

The Father Wants to Answer Prayer

In my earlier days I thought that God was unfair, especially when He demanded that I ask Him for things. I thought it was rather demanding for me to have to request things from God before He would give them to me. If I have a need such as healing or finances, He wants me to ask before He will give them to me. Why would He make me ask? Scripture verses such as Matthew 7:7 “*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you*”. I wondered why wouldn't God just give me things? If He already knows I need it then why should I have to ask?

Couldn't God just send me things because He wants to? I could open my front door every morning and there would be a box that was freshly delivered from Heaven and it would have a note that said, “to Alan, love God.” Inside the box I would find an envelope with exactly enough money for the day, right to the penny. He would have thought of every expense including my gasoline, food and electricity. Also, there would be a notebook from Him with my instructions for each hour. 7 am: kiss your wife, 8 am: play with the kids, 9 am: go to restaurant and look for a waitress named Sue and as you order pancakes ask her about her broken heart, 12 pm: drive to 33rd St and turn left on 5th Ave because the devil will send a car accident and you will avoid it. However, each morning that I open my front door there is still no box sent from God. He still cannot give me something before I ask.

So as I began to discover God as a Father I was a little puzzled by His reasons for making me ask. Over the years I have held different views of why I should ask. My first view of asking was that God was in control of everything I did in my life and I was to ask Him in a way that someone begs for mercy. Even if I asked it was still His choice to answer my prayer or not. I would ask Him over and over again in an attempt to convince Him to move on my behalf. In other words I needed to bother God until He finally gave in so that I would stop harassing Him. Once I got His attention then maybe He would be kind enough to answer my prayer. As I grew, I understood more.

My next view of giving my request to God was like a man going before a king. He would need to show the proper protocol in the palace or he would be refused. In some palaces you would need months of training before you would even dare stand before a king. It was then necessary for me to learn each step and then to carefully implement those steps before I went before the King of Kings. I would carefully start each prayer with worship first before I placed my request before the king. If I didn't do everything exactly right and show the proper protocol then He would not acknowledge my request. As I grew, I understood more.

Then my view of asking God changed to be like two boys fighting over a toy. The younger boy would jump up and down trying to grab it out of the older brother's hand. Every time he would grasp at the toy the older boy would lift the toy higher. “Say please and I will give it to you.” “Please.” “Say pretty please and I will give it to you.” “Pretty please”. “Say my older brother is the best and I will give it to you.” This is how I perceived my relationship with God was as my provider. It was my job to prove to Him that I was humble and if I showed it then He would answer my prayer. If I showed humility then I understood that He was one who had the power to meet my needs. It seemed as if every time I would ask it was as if He held his hand farther from me. As I grew, I understood more.

My next view was one in which a family is sitting down for dinner. The father is at the head of the table and food is being passed around to each person. The young man of the family reaches past his father to grab a bowl of mashed potatoes and the father stops him. "Say please pass the potatoes.", he says to his son. The Father is showing his son how to ask with manners and be polite. The reason He wants us to ask for things is because it is a form of gratuity and thankfulness. I thought that this was the key to answered prayer. As I grew, I understood more.

Matthew 6:6-8 says, "*But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore do not be like them. **For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.***" This scripture tells us that God already knows what we need before we ask. He is simply waiting for us to Ask.

I always assumed that the reason for asking God was to get Him to do something for me. Whether it was to show humility, respect, honor or protocol, I was attempting to give God something so that He would move. If I only knew all those years ago just how wrong I was it would have saved me so much time and unanswered prayers. Can you see it? He is a Father. He is your Father and it is His deepest desire to pour out His blessings upon you. Psalm 35:27 says "*Let them shout for joy and be glad, Who favor my righteous cause; And let them say continually, "Let the Lord be magnified, **Who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant.***"

God knows exactly what you need and He knows how to provide it for you. Right now He is waiting for us to ask Him so that He can bless us. The pleasure God takes is not in us asking but in Him being able to answer. When the crowd pressed in towards Jesus and the disciples surrounded Him to protect Him, it was a little broken lady that was healed. She had tried every doctor and spent all of her money and she still could not find healing. When she saw Jesus walking by with the crowd around Him, many of the people were touching Him hoping to be healed. However, she believed in her heart to be healed so much that she crawled under the feet of the people just to touch the hem of His garment.

Jesus would have walked on by if she didn't reach out and believe that she could receive. **If she didn't ask she would not be healed.** When Adam was walking on the path towards the tree of knowledge of good and evil, God would not stop him. The whole of mankind was in jeopardy by this one act of sin of eating of the tree. God knew what was going to happen, and yet He did nothing to stop Adam because He could not. God has given us the right to live our life however we want and He **cannot** come against our will.

The simple reason we need to ask our Father is to give Him permission to do what He really wants to do. We don't need to ask in minute detail on every topic because the purpose of asking is only to grant Him the authority to help us. By asking we are bringing our will into subjection to His will. When we ask in Faith we can watch the abundance of blessings that He will shower down on us. Ask and believe that your Father loves you.

ALAN TAYLOR

P O BOX 700623; TULSA, OK 74170-0623

918-447-8951

alantaylorministries.org