

The Park Church
Adult Study Group
“Praying the Lord’s Prayer”
Rev. Wayne E. Gustafson, D.Min.

Line 2 – “Clearing Space for the Name to Live”
February 17, 2008

Questions and Comments from last class

1. Clearing a Space for the Name to Live – Letting go to clear a holy place inside for our realization of *Abwoon* to live.

nethqadash shmakh
Hallowed be thy name

shmakh –

Root words: *shm* - Light, sound, vibration, name or word.

“In this sense, one’s name included one’s sound, vibration, or atmosphere, and names were carefully given and received.”

This use of *-shm-* (*shmakh*) here is more specific and will be made Holy, not only in the Universe (*-shmaya*), but “inside” as well.

nethqadash –

Root word: *qadash* – Holy, set apart, separated for a special purpose.

So, to Hallow God’s Name means to create a space within, a temple, where the “still small voice” can be heard.

Clearing the space within of all clutter and noise makes it possible for us to use the “light, sound, vibration, name, or word” in practical ways.

Abwoon not only vibrates and creates throughout the universe, but is also “real” within our hearts.

Another way to say this is that the Name of *Abwoon* vibrates through the universe, but we can only directly experience its reality in that sacred space we have created within us.

“Enclosing the light in a separate space helps focus and magnify it. In the same sense, when we create a separate, sacred space for the name, sound, or atmosphere of Sacred Unity, this helps intensify its effects in our lives”

Douglas-Klotz, *The Hidden Gospel*.

Also, it is from that holy space within that the light of *Abwoon* shines out upon all around us.

The activity of prayer is actually opening up a space in the busy-ness of our internal and external lives where we connect with God. “Historically, Western culture has not created space very well. Since the time that it forgot that nature itself is sacred, the West’s overwhelming impulse has been to fill space, not create it.”

The Hidden Gospel

Mystical Prayer

The purpose of this line of the prayer is to clear away enough clutter so that the “Name” has a place within us to live, to be experienced, and to be held as sacred.

- In your own relaxed breathing, you create space for the spirit to “fall in” to you as you release the clutter by exhaling. (This is what Jesus may have meant by praying in your closet.) When Jesus told his disciples to go into a closet to pray, he did not necessarily mean a small, enclosed space. It was a space that was closed off from the intrusiveness of the world so the one praying could be open to the sacred spaciousness where the creative connection with God takes place.

If you choose, you can use the Aramaic words to focus your prayer, feeling the sound “*nethqadash*” as you breathe in and “*shmakh*” as you breathe out.

- Once you have done it, any time you notice your breathing, you can be brought back to that sacred place where you experience connection with *abwoon*.
- “Making Holy” is a process. Whenever you breathe in this intentional way, you will experience that some of “You” is in the holy space and some of “You” feels separate or cut off. Notice what is in and what is out. Over time, notice how the situation changes.

Holiness is not the exclusive possession of some people over others. It is a process that continues in us as we create the conditions for it. Holiness is not a badge of honor; it is simply what results when we intentionally create holy space within.

Reading List

Prayers of the Cosmos: Meditations on the Aramaic Words of Jesus, Translation and Commentary by Neil Douglas-Klotz, Harper San Francisco, 1990.

The Hidden Gospel: Decoding the Spiritual Message of the Aramaic Jesus, Neil Douglas-Klotz, Quest Books, Wheaton, IL, 1999.