

RECEIVING IN THE NAME OF JESUS

(BELIEVING FOR WHAT WE PRAY FOR)

#S240R

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One of the most important subjects that we could consider, would be God's condition for receiving in Jesus' Name, as it will have Eternal Life results. So, when that is rightly understood it can open the way for God's power to be manifested in our personal life, with our family (and in all other ways). There are only two sources of information regarding this life-giving subject, and of course it is God's written Word that tells us the real Truth of the matter, while we know that God's Word does not change. The devil, however, has always worked hard to convince people that God has changed, and that we can no longer receive answers to prayer from God through the Name of Jesus.

However, the Scriptures tell us that God and His Word has not changed, and the Atonement Blood of Christ is just as efficacious today (as it was in the first century from where we read of God's almighty power working on behalf of all those who called on Him in the Name of His Son, Jesus). The Scriptures also clearly reveal that God loves us as much as He loves His only Son, whom He gave up for us when we were without strength and ungodly. That is the greatest expression of God's love for us, which is a pure, unselfish, and perfect love, and we all have a privilege to prove for ourselves the extent of God's love for us.

The Bible also reveals (by teaching and by examples of faith and trust), that God is always willing to hear and answer every prayer we make, concerning every Scriptural need or desire that we may have in this present life. It is our responsibility (and choice) to turn to God in faith or turn to some other source of supply or deliverance). We need to truly understand (and believe) that we have a God who never changes, and we have a living Christ who is "the same yesterday, today, and forever", because the Bible tells us so. (Heb. 13:8).

Therefore, we were given a Gospel Message that has never changed, a Holy Spirit who is the same today as He was in Bible times, (and an Atoning Blood sacrifice that can never lose its power). This all means that the standard of a true Christian life is exactly the same as it was in Bible times, (and that the conditions for receiving Eternal Life and of receiving answers to prayer are also the same). God, and Christ His Son, have not changed, nor has the Holy Spirit of God and His Son.

Satan, on the other hand, has had one main object for thousands of years, that is, to convince people that God had changed, and that He does not hear and answer prayer for things we need in this life.

The devil is a spiritual being, so he can put thoughts and suggestions in the mind of anyone who has not fully surrendered their life to God, and so, still have the old evil nature of the self-life in them. All the devil's thoughts and suggestions to a person's mind, might seem exactly like their own, and seem to be founded on fact; . but they are lies directly from the father of lies, Satan himself.

Satan also uses a multitude of so-called religious teachers in the world to be a mouthpiece for him, to confirm those wrong thoughts he

puts into people's minds concerning that lie (that God has changed). He also does this through those false teachers' deceptive written teachings (religious books and opinions), as well as by word of mouth from them.

What could be more wicked, slanderous, and displeasing to God, than for one to paint His character as being opposite to what He really is? The large majority of professing Christians who have accepted that lie from Satan, have been robbed of the blessings Jesus died to give them in this life on earth (as well as losing their hope of Eternal Life). To believe the lie of Satan that God no longer answers prayers (for healing, finances, His peace within ourselves), will effectively hinder a person from living up to God's requirement of "believing on the One whom God has sent" (the main condition of God's Will for saving us).

Instead of believing Satan's thoughts and suggestions to our mind, (that God will not answer our prayers), we need to refer back to God's Word, which tells the real truth of the matter. When God's Word says that the Atonement Blood of Christ provides, protects, delivers, and heals, that Truth is what we must believe, (rather, than the devil's lies that God has changed from what He was in Bible times).

We can easily recognize the plan that Satan used, to deceive the professed Christians in the third century (the late Pastor said). The early Church (especially when the Roman Empire professed to accept the Christian religion), the church (in general) lost its spirituality; the answers to prayer ceased; and every other manifestation of God's glorious presence and power (as was manifested at the beginning of the Gospel Age), all came to an end.

Satan had convinced those fallen (or unenlightened) church members that they were still good Christians. Also, that, naturally the only possible reason for the lack of God's presence and power, was because God had changed, and that He was no longer willing to do things that He had done at the beginning, when the early Church had put 'God's Truth' into practice in their life.

That terrible delusion and most wicked slandering of our loving God's true character has continued ever since that time. There have only been a handful (here and there) who have gotten back to really trusting God, gotten back to really believing His Word, and back to the real truth concerning God's willingness to hear and answer every Scriptural prayer for things in this present life.

