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OUR SUPREME INCENTIVE TO PRAY

**“Who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself.”
(1 John 5:10)**

When we seek to express the persistence of our faith in the prayers we go on making as we face short-term disappointment and desolation, the fact to focus on for encouragement is that there is a covenanted family bond that unites us to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, and unites the Three-in-One to us forever and ever. Paul writes, “The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if Children, then heirs – heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ” (Romans 8:16-17). Professed Christians who neither testify to this testimony nor rejoice in the identity it confirms are, to say the least, very much out of sorts. Being children of God is our supreme privilege and security – and is at all times the supreme incentive to us to pray.

The Christian’s sonship to God the Father is both by adoption, which bestows the family status, and by regeneration, which is the work of the Holy Spirit renewing the heart and thereby bestowing in embryo the family likeness. Regeneration instills in us a God-centered, God-exalting cast of mind that is inexplicable in terms of anything that was there before, just as the source and destination of the wind are more than any observer can know (John 3:8). Regeneration is an outgoing of the same power that brought this world into being when previously there was nothing there at all – absolutely nothing in existence before God.

The twin blessings of adoption and regeneration, while not shielding us from any of life’s grimmer experiences, do turn us into unique people with unique privileges and a unique destiny, and when the bad experiences come, it is vital that we do not forget who and what we are. AMEN.

~Dr. J.I. Packer

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18 – 20

