

**Devotional Thoughts :: I asked the Lord that I might grow by Arthur Pink**

I asked the Lord that I might grow by Arthur Pink - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2008/12/17 9:13

I asked the Lord that I might grow

(Arthur Pink, "Experimental Preaching" 1937)

"Make Your ways known to me, Lord; teach me Your paths. Guide me in Your truth and teach me." Psalm 25:4-5

There are two ways of learning of Divine things. The one is to acquire a letter knowledge of them from the Bible, the other is to be given an actual experience of them in the soul, under the Spirit's teaching.

Many suppose that by spending a few minutes in a concordance, they can discover what humility is; that by studying certain passages of Scriptures, they may obtain an increase of faith; or that by reading and re-reading a certain chapter, they may secure more love.

But that is not the way those graces are experimentally developed. Humility is learned by a daily smarting under the plague of the heart, and having its innumerable abominations exposed to our view. Repentance is learned by feeling the load of guilt, and the heavy burden of conscious defilement, bowing down the soul. Faith is learned by increasing discoveries of unbelief and infidelity. Love is learned by a personal sense of the undeserved goodness of God to the vilest of the vile. Patience cannot be learned from books--it is acquired in the furnace of affliction! It is thus with all the spiritual graces of the Christian.

Ah, my reader, we beg the Lord to teach us--but the fact is, that we do not like His method of teaching us! Fiery trials, storms of afflictions, the dashing of our carnal hopes--are indeed painful to flesh and blood; yet it is by them that the heart is purified.

We say that we wish to live to God's glory--but fail to remember that we can do so only as SELF is denied and the Cross be taken up. God's ways of teaching His children are, like all His ways, entirely different from ours!

I asked the Lord that I might grow,
In faith and love and every grace,
Might more of His salvation know,
And seek more earnestly His face.

It was He who taught me thus to pray,
And He I trust has answered prayer.
But it has been in such a way,
As almost drove me to despair!

I hoped that in some favored hour,
At once He'd answer my request.
And by His love's constraining power,
Subdue my sins and give me rest!

Instead of this, He made me feel,
The hidden evils of my heart.
And let the angry powers of hell,
Assault my soul in every part!

Yes, more with His own hand, He seemed,
Intent to aggravate my woe.
Crossed all the fair designs I schemed,
Blasted my gourds, and laid me low!

"Lord, why is this?" I trembling cried.
Will You pursue Your worm to death?"
"This is the way" the Lord replied,
"I answer prayer for grace and strength."

"These inward trials I employ,
From self, and pride, to set you free;
And break your schemes of earthly joy,
That you may find your all in Me!"
--John Newton

Re: I asked the Lord that I might grow by Arthur Pink - posted by tjservant (), on: 2008/12/17 12:34

Quote:
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Good stuff.

Re: I asked the Lord that I might grow by Arthur Pink - posted by JoanM, on: 2008/12/17 15:26

Oh the many Advents in Life. I love the way the Lord teaches, specific, alive. "The Lord said TO ME" and it was done. Ron Bailey brushed against this at Greenock (Grace: imparted enabling). "The Word of the Lord": Art Katz, in the current featured sermon, sharpens the difference in a specific application. I am so grateful Saints speak of these things.

"Make Your ways known to me, Lord; teach me Your paths. Guide me in Your truth and teach me." Psalm 25:4-5

Sure both dead and living men profit from learning and obeying the Word of God -- but there is a world of difference. There is no application of abstract principles, no guidance at a distance, no remote control. It is in the fiery furnace that you come to know absolutely nothing matters but Christ in the furnace. That delivers. Memorizing scripture can be helpful. God does use that. It equips the living. Knowing the Word by heart, in the direct reality of it personally, that is Life.

The Word of their (our) testimony may be a short list but that list overcomes like no volume of sermons. I am so grateful Saints speak of these things. I thank God for the Blood.

Re: - posted by theopenlife, on: 2008/12/17 23:01

Thanks, Greg, that was much needed.

Re: - posted by theopenlife, on: 2008/12/19 2:13

I made an audio version of this, for download:

(http://www.michaelspotts.com/gratisaudio/audio_files/excerpts/Pink_A_W/Pink_A_W_I_asked_the_Lord_that_I_might_grow.mp3) I asked the Lord that I might grow.mp3