

## When Asking breaks down

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Luke 11:11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if [he ask] a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?

Over the years I have spent a lot of time knocking on Gods door asking for help. Now one might think that after many years that I would be granted specific prayers and answers to prayer. Is it not true that the desires of our heart are heard by God? Is it also not true that when we ask and seek that God will grant to us the very things we needed and wanted? After all we can be assured that God does hear and God does answer.

So what happens when that which we greatly feared or avoided or ran from comes knocking on our door and we are faced with the serpent and we can't figure out why?

I think of this question for there have been others in scripture who have faced it. Paul faced shipwrecks and tribulation, beatings and scourging and many other trials. Some died never having received the promise. Even Joseph had to go through trials beyond understanding and each one of us has faced difficulties that were tied up loosely. A bundle of nettles and thorns that left us itching and scratching and bandaging our wounds.

Perhaps one of the ways to think of it is that we are in war. Now maybe I'm wrong but here is a thought I've had, that the closer we try to get to God in this world the more the serpent tries to deceive us and prevent us from moving towards God.

But what happens if God really wants to bless us. What happens if we are open to those blessings and haven't doubted or feared but have continued to trust? Where then does our answer lie?

In all things we know that God is in control and that control is what we find difficult to understand. Control is not like a leash around our neck that pulls us back but control is like a choice given to our heart. On one hand we chose a path that leads us towards the ways of God and if that way means hardship then we must face it. That is not an easy path to follow simply because the enemy lays snares and traps along the way. Think of it as going through the snakes territory. Along the path he hangs from branches or curls under a branch waiting for us to step near or on him. He then has an excuse to latch unto us with those venomous fangs.

I know its not easy to see but we are like children compared to the patience of God. In some things a child could spend an afternoon searching for a flower or a 4 leaf clover or chasing a bee across a field. But tell the child he's going to Disneyland and before you know it they are asking again and again "When do we leave for Disneyland..." And then once the journey begins "Are we there yet..."

The 'are we there yet' is probably the hardest thing for us as Christians. We like to think that we have arrived on the journey the moment we set out but it doesn't work that way. Time is the key to maturity and patience and if we can't wait often we don't receive. The issuing of answers from God does come but not always quickly or easily. If I understand the why of it perhaps I would be God. Yet in the answering we know that God retains His authority in all things. If we trust He will answer but the question of sooner or later doesn't really 'help' our patience. So how then can we trust the soon of it?

If there is an answer it is in the question of trust. Trust leads us on a path where we cannot see around the next bend. Often we repeat sections of land that we travel on. For example I had a dream that I would be sustained by the river that traveled through the badlands. And then one day I would reach the ocean which seemed to signify the entire world would be open for me.

But why then did it seem that when I had finally reached the sea that I found no ships were sailing because of all the storms? Did I hear wrong? Did I miss a turnoff along the way? Why didn't my ship come in?

God doesn't give up on us in the journey but he clings to us so that we would not lose our way or path. Every journey begins with a budget and that budget determines the cost of the journey and the price we must pay. If God pays for the journey it is His responsibility to pay for the cost of the ocean voyage even if that cost was the life of His son Christ Jesus.

That ship must come in for it is Gods will for us to continue the journey. It is his job to book a passage for us and pay the price for us. So if God pays the price then we must be willing to continue the journey even when that price is outside of our own budget. God doesn't see us as just a passenger but as a sailor on this ship so in the process of the journey we help pay the price as well. This is the lessons of the river of time that teaches us how to journey forward into the future of Gods kingdom. The sea is not just the world but His world which is yet to come. If that journey of the river is time then the sea is the time of faith which the entire world will see soon. For God will restore all things in His time and in His time will take Satan the serpent and cast him into the sea of time where he will be destroyed at the end of it. For time shall be no more and then will come a time of freedom of liberty and joy for all men. For men shall be relieved of their burden and their time and their sorrow and their heartache. And man shall be free to live as they please in the sight of the Lord for God shall give to men all things liberally as their heart desires and their heart requires.