The main object that Satan has (in getting people to believe that God will no longer hear and answer prayer), is to rob them of the great spiritual blessing that always accompanies answered prayer. The sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit is to perfect our Christian character, and which results in our spiritual growth and a preparation to meet Jesus Christ when He returns, to take true believers with Him.

(Heb.12:12-14 instructs us) "Therefore strengthen the drooping hands and paralyzed knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put entirely out of joint but may rather be restored. Persistently strive for peace with all men, and for that growth in holiness, apart from which no one will see the Lord."

The devil knows that every time a person deals with God personally

(and they receive answer to their prayer), (and not telling anyone of their problems and needs, but instead, going to God alone in a private prayer of faith), that person also receives spiritual light, growth and development, an increase of faith, and most importantly, a real step of progress in their preparation for Eternal Life. Many Bible examples have proven the spiritual value of answered prayer.

(2 Chron.20:) illustrates for us, how Jehoshaphat's faith was perfected through one encouraging answer to prayer. He went to God in prayer, and, settled it final to lay aside every human plan and power. He was committed to look to God alone for all his help when three armies came against him (and the Israelites). This attitude of absolute faith in God (and not giving in to the fear which the devil surely tried to put in his mind), brought an immediate answer to prayer (and a great victory over the enemies).

Aside from the victory, they also received a great quantity of supplies. After three days of gathering the spoil of the enemy, they met in the Valley of Berechah (which means happiness), to praise and thank God for His mercy and love. The 46th Psalm reveals the great spiritual blessing received by Jehoshaphat (and the Israelites). It was the perfection of faith, which carries every other spiritual blessing with it. (Vs.1-3), "God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed." (That is the kind of spiritual grace and strength that is received through having faith in God), ... "And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though its waters roar and be troubled, Though the mountains shake with its swelling."

Many people believe that these verses refer to events to take place in the end times yet to come. True believers whose faith in God has been perfected by Him (through trusting in Him), will not fear those terrifying events, while Scripture tells us that the unfaithful of the world will cry out in fear and try to hide anywhere they can.

These verses reveal to us that the answer to prayer received from God, gave Jehoshaphat and the Israelites confidence that they were delivered from any possibility of ever again fearing. [They prove that Jehoshaphat's faith had been perfected by God, for he did not compromise his love for God by turning to some other source of help.]

The Apostle John tell us (1 John 4:18) "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love." (There, is something imperfect in their love for God's Word).

As Jehoshaphat would endure in the faith (resulting from his love for God and His Word, as fear did not cause him to disobey God's Word) ...so God would also protect him from falling away from faith. (Jude 1:24-25), "To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord."

That one answered prayer gave to Jehoshaphat, what God is trying to accomplish in all our lives, that is, a "faith which worketh by love" (Gal.5:6). Paul said this was the only worthwhile thing in our life as a Christian, (because an uncompromising love for God will

inspire an obedient faith in God). (John 14:21) "He who has my commandments and obeys them—he it is who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and will clearly reveal myself to him."

That means to have Christ manifested in us, through our obedient faith in Him (as Paul explained, Gal. 5:5), "For we through the Spirit, wait for the hope of righteousness by faith."

(Matt.8:), gives us another example of the valuable spiritual blessing that came with one answered prayer. A Roman Army captain asked Jesus to heal a servant (who was very sick). Jesus said that He would come and heal him. The captain, however, told Jesus that he was not worthy to have Jesus come to his house, but to speak the Word only, and his servant would be healed. When Jesus heard the man say that He marveled and said to those following, that He had not found such great faith, no, not even in Israel. (The man was a Gentile).

Jesus then revealed the great spiritual blessing that came as a result of taking that uncompromising attitude to God's Word. (Vs.11-13) "And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so, let it be done for you. And his servant was healed that same hour."

In saying this, Jesus gave the man a through ticket to Heaven (or the promise and assurance of Eternal Life) (which verifies that Eternal Life is a present possession through faith in Christ). The man met the condition of answered prayer, ... a final decision to depend on God alone, and a willingness to accept God's Word as the only evidence that his prayer has been heard and answered. (That is the step of faith that we all need to take on God's written Word.) In fact, the man preferred the Word of the Lord to actually seeing the healing work done. All the professed children of God who were rejected (from the Kingdom), had taken the opposite attitude to God and His Word.

