

Constantly Missing Out on the Opportunity of a Lifetime

Psalm 103:7 (NKJV) — 7 He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel.

- I. We always want God to do something for us!
 - A. *When we pray, our focus should not be on us but our focus should be on him. He is God!*
 - B. What we see in the majority of the Bible his people asking God to do something for them but have we ever thought the God wants something from us also. What is it? It is relationship!
 - C. How many of us like to be around somebody that only wants to use us for what we can do for them? Do you think God is pleased with us when all we do is right and complain?
 - D. The verse tells us clearly, the Lord made known his acts to the children of Israel. Why? History tells us that is what the majority of the people wanted. They did not want a relationship with God they just wanted him to do for them. It is sad but today the majority of the people a praying prayers asking God to do something for them rather than asking for a relationship with God.
 - E. Why does the Scripture say he made known his ways to Moses? Let us look.

Exodus 33:7–11 (NKJV) — 7 Moses took his tent and pitched it outside the camp, far from the camp, and called it the tabernacle of meeting. And it came to pass that everyone who sought the LORD went out to the tabernacle of meeting which was outside the camp. 8 So it was, whenever Moses went out to the tabernacle, that all the people rose, and each man stood at his tent door and watched Moses until he had gone into the tabernacle.

9 And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the LORD talked with Moses. 10 All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and worshiped, each man in his tent door. 11 So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.

1. Notice how God spoke to Moses. The majority of the people could not approach because they did not have the same relationship Moses had.
2. What was Moses relationship? **11 So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.**
3. What is our relationship?

John 15:15 (NKJV) — 15 No longer do I call you servants, *for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have*

called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

4. Friendship allows us to have a different relationship than that of servants. A servant is given an instruction and does not have to be given a reason for an explanation. But to a friend, God says he will make known his ways.
 - a. He will make known his ways!
- F. We have an opportunity of a lifetime every time we go before God in prayer. We can come to know the Lord and by coming to know him we can know how to please him!
 1. We can know his ways! When we know his ways we know how God will respond to a situation. In a sense, we can become prophetic!
- G. There were two people in the Bible that we are told that had the relationship of friendship with God.
 1. Moses
Exo 33:11 So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.
 2. Abraham
James 2:23 (NKJV) — 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God.
- H. We need to look at our prayer lives differently. We need to recognize that this opportunity of prayer is more than an opportunity to seek to get things our way. Prayer is an opportunity to come to know the ways of God! When we know the ways of God we can please him and when we please him we can have everything that we need and desire.

PRAYER SHOULD NOT BE JUST AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET BUT AN OPPORTUNITY TO KNOW HIM WHO GIVES

1. Instead of praying for what we want all the time we should more the time prayed that we know him in his ways that we may please him. Then what we told?
Matthew 6:33 (NKJV) — 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
 - a. We are to make him the priority and the things we desire secondary. If he is first then the things that we need that we don't know we need we will be freely given.
 - b. Even greater things will be revealed to us if he is made the priority of our life.

- (1) He will have no other gods before him. This means the things we keep praying to him for.
- c. Why does James tell us we don't get some of the things we ask for? **"You do not have because you do not ask".**
James 4:3–5 (NKJV) — 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. (Things you desire) 4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?

2. The Scripture tells us to ask for what we want but this does not mean that is the only reason we should pray; to get things we want.
- a. Why should not our greatest desire be to know the Lord?
3. I propose to you that if we would seek the glory of God and his presence more in our lives, is we would have less need to pray for what we need. We would find that God would already be abundantly supplying what we need.

IF WE WOULD SEE MORE OF THE PRESENCE OF GOD IN OUR LIVES WE WOULD NEED LESS PRAYER FOR THE MATERIAL IN OUR LIVES

- II. Why Moses was called God's friend:
Exodus 33:12–18 (NKJV) — 12 Then Moses said to the LORD, "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people.' But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.'

Exodus 23:20–23 (NKJV) — 20 "Behold, I send an **Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. 21 Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; **for My name is in Him.** 22 But if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries. 23 For **My Angel will go before you** and bring you in to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will cut them off.**

Exodus 33:1–2 (NKJV) — 1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Depart and go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'To your descendants I will give it.' 2 And I will send **My Angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanite and the Amorite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite.**

*Exodus 32:34 (NKJV) — 34 Now therefore, go, lead the people to the place of which I have spoken to you. Behold, **My Angel shall go before you.** Nevertheless, in the day when I visit for punishment, I will visit punishment upon them for their sin.”*

13 Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, **show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight.** And consider that this nation is Your people.”

14 And He said, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

15 Then he said to Him, “If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. 16 For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth.” 17 So the LORD said to Moses, “I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name.” 18 And he said, “Please, show me Your glory.”

A. Now, because of Jesus we have friendship not just with him.

1. **The father**

1 John 1:3 (NKJV) — 3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

2. **the Son**

1 Corinthians 1:9 (NKJV) — 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

3. **the Holy Spirit**

2 Corinthians 13:14 (NKJV) — 14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

B. Therefore, what should our prayer be? It should be that as the same of Paul. We should not focus so much on material things!

Philippians 3:3–11 (NKJV) — 3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, 4 though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; 6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and **count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him**, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

2 Peter 1:3 (NKJV) — 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

1. Let us now, as we grow into maturity in Christ, learn to seek a greater relationship with him than seek greater material possessions from him.

AS WE GROW INTO MATURITY IN CHRIST, LET US LEARN TO SEEK A GREATER RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM THEN SEEK GREATER MATERIAL POSSESSIONS FROM HIM

- C. Remember the power Moses had. Why?
Psalm 103:7 (NKJV) — 7 He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel.

Exodus 33:11 (NKJV) — 11 So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.

- D. Let us also remember we too are friends of God!
John 15:15 (NKJV) — 15 No longer do I call you servants, *for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.*

EACH AND EVERY TIME, WHEN WE GO BEFORE GOD, LET US STOP MISSING OUT ON THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE LIFETIME TO COME TO KNOW GOD BETTER!