

THE GLORY OF ENCOUNTERING GOD - THE IMPORTANCE OF ASKING

TRANSMISSION CHURCH

—BRIAN BEESON

Session 4: The Importance of Asking in Prayer

I. THE GRACIOUS GOD WHO LONGS TO ANSWER (ISA. 30:18–19)

- A. The Lord longs to be gracious to us. Receiving more from God is not about convincing Him to be willing to give us more. Rather, it is about God convincing His people to pray for more with confidence.

¹⁸The Lord longs to be gracious to you, and therefore He waits...to have compassion on you... ¹⁹He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you. (Isa. 30:18-19, NAS)

- B. Some of God's promises for increased blessing are not guarantees, but are invitations to partner with Him in prayer. If we fulfill the conditions—and prayer is one of the conditions—then the promises are guaranteed.

¹⁴If My people... will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (2 Chr. 7:14)

- C. God gives us a dynamic role in determining a measure of the quality of life our country, city, church or family experience as we respond to Him in prayer, obedience, faith, and humility. (Joel 2:12–17)

¹² “Now, therefore,” says the Lord, “Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.” ¹³ So rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the Lord your God... ¹⁴ Who knows if He will turn and relent, And leave a blessing behind Him— (Joel 2:12–14)

- D. The Lord has given the Church the authority to bind and loose on the earth. We have authority in Jesus's name to stop demonic activity and to release angelic activity. We are the gatekeepers to what is allowed in our society.

¹⁹ will give you the keys [authority] of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” (Mt. 16:19)

- E. God will not do our part, and we cannot do His part. God requires that we cooperate with Him according to His supernatural grace.

- F. We don't earn or deserve God's blessing because of our *lifestyle* (time, money, relationships, etc...) or *prayers* (Joel 2:12-14; 2 Chron. 7:14). Rather, aligning our lifestyles and engaging in prayer, allows us to receive what God already wants to give!

II. PRAYER IS PARTNERSHIP WITH GOD

- A. The Lord wants much more from His people than for them to be His workforce. He is a Bridegroom with a desire for relationship. He enjoys our friendship and desires us to be with Him in what He is doing (Mark 3:13–14; John 17:24)

¹³ And He...called to Him those He Himself wanted... ¹⁴ ...that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach... (Mk. 3:13–14)

²⁴ Father, I [Jesus] desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me... (Jn. 17:24)

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- B. One of the main ways we partner with God is through prayer where He God governs the earth through speaking the desires on His heart back to him. (Gen. 1:26–28; Psalm 8; 115:16)

¹⁶ The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's; But the earth He has given to the children of men. (Psalm 115:16)

¹⁰ “You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to [serve, NIV] our God; and they will reign upon the earth.” (Rev. 5:10) [NASB]

- C. The essence of prayer is that we speak in agreement with God. Jesus spoke in agreement with the Father in creation (Gen. 1; John 1:1–3; Col. 1:16) and still today (Col. 1:17; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25). Thus one important aspect of prayer is telling the Father what He tells us to tell Him. The Word shows us what He promises to release to His people, and we simply pray these things back to Him.

³ Then God [Jesus] said, “Let there be light”; and there was light (Gen. 1:3)

¹ In the beginning was the Word [Jesus], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him [Jesus]... (John 1:1–3)

²⁵ ...He [Jesus] always lives to make intercession for them. (Heb. 7:25)

III. THE IMPORTANCE OF ASKING

- A. One foundational principle of the kingdom is that God releases more blessing if we ask for it. He could release more to us without our asking, but He wants us to be involved in the process.

²...Yet you do not have because you do not ask. (Jas. 4:2)

- B. Why does God require us to ask if He already knows we need it? (Mat. 6:32) God desire relationship with us and as we pray, He wants to build our faith and overwhelm us with His goodness to do even beyond our request (Eph. 3:20; Ex. 34:6; James 1:17).

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us (Eph. 3:20)

- C. When He was on earth—even Jesus had to ask for things (Heb. 5:7), showing us how to depend upon God for all things in prayer.

⁷ [Jesus] who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up... supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear. (Heb. 5:7)

- D. Even now—the Father tells Jesus as a resurrected man, fully God to ask for His inheritance (Psalm 2:7–8).

⁸ Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.’ (Psalm 2:8)

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E. The Father has set it up that He *will not do our part and we cannot do His part*. If we do not do our part through prayer, then some of the help and blessing that God would have joyfully given to us is withheld. God has us ask Him because it develops a greater heart-connect with His heart—we grow in faith, intimacy and love with Him by asking and receiving.

6Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God... (Phil. 4:6)

F. We must not overlook that the good desires in our hearts are His desires. Knowing that it is God who has put these desires in us, *gives us confidence in prayer* as we seek Him. (Phil. 2:12–13; cf. Psalm 37:4)

¹²... [Each believer] work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. (Phil. 2:12–13)

⁴Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. (Psalm 37:4)

G. Jesus called us to *pray with perseverance* for God's help and blessing. He called us to ask and keep on asking, to seek and keep on seeking, to knock and keep on knocking. The verbs in the Greek are in the continuous present tense, indicating that we are to do this consistently.

⁷“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. (Mt. 7:7–8)

H. Believers are exhorted to come to the throne of grace to *experience* more of God's grace, which is *already* theirs in Christ. A greater measure God's grace is available to all who boldly and consistently come to Him. Part of the breakthrough in our experience comes as we pray for it. We receive a greater measure of God's grace, which renews our minds and emotions.

¹⁶Let us...come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Heb. 4:16)