So first we have teaching from the Bible concerning faith for answered prayer, then we have all the examples that illustrate how that teaching is to be applied to the circumstances in our life, ..and then, what perfect results always follow when the teaching of the Scriptures is applied through faith. This means that if we apply the teaching about the Truth of God's Word in our life (just as they did), and we get the same results, ...we have found the real Truth of God, and we have gotten back to God and His Word. It is having faith in the unseen God by believing on His written Word, instead of falling to the temptation to seek deliverance from a source that can be seen.

Paul describes how our faith in the unseen is to be applied, (also how it is meant to work for us, with eternal results). (2 Cor.4:17-18) "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen, are eternal."

Romans 8:31-32 gives us an excellent revelation of God's

willingness to hear and answer prayer for everything we could possibly need or desire (that is within His will for us). "What then shall we say to this? If God is on our side, who is there to appear against us? He who did not withhold even His own Son, but gave Him up for all of us, will He not also with Him, freely give us all things?"

When God tells us that He gave us the greatest gift, His only Son, . (when we were without strength and ungodly), that is a fact, and (an unanswerable argument). So, how could it be possible that He would not give us every needed thing or Scriptural desires, which are all of much lesser value than Jesus Christ? This would include everything in this present life (which is to be received from trusting God), and it will also be a step forward in our preparation for Eternal Life (as well as our setting and being a true example for our children, that of trusting (believing) in God's Word for things in this life).

Because he believed God's promise, the Bible says of Abraham (our leader in the faith), (Gen. 15:6) "And he believed in the Lord, and He (God) accounted it to him for righteousness." (Psalm 103:17-18) assures us, "But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting, On those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children, To such as keep His covenant, And to those who remember His commandments to do them." (A Promise of true righteousness passing on to our children, to help keep them on the pathway to Eternal Life!)

These promises from Scriptures, that our believing on God's Word is accounted to us for righteousness, ..should make it many times more important for us to realize why we must set the example to pray and receive in Jesus Name (not place our trust on other source of supply or deliverance). "To those who remember His commandments to do them", means to heed God's requirement to "believe on the One whom He has sent".

That fact from Scripture, that righteousness (spiritual blessing) is received from believing on God's Word and is meant to be carried over to our children (and to their children)... should make us all stop and think when we are tempted to make a wrong decision regarding our place of trust. (Our children are watching and learning from us). (Prov. 22:6 instructs us), "Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it." If we are tempted to go against the Bible teaching on not keeping company with unbelievers (those outside the true faith, or who have turned their back to the Truth), we must consider the example that we are setting for our children, who we are instructed to "train up in the way he should go". Aside from our own spiritual condition and preparation for Eternal Life, what could be more important to us than to have that same spiritual condition and preparation for Eternal Life for our children and grandchildren.

It can be a humbling thought to consider (when we are tempted to think that ... "it won't matter" ... how we decide on an issue where a principal of Truth is involved). It is a most important decision ... for where we place our trust... is the Christian life in one phrase. "It was accounted to Abraham as a righteousness' that reaches to children's children".

The Promises that Jesus gave to us, should be assurance for us, as to where we should place our trust (Matt. 7:7-8) "Ask, and it will be

given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."

So, if we are tempted to place our trust on some other plan for deliverance (or source of supply), we must know that our children are watching and learning from us. It is not only our own preparation for Eternal Life that is involved.

Praying and receiving (in Jesus' Name), is indeed a most important subject for everyone to consider and to fully understand. It opens the way for God's power to be manifested in our personal life, with our family (and in all other ways)... The 'true value' of the 'spiritual blessing' received, cannot be put into words.

The Gospel Message has never changed. The Holy Spirit is the same today as He was in Bible times, and the Atoning Blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ can never lose its power. So, the real standard of a true Christian life is exactly the same as it was in Bible times, and the conditions for receiving Eternal Life as well as receiving answers to prayer, .. are exactly the same.

(Jude 1:20-21 is a vivid reminder for us) "But you, my dearly-loved friends, building yourselves up on the basis of your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, must keep yourselves safe in the love of God, ... waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ which will result in the Life of the Ages."

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MAIN POINTS:

1. By teaching and example, the Bible refutes the devil's main object, which is to convince people that God has changed, and that He will no longer answer prayers.
2. However, the Gospel Message has never changed, the Holy Spirit is still the same today, and the Atoning Blood sacrifice of Christ can never lose its power.
3. Thus, the standard for receiving answers to prayer in the true Christian life, and conditions for receiving Eternal Life are exactly the same as they were in Bible times.
4. With and attitude of absolute faith like Jehoshaphat had, we also can pray and receive in Jesus' Name (have our faith perfected as he did).

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