

On The Road To Emmaus

Is it possible to sin in our prayers? Is it possible that our prayers themselves could be sinful?

These are hard and uncomfortable questions. I am sure that to ask such questions will draw an almost immediate hard negative reaction. However, we must confront reality. For example are any of our prayers ever hypocritical? That is do we ask God to forgive the sins of someone while in our hearts we are harboring anger, resentment and unforgiveness against someone else who has sinned against us? Many more examples of our hypocrisy could be given.

Our prayers, are they ever demanding? That is are we presuming upon God and His grace and mercy? Have we forgotten the Christian life is one of submission? Remember the words of Job, "Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" (Job 2:10). Remember that it is not just Job who modeled submission for us but Jesus did as well. It is Jesus who has called us to a life of submission to the Father's will even when we do not understand it and find that life is hard and painful.

There are many more ways that we can sin in the act of praying. So the question remains, am I sinning in my efforts at prayer?

May we cry out to Jesus with the words of the disciples , "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1)

A Fellow Traveler