

10-6-2019
WAITING FOR GOD'S ANSWERS AND BLESSINGS

Text:

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Here we have an account of the great prophet Daniel praying to God for answers about his nation. They were scattered, and God said that after 70 years of captivity He would restore the nation. Daniel was grieved for his nation and decided to fast and pray for three weeks to ask God for an answer as to what will become of his people. One week goes by no answer, two weeks go by no answer, and he enters the third week of prayer and fasting. One day nothing, second day nothing, third day nothing, fourth day nothing 5th day heavens are silent, 6th day nothing, the seventh day, the last day of his fast an angel appears to him to answer his prayer. He comes and tells him that God sent him on the first day to answer his prayer, but Satan's emissaries hindered him and fought against him. This little account, along with other accounts in the Bible, gives us some insight into what is going on behind the scenes in the spiritual realm. Especially when it comes to getting our prayers answered.

A few years back **I received a call from a fellow who had just gotten out of prison** and needed some help to buy clothes so that he could be decent enough to come to church. At least this is what he said.

Just then I got another phone call and put the fellow on hold. Finally I had to tell him that I would call him back because of the other call. SUDDENLY I HAD A PROBLEM WITH THE PHONE and couldn't call him back.

By the time I got the phone problem straightened out one thing led to another and I never did call the fellow back that day. When I finally did call the man back I found out he was put back in jail because he mouthed off to judge at a hearing. He was put back in jail for 30 days for contempt of court.

When I finally did talk to the fellow he admitted to me that he got very angry that I did not get back to him right away.

I believe that God had me delay getting back to expose a character flaw in his life. You see, he had an authority problem and no doubt he finds it hard to submit to his authority, especially God. His anger at me was but a symptom of deeper problems. His problem was a spiritual problem with God. Usually when we have a problem with human authority it is because we have a problem with our heavenly authority. Romans 13:1

Isaiah 40:31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

I have found through the years there are a lot of people just like this guy. If things do not happen in their timetable they get all upset. They become accusative and sometimes downright nasty!

In our text I want you to note that Daniel was mourning and fasting three weeks asking God for answers. The answer did not come right away. The Bible explains why his prayer was not answered right away. Usually God does not tell us why He delays answering our prayers.

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God's blessing and answer to prayer was hindered from getting to Daniel.

Paul the Apostle mentioned that Satan often hindered him in his work for God.

I Thessalonians 2:18 Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; **but Satan hindered us.**

I have observed that many people want things done in their own timetable, their own way, and get angry, bitter, and upset when that does not happen.

Daniel was a great man of God, greatly loved of the Lord, yet we learn that he couldn't just snap his fingers and get his prayers answered right away. How much more patient should we be?

I. We need to understand that we cannot see what is going on behind the scenes and we wrestle with spiritual powers invisible to the eye.

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Job and his friends had no idea what was going on during his trial.

So it is that 90% of the time we too have no idea what is going on behind the scenes.

About 45 years ago God opened my eyes to the battle that rages in the spiritual world, behind the scenes. About 45 years ago this month I went to a little church and they were showing a film that portrayed life as a spiritual battle between the kingdom of Satan and kingdom of God. It was so real to me, because everything that was portrayed about the Kingdom of Satan was true to where I lived. Everything about the Kingdom of God I was not involved in..

It was then that God opened my eyes to the spiritual realm. **People have no idea of what is going on in the spiritual realm.**

My question to you, is this: Is God in control? If God is in control, then why do we get so frazzled and upset about everything? We lose patience with people, circumstances, and life in general.

The Bible says,

Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

I Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

I Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Is God working all things in your life for His good will and pleasure? Can you trust Him?! We cannot see angelic beings but they are all around us.

Daniel was shown what was going on in the background.
We are not shown, but still He is working in the background.

We are totally in the Dark about what the future holds.
God is working to all things to humble us and bring us to Himself.

We get mad at this one.
We get upset about this.
We are bitter about that.
We are worried about that.

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II. Since we are in the dark as to what is really going on behind the scenes, our greatest defence is PRAYER AND ALSO TRUSTING AND WAITING ON THE LORD BY FAITH!

The older we get the harder we find it is to trust. Years ago when I took **Psychology class 101 in secular college**, the College professor made us take turns blindfolding each other and letting our fellow students lead us around campus. To this day I do not know what the professor was trying to accomplish. Back then I thought maybe he just wanted the guys and the girls of the class to walk around campus holding hands. Maybe the lesson the professor was trying to show was how it felt to have to totally lean on someone else and blindly trust them. Back then I thought the whole thing was stupid but today I can think of a good illustration spiritually. The truth is that men have let us down through the years so it is natural to not trust in man. But so often our distrust for men cause us to not trust the Lord.

We, in a sense, are totally blind to what is going on in the spiritual realm. We do not see angelic and demonic beings but they are all around us, influencing the affairs of men and their actions. We need God to lead us by the hand because we are totally blinded to what is happening around us.

