

Questions That We May Be Asking— Questions That We Should Be Asking

PART TWO

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When we read Isaiah chapter 40, we will find a wonderful revelation of God, where it states that God measures out the heavens with a span. That He measures the waters in the hollow of His hand; that He weighs the mountains in a scale and the hills in a balance. This gives us just a little idea of what God's power is like.

God counts the nations of the world as a drop in a bucket--- in comparison to His power and might. He holds the islands in His hands as a very little thing. He created the moon and stars. Just think of God measuring the heavens, the oceans, and the seas just as a carpenter would measure a piece of plywood.

Psalm 146 *"Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His breath goes forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish. Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help; whose hope is in the Lord his God: Which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that therein is: which keepeth truth for ever. Which executeth judgment for the oppressed; which giveth food to the hungry. The Lord looseth the prisoners; the Lord openeth the eyes of the blind: the Lord raiseth them that are bowed down: the Lord loveth the righteous. The Lord preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down."* (Psalm 146)

If we had a doghouse to build and we knew a man who had built a magnificent house for himself, would we not be willing to trust him to make our doghouse? It is really too small to make a comparison and yet it is the same in comparing what God has already done to what we desire Him to do for us in this Age.

If God's power, might, and skill were able to accomplish such wonderful things as we have

before our eyes, and when we look through the Bible and read about case after case of those who were in sin, sorrow, and sickness, difficulty upon difficulty, and were instantly delivered, truly we should be inspired to trust Him with the insignificant desires we have.

Of course, our desires mean much to us, but they are truly insignificant in comparison to the mighty works which God has already accomplished. There were no long, drawn-out cases in the Bible; they were able to so look to God that He could deliver them quickly and effectually.

Let us meditate upon the case of Job. What a wonderful man he thought himself to be! He rehearsed his past life and said there was not a widow that he had not helped no poor children that he had not clothed and fed; that he had never been guilty of looking at another woman. However, he landed on an ash heap full of sores because he was self-righteous. All these acts of goodness were done in his own strength. At this stage of his experience, his only thought was: "What can I do to get out of this trouble?" This only caused his difficulties to increase.

When Elihu called his attention to God and what God was able and willing to do, what God had done, it paved the way for God to speak to him directly and personally: *"Job, where were you when I made the heavens, when the stars, sun, and moon were formed and put into their places; when I laid the foundations for the universe, were you at the cornerstone laying?"* Then God called his attention to the depth of the sea and the monstrous animals He had created, asking Job continually where he was at that time and how far this understanding went concerning such wondrous things.

"Then Job answered the Lord, and said, I know that thou canst do everything, and that no thought can be withholden from thee. Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not." (Job 42:1-3)

Poor Job was just one great big "I", and it was the "I" which landed Job in that ash heap, and his body filled with sores and caused Satan to have so much power over him and hindered God from working, as this condition simply tied God's hands. Job had the power of choice, the same as we have today.

“I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear; but now mine eye seeth thee.”

“I thought I knew all about Thee; but now I KNOW what kind of a God we have; what Thou art able and willing to do; after the revelation Thou hast given me of Thyself, *“I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”*

That is the inevitable result of considering what God is like. He did not even have to pray after he got down to rock bottom. God said that His wrath was kindled against Job's three friends because they had set themselves up for preachers; so, He told Job to pray for them. Beloved, when we get straightened out ourselves, God can use us to help somebody else; so, Job did not have to pray for himself, but for his friends.

“And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also, the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.”

It certainly paid Job to get rid of his “I”. He was greatly concerned about what he had done and what he was to do in order to receive deliverance, but it brought him no deliverance at all.

The question to all his difficulties and oppressions was what God was able and willing to do, and as he got his eyes on God alone, he received his deliverance. That is what we are to consider today; what the Blood has done; what God is able and willing to do.

Now the third question is WHAT DOES THE WORD OF GOD SAY IS DONE WHEN WE PRAY? We will notice that all these questions are outside of ourselves: --What has the Blood done? What is God able and willing to do? What does the Word of God say is done when we pray? Is that not a combination? The Blood, the power of God, and the Word of God.

This is a combination that roots out every sorrow, trouble, and disease, every power of demons such as humanity is oppressed with. The Word of God says that our prayer is answered one hundred percent, and we should believe it as much as if we both saw the deliverance and felt it.

This Word of God emphatically says that every time we pray in Jesus' name, our prayer is

answered. *“And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in My name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.”* (John 16:23-24)

It seems that perhaps too many of us just pray and then get up and look for what we can see and feel. If we would believe that our prayer was answered, we would certainly not wait to see or feel before we believed it.