We who are here on earth look eagerly for the return of Jesus Christ. But I still wonder. Do I have to wait until the return of Christ to get my prayers answered?

I think the answer is patience. The one word I like to skirt around yet the one thing that grows with time. I need patience to wait for God hasn't said no he has just said wait. And waiting is like the child wanting to be 'there' today instead of being there when the time comes. I know God hasn't given up on me. I know that God has promised to fulfill all my needs and yes even desires according to his great wealth. So if this is true and I have followed the winding course of the river then I know without a doubt that God will help me

in that journey. And the winding road may be easy and doubtless will be difficult. But the end 'sea' is there no matter what. For God shall restore all things to me that time and rust and Satan have stolen away. And I look forward to the day when his venom is removed and his bite and sting are removed and honey shall flow as the waters cover the sea. For there shall be a restoration unlike anything this world has ever seen. God himself shall restore the world to a place of joy and brightness and I shall see these things with my own eyes. For He has promised to be with me and restore my thoughts and my hopes to all that time can show. And if God would laugh I would like to share that I have prayed for strange things so that God can show me why I am considered an alien and a stranger here on earth.

I have prayed God would give me a trip to Mars so I think God has indicated He will and will grant me the ability to take pictures to my hearts content and bring back rocks to sell. So there to Satan's old stomping ground.

I have prayed for an M&M tree so we shall ask God if its possible. Only God knows for sure but maybe the company "Mars?" candy that produces it will let me try and grow a chocolate coated nut that doesn't melt in your hand but in your mouth. After all I have dreamed of such a tree I think.

I have prayed for finances so God has shown me I will be wealthy and will help man to cover the earth with plants and trees of fruit and nut and olive. For the olive tree shall produce oil and man can then grow his own oil for his automobile or whatever form of transport will be there in the future. For the earth climate will change in a day and God will heal the North and South Pole so they will be temperate and the sun will shine on both poles with a reflection of ice from orbit.

I have prayed that God would heal me and help me to pray for others healing and this too shall come to pass in Gods time. For God shall restore me to full healing and I shall run and laugh and be joyful once again for all the sorrow that this world has caused me with its pain. Not from men so much as from sin and its base which was in the tree of knowledge of Good and Evil. I'll write about the tree someday in a book by Gods grace.

I have prayed for love and God has shown me I shall have a star to show for it someday which will rise in the east.

I have prayed for God to provide me with love of a woman and this too shall come to pass in His time and by His method of showing love to me.

I have prayed for my parents to be healed and they are presently in their 70's. God will restore them both to health and will heal them of their sicknesses and diseases. They have suffered with cancer and heart failure and strokes yet God will restore them both and they will both be healed of all things that hinder them. He will restore their youth and will give them back their original hair and it will no longer be white. And He will help them travel without fear of doctors or layers of problems which come from an endless line of them. All these things shall come to pass when they see the return of the Lord in the air. Soon and very soon and we are going to see the king.

I have prayed for Israel and Israel shall be a blossom yet to flower. For her

measure shall be by the valley of Gethsemane and she shall be fruitful and from her prayer tower shall be a time of joy. And joy shall be a level of hope and she will be gifted with all things good and bountiful. For not one of the treasures of her heart shall be lost and she shall see all things come to pass as I have promised says the Lord of hosts.

I have prayed for my brother and his family and I see them prospering by the hand of God for all shall see the return of the Lord. And all shall be healed of their sickness and pain and not one shall be confounded or bruised or held aloft by pain any longer. For the father shall gift his children with blessing of heart and mind and they shall look to him for wisdom and he shall give them words of knowledge and understanding. For I the Lord shall give to Steve Akin the one thing he can't give and that is love of God.

So in these things I see myself praying for others. I see the Lords hand upon my family and friends from sea to shining sea. How I have prayed for America with tears. For America the Lord would say "Hang tight. The hour of trial is not finished but she is yet to come forth with hope. The devil will try her and the hour of difficulty is yet to come. But there shall arise a light in the easy and she will see her hour of time approach when she will give birth to travail. Yet out of travail shall arise a new land that shall give the Lord God glory and she will be healed of her pain and suffering.