We see in the book of Daniel how Daniel was blinded to what was happening in the spirit world in regards to his fasting and prayer!

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Daniel was one of the greatest and wisest old testament prophets.

Yet there were many things he did not understand and there are many things we don't understand.

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

James 1:3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

James 1:4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

Daniel had to wait for answers from God and some things he never received answers for and went to the grave with questions.

Daniel 12:9 And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

We can read the book of Job and see how there was a spiritual battle raging in the background in regard to Job. I am sure this is happening in our lives also.

III. THE TRICK OF THE DEVIL IS TO TRY AND CONFUSE US AND CAUSE US TO INDICT GOD WITH EVIL INSTEAD OF LIVING BY FAITH.

What did the devil try to get Job to do?

Did he not try and get Job to indict God? He bet that Job would curse God if everything were taken from him.

Fellow calls me. I was hindered in calling him back. He didn't realize my phone went dead, I was hindered by other details of the ministry. It was not that I was purposely avoiding him. Instead of being patient he gets angry and that anger builds, when he went for his hearing he got angry at the judge and the judge put him back in jail for 30 days for contempt!

God says that when we ask for something we need to show persistence and patience and endurance!

Luke 11:9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

Luke 11:10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

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?

Luke 11:12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

Luke 11:13 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?

This is the old trick of Satan. All the way back in the garden.

It was the essence of the first temptation:

Satan told Eve, God was holding back something from you that you deserve. The devil suggested to Eve that God was not to be trusted. He doesn't want you to be like Him.

"God was being unfair, you deserve more from God.."

"God does not care." On and on Satan works in the background to fight against God.

IV. HOW DO WE SHOW OUR LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS TO GOD?

Throughout the Bible, the lesson that Jesus tried to teach His disciples was the nobility of endurance and patience.

We show it in our endurance when we wait upon God.

James 5:10 Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.

James 5:11 Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

What are Christ's believers called in the Bible?

The Believers are called DISCIPLES!

Consider the meaning of the word disciple: The word disciple means one who comes under discipline and tutorage and learning.

TUTORAGE, LEARNING, WHAT IS IT TO BE A STUDENT! IT IS TO BE UNDER DISCIPLINE, AND WHAT IS DISCIPLINE BUT A FORM OF CHASTENING!

Hebrews 12 gives a great exposition of biblical chastening!

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Hebrews 12:4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

Hebrews 12:5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

Hebrews 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Hebrews 12:7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

Hebrews 12:8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

Hebrews 12:9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

Hebrews 12:10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

Hebrews 12:11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

Hebrews 12:12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;

Hebrews 12:13 And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Throughout the Bible the Lord calls out for people to count the cost and come to him.

Application:

I finally called back the fellow exactly 7 days later..

He says he was upset at me. He was fuming that I did not call him back immediately. I explained what happened and then he apologized. I asked him what happened that caused his marital break up and his problems.

He went to Bible college BBC, he met his wife and got married but finances and other problems caused him to drop out. He got bitter about things and decided to bail out of church and spend more time working and making money. He got bitter at God. Then he started having health problems.

He got bitter about financial problems, because of his health problems he got bitter about that. He felt his suffering was too great.

He went to the doctor was told he might lose his sight.

What does he do, he gets bitter, starts drinking.

Got arrested for disorderly conduct and since he is really mad at God, what is it to get bitter at men? My father used to say show me a man that has no fear of God or man and you have a dangerous man.

HE NO LONGER FEARS THE GREAT JUDGE SO HE HAS NO FEAR OF THE EARTHLY JUDGE! AT COURT HE MOUTHS OFF TO THE JUDGE AND IS THROWN IN JAIL!

Here we have an example of a person that the devil is making mince meat with.

When you find yourself in a downward spiral like this man, let me suggest that you take a deep breath spiritually and realize you are totally blind to what is going on behind the scenes and you need God to lead you around by the hand. TRUST IN HIM!

Just the opposite of the man who has no fear of God or man is a dangerous person,

The Christian who has no fear of what this life could throw at them because they are completely trusting in God in all things is the most blessed person ever! This blessing is better than having a million dollars in the bank. Not only will he be blessed but that man will be a blessing to others!

v. All our earthly life is but a test to see if we will endure to the end, waiting and trusting in God!!

Satan is a master at trying to get us bitter against God and circumstance. Remember who is the one that is allowing these circumstance to take place in your life. DON'T BE IGNORANT OF THE DEVICES OF SATAN! Bitterness is his greatest tool to put you in bondage!

II Corinthians 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

Satan works to make us bitter.

And ultimately who are we bitter at? Is it not God?

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God knows our needs and often has dispatched an answer as soon as we pray and sometimes even before we pray, but Satan will try to delay that answer.

Satan will hinder and intercept and twist and distort God's answer and ways!

CONCLUSION:

When things are bad, trials abound, everything looks dark, and you are in the dark feeling, like a blind man trying to find your way. