us. Ultimately, his grace is sufficient and covers our past, present, and future sins. So, this battle is for our freedom and joy in Christ, and not a battle over our salvation.

That alone has been secured in Jesus. Next time you face temptation, think of it as an invitation to worship. -Casey Cease

6-24-12

Awe of God should in some way motivate everything I do and say. Awe of God should be the reason I do what I do with my thoughts. It should be the reason I desire what I desire. Awe of God should be the reason I treat my wife the way I do and parent my children in the manner I do. It should be the reason I function the way I do at my job or handle my finances the way I do. It should structure the way I think about possessions, positions, and power. Awe of God should shape and motivate my relationship with my extended family and neighbors. Awe of God should give direction to the way I live as a citizen of the wider community. It should form the way I think about myself and my expectations of others. Awe of God should lift me out of my darkest moments of discouragement and be the source of my most exuberant celebrations. Awe of God should make me more self-aware and more mournful of my sin, while it makes me more patient with and tender toward the weakness of others. It should give me courage I would find no other way, and wisdom to know when I am out of my league. Awe of God is meant to rule every domain of my existence.-Paul Tripp