

November 2019

God's eternal nature and divinity

“Seeking God” is the theme of our watchmen prayer letters in this autumn of 2019. The **September** letter revealed to us the spiritual value of seeking the heart of God in our prayers, with the earnest desire in us – awakened by God himself – to want to be with HIM, near, very near and ever nearer.

In **October** Markus Egli opened our eyes to what God now is doing in the world. He led us from seeking God's presence for ourselves personally towards seeking God's presence in and between the nations. To recognise the hand of God in politics and history and to see that in fact this is the way God reveals himself prophetically from Old Testament times until today. Markus discovered that we – now especially concerning Israel! – are seeing God relating in a new way, which means “a new time” has begun.

Our seeking in **November** is now directed towards God HIMSELF: to his eternal nature and his divinity. Like Moses, I heard: *“Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground!”* We first need a time of preparation, to be quiet. To be still.

Let us now, with the help of some Bible passages - as through an archway, enter into the presence of God.

A: 1 John 2:12-14 (please read)

What strikes you? In this passage John is writing twice to three different age groups in his church: children – young men – fathers. (In spiritual terms men and women are equal before God.) John encourages his church members, mentioning something relating to each phase of life. And here we notice something: unlike what he writes to the children and young men, John says exactly the same thing to the fathers twice: **“...because you have known him who is from the beginning.”** Yes, and “him” refers to the same one whom he calls “the Father” when addressing the children in verse 13. But there is also an important difference! The word “Father” expresses the relationship between God and his “children”, and this also true for the fathers. **But the vision of the spiritual fathers has risen to a higher level and looks into eternity, into the divine nature of God, “who is from the beginning”,** (although in fact he has no beginning). Then the same phrase is simply repeated as an attempt to express the eternal nature of God with earthly words: “who is from the beginning”. Who is this “God”? Fathers, when they are seeking God, sense something of the immeasurability of God - similar to the awesome silence that grips anyone when looking into the profound depths of the universe.

B: 1 Corinthians 2:10 (please read verses 1-16)

How do we go further in seeking and knowing God? The answer: not through the wisdom and understanding of this world, and not by the love of knowledge; for God remains a secret - a mystery. To unlock a mystery, you need a code. And this code must be received from the keeper of the secret himself: this happens only through “revelation”.

The deep things of God must be revealed to us by God himself (v.10). The code is Jesus Christ, and him crucified (v.1-2). In him is God's nature fully revealed. “I and the Father are one.” (John 10:30). Only those who live and act in the same Spirit as God himself, recognise this and receive such a revelation, for only the Spirit of God knows “the deep things of God”, only he can reveal them, only he can lead us into the heart of God.

C: Ephesians 3:14-21 (please read)

Once again, here is an insight into God's eternal nature and divinity, this time presented as an indivisible trinity, which we in our earthly language refer to as “three”, but which in heaven, beyond space and time, is one and the same. It is the praiseworthy three-fold nature of God: holiness – love – power. God is not even one at one time and another later, but he is all three at the same time. HE is as he was and will always be. The “I am who I am” with Moses at the burning bush is the same one who at the end of the age “will be all in all”. This is God's eternal nature and divinity. Beyond space and time.

In his powerful prayer for the Ephesians, Paul draws us into the realm of God in a way far beyond our way of thinking and speaking. He sees into the indescribable heavenly glory, the kingdom of love and light. He can now bear to see the **glory** of God, which when revealed to him on the road to Damascus threw him to the ground, because now the Spirit of God's nature fills his whole being. He sees into the “measure of all the fullness of God”, **which fills him and the entire church. Glory is the manifestation of God's holiness on earth.** Wherever glory is revealed on earth, people fall down in awe and worship – like the angels in heaven above the holy throne (Isaiah 6:1-4!). Words fail us, silence reigns or God's Spirit arises in us and intercedes for us with “groans that words cannot express” (Romans 8:26).

And Paul looks further into God's nature and attempts to describe a **love** “that surpasses knowledge” and tries to grasp “how wide and long and high” it is in human terms, then sees how this love of Christ soars above human measures of love, and finally, searching for words, adds a fourth dimension: “the depth”. Here again are the “deep things of God”, the unfathomable, eternal mystery that is “God”.

And, as the apostle kneels before God, the Spirit of God reveals a third dimension to God's nature: his **power**. This side of God, his power, appears twice in his prayer, but both times in connection with us, the intercessors: “that ... he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inward being” (v.16) and “to do immeasurably more ... according to his power that is at work within us” (v.20). One time, God's power works within us, another time, it works through us; one time, we are built up as spiritual fathers and mothers, another time, the power of God is revealed with surprising strength as we interact in the world – **coming from the prayers in our inward being.**

There they stand, men and women of God, as apostles, prophets, evangelists, teachers and shepherds – not only within the church, but also in the world as those who are called, as intercessors with authority and power out of weakness, pillars of the church and within society.

Prayer: If you feel the power of the Holy Spirit arising within you and now want to continue in prayer, spread your wings like an eagle and let yourself be drawn into a prayer experience in the flow of the Spirit and

- pray in the Spirit, in different tongues/languages
- worship in quiet amazement
- and respond to pictures and words that you and others see and hear
- and be guided by the requests and proclamations of the Lord's Prayer (see September prayer letter)
- speak out one of the great apostolic prayers: Ephesians 1:15-23, 3:14-21, Philippians 1:3-11, 1 Peter 1:3-5, Jude 24, Revelation 5: 6-11.
- read, meditate on, or sing a song which brings praise, worship, honour and glory to God
- if you can draw or paint, worship the Lord in the language of creative art

In closing: Please do not spend time thinking about how to share your experiences in prayer outside of your group, and only write to the Call of the Watchmen office when you have the distinct impression that what you have experienced was not only for your group but for many others in the prayer network.

May you all be greatly encouraged and amazed as you come to know and experience the eternal nature and divinity of God, his holiness, love and power, as you pray.

-Ortwin Schweitzer-

Project: "Star of David in the colours of the German flag"

After we have worshipped our God in his greatness and mighty power, let us remain in his presence. Together we now want to pray for a social transformation in Germany. Brutality, anti-Semitism, hostility to strangers and the questioning of basic democratic rights are becoming commonplace. In this time of radical social change, in which we as a nation find ourselves, the Holy Spirit is however able to move and guide the hearts of our rulers and in our entire people. Let us stay united in prayer with the love and power of the Holy Spirit.

A: Recognition of Jewish life in Germany

After the events in Halle, many of you throughout the land are making an outward sign of your solidarity and appreciation with respect to Jewish life in Germany through our "Star of David in the colours of the German flag" project. A special Call of the Watchmen prayer letter on protecting Jewish life in Germany is attached with more details: (2019-10_watchmencall-special-jewish-life-germany).

Anti-Semitism has many facets and is present at all levels of German society. We need take a stand within our civil society in which we make an earnest commitment to Jewish life in Germany and to the State of Israel – based on a sincere sense of true friendship and solidarity! In this way Germany can more clearly fulfil its calling to protect the Jewish people and stand by their side.

Prayer/proclamation

- **For a social transformation that moves the hearts of society towards Jesus and his people. (Psalm 51:6+10)**
- **That a new expression of friendship and solidarity with Jewish life in Germany finds a place in everyday life.**

B: Commitment to parliamentary democracy and to the Basic Law

Our parliamentary democracy is more and more coming under pressure, in that the basic values and features of our constitution, such as governmental authority, the protection of human values, religious freedom, and much more, are increasingly coming under attack from within, threatening and undermining basic rights. We need a fresh appreciation and a clear commitment to the precious civil liberties and rights conferred by our Basic Law and to defend these courageously.

Prayer/proclamation

- **That there will again be a resolute stand everywhere in this land for our democracy and the freedoms conferred in our Basic Law, and that God's Spirit will show us the appropriate ways forward as a nation. (Psalm 86:10-11; Psalm 23:3b)**

-Alexander Schlueter-

Dates for your prayer diary

- 03.11. **March of Life in Halle** (against anti-Semitism) (www.marschdeslebens.org)
- 03.10.-09.11. **Prayer Walk along the former East-West German border** (<https://betenbewegen.de/>)
- 09.11. **30th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989** (www.3-oktober.de)
- 10.11. **World-wide Prayer Day for Persecuted Christians** (Focus on "Turkmenistan")
- 19.11. **"PrayDay" – for schools in Germany**
- 20.11. **Repentance and Prayer Day in Saxony – Prayer Seminar in Chemnitz**
- 29.11.-01.12. **Prayer Seminar "The Priesthood in the New Covenant"** in Nordalb near Stuttgart.

*God's blessings for your time of prayer
from Rosemarie Stresemann, Alexander Schlueter and Team*