

THE WAYS OF GOD

But We Prayed

I. Is all we have to do is ask? Is it our part to just ask?

- A. Religion has taught this petitioning, asking, praying, even begging way of operating – That OUR PART is just to pray/ask – That in the ways of God we ask Him to do something and then He decides whether or not He wants to
- The idea is that our main job is to just ask God to do it, just pray
 - Many pray to God & hope something happens, many believers pray and hope God does something (I.E. Genie)
 - Some have tried to replace, genuine faith as our part, and replace it with just asking/praying
 - Religion/Churches teach this as a fix all; *Prayer is the answer* many say and the insinuation the solution to everything is to just ask God to do something and if it's a big problem ask continually and ask hard
 - For many prayer becomes trying to talk God into doing something that He really doesn't want to do
 - If you're talking about prayer in the sense of just asking God to do something – NO that's not the answer; If you're talking about prayer in the sense of communication with God, hearing from God, receiving the wisdom of God, releasing your faith in God, praising God and thanking God – Then yes that is the beginning of your answer
 - Many make the mistake of thinking that prayer is the only thing they do and if they did pray they did their job
 - Mt17:16-I brought them to your disciples and they could not cure him. 19 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? 20 Jesus said to them because of your unbelief*
 - They prayed but something was missing that kept God from having access-Was prayer the only thing that mattered?
 - Obviously there's more to our part than just praying/asking, because they prayed/asked and nothing happened
 - The prayer was there, the faith was not and faith is our part
 - Can you pray and not be in faith? Yes – So faith is more than just praying/asking --- Pray ≠ Faith
 - The desire can be there, the petition can be there and God have no access
 - People will not get a result and say, "But we prayed," acting like asking God is the only thing – There's more to it than just asking
 - Desire and petition (wanting/need and asking) alone without genuine faith does not supply God with access; *Lk4:16-He came to Nazareth 22 And all bare witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is this not Joseph's son? 23 And he said unto them, You will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum do also here in thy country. 24 And He said a prophet is not accepted in his own country*
 - The desire and petition was there, but the Jesus could not do what He wanted to do
 - God's way is to work with us by grace through faith – NOT by grace through asking alone
 - Just asking is not co-laboring, it's not Him working with us and it's not how these things work
 - It's not that we never ask or that we don't ask, but asking/praying is not all that we do

II. In the ways of God do we just ask, do we just pray? Is this what the scripture teaches? Is this how Jesus operated?

- A. Exodus 14-God corrected Moses for just asking/praying and doing nothing else
- Ex14:10-When Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD. 11They said unto Moses, b/c there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? why hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt? 12Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness*
 - Crying out to God to do something does not equal faith; They cried out to the Lord, but there's no faith here
 - 13 Moses said to the people, Fear ye not, stand still (take your stand), and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you today: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today ye shall see them again no more forever.*
 - If their part was just to cry out to the Lord/asking, Moses wouldn't tell them to fear not and take their stand
 - He's telling them to stop doing what they are doing and instead fear not and standfast
 - 14 The LORD shall fight for you and ye shall hold your peace (speechless)*

- a. Many take this verse and move into a passive state
 - b. Don't try to remove yourself from the equation, you still have a part and your part is faith and faith is not passive and faith is a fight and God won't fight the fight of faith for you
 4. *15 The LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: 16 But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.*
 - a. CEV-Why do you keep calling out to me for help; TLB-Quit praying and get the people moving! Forward! March!
 - b. God why are you calling out to me – Many believe this is all we do, but according to God it's not
 - c. When they called out to God, God gave them words/wisdom to act upon
 - d. God was requiring them to act on His words/wisdom, not just sit there and ask him to do something
 - e. There's a lot of people who aren't willing to do anything beyond asking
 - f. Often it's easier on the flesh to keep praying than it is to take a step of faith and act on the wisdom of God
 - g. It's not time for Moses to intercede in prayer; Moses didn't pray the Red Sea apart
 5. *21 And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. 22 And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.*
 - a. This is not them just asking; Rather it's them acting on the wisdom of God and God acting on their behalf
 - b. As they moved toward the sea in faith and as Moses stretched out his staff in faith this happened
 6. *23 And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. 24 And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, 25 And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians.*
 - a. God was actively involved in their victory, but it wasn't JUST the result of them asking Him to do something
 7. *26 And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen. 27 And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. 28 And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them. 29 But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.*
 - a. Moses was actively participating and it wasn't just in the form of asking, but acting on the wisdom of God in faith
 8. *30 Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore. 31 And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses.*
 - a. The Lord saved Israel and they saw a great work that the Lord did, but was it just because they asked? No there was faith here, yielding, cooperating NOT just petitioning
 - b. There's was something both Moses and the people had to do beyond just asking – They had to act on the wisdom of God to see their miracle
- B. Jesus didn't operate in a position of petition, but rather He is seeking, He's seeing, He's hearing, He's acting in faith**
1. *Jn8:26-I do nothing of myself; but as my Father has taught me, I speak these things; Jn5:19-The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he sees the Father do: for what things so ever he does, these also does the Son likewise; Jn5:30AM-I am able to do nothing from Myself [independently, of My own accord but only as I am taught by God and as I get His orders]. Even as I hear, I judge [I decide as I am bidden to decide. As the voice comes to Me, so I give a decision]; Mt11:27-MS-The Father has given me all things to do and to say; Jn12:49-I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment what I should say*
 2. He didn't operate in such a way where asked the Father to do something, but he sought the Father about what to do
 - a. Mk4-He spoke to the storm; Jn5:7-He told the cripple man to arise; Mt:12:13-Man with withered hand; Mk5:41-He told Jairus daughter arise; Lk13:12-He told the woman with the spirit of infirmity, you are loosed
 - b. He did those things, by seeking the Father, hearing from the Father, and acting what He got
 - c. He sought God for wisdom, for direction, for what to say, for what to do NOT just to do something
 3. To many believers this concept is foreign because religion has taught us to just ask