We may never receive an answer to prayer as long as we take this attitude. There is one thing above all others that God desires us to know--that is, that His Word says our prayers are answered one hundred percent when we pray.

It is not what we see when we pray, that counts, but what God's Word says. If we hold ourselves down to what that Word of God says, there is not a thing which God has which will not be ours for the asking. We are to completely or totally count on that Word of God --not what we can see and feel, not what Satan tells us, not what Satan whispers into our ears; but what God's Word says about our prayer being answered.

The Word of God says: *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* (1 John 1:9)

God is here in this audience, although we do not see Him. I think it might pay us to answer this question—“What do we believe is our actual heart condition just now? Do we believe there is sin there? unbelief there? Do we see ourselves pardoned and cleansed from all unrighteousness?”

If we have made an honest confession of everything, we can accept this plain statement, that we have been pardoned and cleansed, set free from all sickness, that we have a clean pure heart, that every sin is under the Blood, that we are F R E E indeed, because the Word of God says so.

A brother testified that he had confessed and confessed, but there was no change. But as soon as he began to testify to the fact that Jesus Christ was really living within, everything changed at once. That is the point; we are to BELIEVE that statement made in 1 John 1:9.

This brother took it at its face value and asked the question:--What does the Word of God say is done when I pray? That I am pardoned and cleansed; therefore, from now on, I am going to believe it. When I pray for the Holy Spirit and present my body a living sacrifice, what does the Word of God say happens? That I am filled with the Holy Spirit; from now on, I am going to believe it. It also says that I become holy and acceptable unto God."

Then we are in a position to ask for the Holy Spirit and receive it. *"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children; how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?"* (Luke 11:13)

Here we are told that God is more willing to give us the Holy Spirit than we are to give good gifts unto our children. So, as we surrender this life to God and ask Him for the Holy Spirit, then we are to believe the Word of God, which says that we have it and that our heart has been purified by faith, just as Cornelius was.

What are we believing about that Word of God? What does it really say? Are we accepting this plain bare statement as our only evidence? If we are sick, are we willing to risk our life on that Word of God?

The whole matter of healing is between God and the individual. God's plan for everything is to deal with Him personally and directly, even in the little matters. We should always make a habit of going to God to receive our deliverances. If we do not get them as quickly as we should, we should desire to know why.

If we are having a long, drawn-out case, and not getting along well, we should consult with God in order to find out what the trouble is. We may be depending on just a small thing which is hindering our deliverance. We need to learn to deal with God personally and directly; we need to get our eyes on God and that great work on the Cross and not let go of the Word of God. We certainly ought to get hold of the truth exactly as it was 2000 years ago and keep our eyes on it.

If we need healing, we should take that wonderful promise in John 16:23-24, which says that the moment we ask for healing for ourselves or our

loved ones, we are heard and answered. We are not to pray and then go away with our nose in the mud; saying, "I do not understand this battle." We are to sing songs of praise and thanksgiving such as Paul and Silas sang when in jail. We can get down before God on our faces and ask for healing and then get up saying, "Glory to God, I am healed; I know I have the victory. Praise God, the battle is over, I have a well child."

All the demons in the Pit could not stand against us with such faith in the Word of God. That is the only reasonable position to take, if we believe the Word of God, which says we can ask largely that our joy may be full, and that whatsoever things we desire, when we pray, if we believe we receive them, we shall have them.

Notice how beautifully this works out. Jesus was speaking in the 2nd chapter of Mark, the 5th chapter of Luke and the 9th chapter of Matthew--about the man coming through the roof. God considered it of such importance that He gave three different accounts of it. He also gave two accounts of the woman with the issue of blood, and two of the woman of Canaan.

When this man arrived at the meeting place, those who carried him discovered that the place was packed to the door, and there was no passageway to get him through; so, they went up and took off the roof and let him down in front of Jesus Christ. Jesus saw that man was willing to believe what He said. As soon as Jesus saw him, He said: *"Son, thy sins be forgiven thee."* This is exactly what He says to us in 1 John 1:9.

The man accepted that Word; he took it at its face value. None of the other people in that large audience believed the words of Jesus Christ, the son of God. The Pharisees and Scribes considered it blasphemy, saying that only God could forgive sins. Then Jesus turned to the man saying, *"Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk."* *"Man, you are well; go home."*

How many times God's Word tells us we are well, but we do not believe that Word. We, that are present here, have perhaps all learned better. We may know some people who would have said, "Oh, you do not know how I feel; you do not know how weak I have been; I cannot get up myself, nor

