



Scared Prayers

Steve Brown

I heard a story about a farmer who was working with his son out in the field as a tornado moved toward their farm. He could hear his son begin frantically praying behind him and the farmer said, “Run son—a scared prayer ain’t worth spit!”

That farmer didn’t know what he was talking about. I do my best praying when I’m scared! That’s when I’ve repented of all my sins, made promises that I’ll do better and forgiven everybody who drove me nuts. Scared prayers are also when I hear from God.

First, when I’m in panic mode, God tells me to get over myself.

Years ago, I wrote in one of my Bibles, “You wouldn’t be so shocked at your own sin if you didn’t have such a high opinion of yourself.” It’s kind of like that but with a twist—“You wouldn’t be so scared if you didn’t have such a high opinion of your importance.”

That’s what Paul referred to when he wondered why he had to deal with his “thorn in the flesh.” God showed Paul that it was for his sake that he not become conceited. And that God’s “grace is sufficient for you, for my [God’s] power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9). When John

the Baptist said that Jesus must increase and John must decrease (John 3:30), that wasn’t an action. It was a simple recognition that John was little and Jesus was big.

One of the dangers of social media is that everybody gets a microphone and an audience. The mantra is “Keep talking until something comes to mind.” It doesn’t matter if it’s hateful, shallow or divisive...as long as you just keep talking. That can happen to all of us and especially preachers.

It’s so easy to start thinking that “everything is about me.” That leads to the thought that everything depends on me and every success or failure in my life is

a big deal because...well, because I’m so important.

We are all valuable, but it’s a long journey from there to thinking that the world rests on our shoulders.

That’s why it’s a very good practice to meditate on God’s holiness. It reminds us that he is big and we are little. He is infinite and we are finite. He is eternal and we tarry here just a little while. He is in control and we are not.

That’s not a bad thing. It’s what the Psalmist meant when he wrote, “My eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me. But I have calmed and quieted



...Better to face the fact that it won't fit because God doesn't want it to fit.

my soul, like a weaned child with its mother..." (Psalm 131:1-2).

So, when I'm in panic mode, it's helpful to remember that what I say, do and think aren't nearly as important as I sometimes believe.

Second, when I'm in panic mode, it's also helpful to remember that not only is God big and I'm not, but he is in control even if it doesn't feel like it to me.

I like to be in control but God won't allow it because we can't both be in control. That might make my panic mode even worse, but if "I go with God's flow" no matter what it is that he—a sovereign God—has ordained, things will be okay. It won't necessarily be pleasant or to my liking, but it is what is best.

Just Make it Fit

Our daughter Jennifer and her husband Jim came up with a new family slogan. They were working on a puzzle and couldn't get some of the pieces to fit. One of their young daughters said, "Just make it fit."

So that has become the banner over their household. "Just make it fit!" That's funny, but it's not a good life goal. Better to face the fact that it won't fit because God doesn't want it to fit. Then go to a movie instead.

Third, when I'm in panic mode, it helps to remember that God really likes me.

Jesus said, "Come to me all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest...for my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

When the Bible talks about "remission of sin" it means that all evidence of sin has been removed. So, in God's presence there is no evidence of anything but goodness—Christ's goodness put into my account. Why shouldn't God like me? ☐

Steve Brown, is an author, professor and president of Key Life Network.

Listen to Greg 7 days a week!



CWR audio



Podcast

Join us daily and listen to audio teaching from Greg Albrecht from a grace-based, Christ-centered perspective on your phone, tablet or iPad.

For an easy-to-follow listening guide, visit ptm.org/audioinstructions

or search CWR/PTM on any of these podcast formats:

- * Apple/iTunes
- * Amazon/TuneIn
- * Google Podcasts
- * Spotify Podcasts
- * Sticher Podcasts

Now you can listen to podcasts by Greg Albrecht seven days a week!

Plain Truth Radio — Monday through Friday. Programs produced to play on radio stations available every day of the working week.

CWR Unplugged — Saturday. Our latest podcast, an impromptu, off-the-cuff discussion of a relevant and timely topic.

Christianity Without the Religion Audio — Sunday. Once-a-week sermons, complete with music, prayers and communion.

Join us any and every day of the week!