

Turned Toward God

Recently this old hymn has been on my mind:

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
Unuttered or expressed,
The motion of a hidden fire
That trembles in the breast.

Prayer is the burden of a sigh,
The falling of a tear,
The upward glancing of an eye,
When none but God is near.

("Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire," by James Montgomery, 1818)

I've found this description true to my own experience. Prayer is turning toward God.

My morning walks are my prayer time. For twenty-plus years I have used the Lord's Prayer as the outline for my prayers, but even so, my daily prayers are quite varied. Some days He leads me more toward petition. Some days, praise. Sometimes I sing as much as I speak. Some days my praying involves lots of thinking and reflecting. Some days He even leads me to write as I talk to Him.

But consistently, the attitude that nurtures my heart is the attitude of the Lord's Prayer:

*Father, Your glory,
Your kingdom,
Your will.
Your bread for today,
Your forgiveness,
Your keeping.*

Prayer is the single-mindedness of a heart turned toward God, desiring God, talking to God, listening to God, seeking Him alone.

*This attitude is at the heart of our relationship with God:
Stay turned to your Father,
trusting Him, wanting only His will.
The beatitudes teach it,
the Lord's Prayer models it, and
Satan attacked it when he tempted Jesus in the wilderness.*

Hymn options:

[As Simply as a Child](#)
[Reign in Me](#)