***From Duty to Delight in Prayer***

Many loved Jesus, but dreaded spending time in prayer. Prayer was seen as a necessary duty to be endured one wanted to receive more blessing. Although it can start as a duty it can develop into a prayer life if one will want to experience the deeper things of God and enter into the fullness of that calling.

For me I read books on prayer; especially memorable are those by Leonard Ravenhill and E. M. Bounds, who wrote some of the classics on prayer and revival. After reading their books, I was even more convinced of my need to grow in prayer, but the thought was daunting.

The books inspired me, but left me feeling guilty. I felt spiritually “stuck” and desperate for a breakthrough.

I learned a new perspective on prayer and —on what prayer is and why the Lord insists on it. I began to see prayer as much more than a religious duty to endure. I learned that it is a place of encounter, a way to receive blessing, an expression of partnership with God, and much more.

**Prayer is a Place of Encounter**

At first many thought of prayer as being mostly results-oriented. It is imagined that the Lord wanted us to “endure” talking to Him to prove dedication. Or paying the price, and if we endured it long enough, He would give me the blessing I asked for.

First of all, prayer is about encountering God and growing in relationship with Him. It is the means by which we most feel His presence and receive love from Him as we gain understanding of what He is like. In prayer we position ourselves to receive fresh insight into His heart as new desires are formed in our hearts.

Prayer positions us to be energized to love—to love God and people.

We all have learned to love praying to some degree! And as we gain a stronger relationship with God in Jesus, we begin to allow Holy Spirit to lead us in the many different paths of prayer or many ways we spend time talking to God!

Do you know He enjoys so much to talk to us more than we enjoy talking to Him?

Think about that!