



“Should we be nervous talking to God ?” - Part II

Last month in Part I of my answer, I referred to Martin Luther’s reminder in his Small Catechism explanation of the Lord’s Prayer. When we come to the all-mighty and holy God in the name of Jesus, (with faith in Him) we can indeed approach God unafraid - as children approach a father who they know loves them and wants only what is best for them.

There is a cautionary ‘flip-side’ to approaching God, thus the need for a “Part II” to the answer.

When we approach our all-loving heavenly Father we cannot forget that He’s also God (and that we are not)! In other words, we need to remember that we are not coming to someone who is our equal. We are not coming to someone to whom we can dictate terms. Rather, we should to come to Him with the greatest respect and in humbleness. So, for example, you should be nervous approaching God with an “If you’ll do such-and-such for me, then I’ll do such-and-such for you,” attitude, because that’s not prayer. That’s “Let’s make a deal.” That’s treating God as though He’s your equal.

One great way to set our attitude right as we come to God is to start prayer by asking His forgiveness for your sins - specific sins. First of all, it’s pretty humbling to admit to your Father that you’ve blown it. And secondly, confession also reminds us that we are approaching the Throne of Grace (Hebrews 4:16) not the Throne of “You Owe Me One.” With a humble attitude we find a God who delights in showing mercy and grace and who promises to forgive our sins, and who knows exactly what we need, and exactly when we need it.

In short, always approach God in prayer keeping in mind that He hears and answers our prayers in the absolute best way - not because we are good, but because He is good. Not because He owes us what we ask for, but because He knows us and what we need.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net