- C. Many aren't getting results, because they don't the ways of God and they don't know how to work with the Lord; Usually it's because they haven't taken enough interest in it and don't have enough respect for His Word and so they have bought man made tradition and ignored the scriptures

III. The pattern for miracles, for God moving in your life is to not just ask God to do something, but to seek God for what to do

A. The key to seeing God work in your life is this: Whatever He says to you do it

1. *John 2:1-The third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: 2 And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage. 3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine. 4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come. 5 His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it. 6 And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece. 7 Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim. 8 And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it. 9 When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine*
2. The pattern here for seeing God move was: 1) Seek Him 2) Hear from Him 3) Do what He says
3. Nobody stopped and prayed more wine in: Jesus sought the Father, they sought Jesus and the wisdom of God acted upon produced results
 - a. David didn't stop and pray Goliath down; Jesus didn't pray multiplication of the fish and loaves in
 - b. 2Ch20-When they were outnumbered and didn't know what to do, they sought God and acted on what He said
4. An overemphasis of prayer can leave people in a passive state where they think all we have to do is pray and prayer is wonderful, but faith without works is dead and eventually the wisdom that's birthed in prayer you have to act upon
 - a. If faith is our part, faith is acting on the Word God spoke to us
5. What has He said to you? In most situations that most people face they don't know because they didn't bother to ask Him what they should do, they asked Him to do something

B. Wisdom is the most important thing – *Pr4:7-Wisdom is the principal (most important) thing; therefore get wisdom*

1. Many people think the most important thing is asking or the most important thing is God doing something
2. When it becomes a revelation to you that wisdom actually is THE most important thing you'll go after it like it is
 - a. Most believers get in crisis and don't even ask for wisdom they just go to a petitioning God to do something
3. The first request should always be for wisdom
 - a. In every situation there's something God will want you to do, something He will want you to say
4. Everything starts with prayer in the sense that everything starts with communication with God and so we go to God in prayer understanding that prayer is not just asking something of God, but it's seeking God
 - a. "God do something" insinuates it's all up to Him – "God show me what to do" acknowledges that I have a part
 - b. Out of prayer always comes the wisdom of God, direction of what you should believe, say and do
5. The wisdom of God believed, acted upon, and declared is what will produce results
 - a. Most don't like this model because it requires effort on their part; They like to do nothing and just ask
 - b. This takes faith, this takes submission, this requires yielding to the wisdom you get and this gives God access

C. Many are trying to replace honor, respect, yielding, and following with ignoring, not yielding and just asking and thinking God should do it anyway because I'm a good person

1. Many just want to live how they want and pay no attention to what the Lord wants and then when there's a problem they just want to pray and have God fix it – Fix my problem don't mess with my life – Yeah but the way you're living your life is what caused the problem and if you'll change the way you live we can fix the problem
 - a. Petitioning God in prayer to do something won't get rid of a problem that was created by your rebellion

D. *Jn15:7-This is more than just asking God to do something, this is God getting into your life*

1. He's talking to His disciples and says IF you abide in me and my words abide in you – This is not automatic
2. Abide in me-AC-Abide vitally united to Me; CEV-Stay joined to me; TPT-Live in life-union with me; CJB-Remain united with me

- a. This when include a yielding and a following and a closeness that comes from respect and trust
- 3. My words abide in you-CEV-My teachers become part of you; ERV-Follow my teachings
 - a. This includes clinging to, believing and obey His Words that is the result of faith and respect
- 4. Most people pay no attention to the requirements of this verse, but then expect the results

NOTES

- E. *17 And I, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them: and I will get me honor upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen. 18 And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten me honor upon Pharaoh, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen. 19 And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them: 20 And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night.*
- F. The pattern for miracles was not just to ask God loud and hard
- G. What do you have to do? You have to first get the wisdom of God and you have to be willing to fully follow to Him
- H. Our part is NOT just to petition God to do something and yet that's what many thought
 - 1. When you got saved you didn't just ask, you decided, you yielded to Him, you believed, you spoke, you acted
 - 2. When the woman with the issue of blood got healed she didn't even ask

II. When it comes to the ways of God, is the believer's part just to pray and does prayer alone, does asking God alone, does petitioning God alone give God access to do what He wants to do – Is all we have to do is pray?

- A. John 16:23-Whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have you asked nothing in my name: ask, and you shall receive, that your joy may be full
- B. Jn14:13-And whatsoever you shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.
- C. John 15:16-You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever you shall ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you
- D. Matthew 21:22-And all things, whatsoever you shall ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive
- E. Mark 11:24-Whatever things you desire, when you pray, believe you receive them and you shall have them
- F. 1 John 5:14-This is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us: And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him
- G. In my name, believing, according to my will
- H. God operates through our faith and faith is not just asking

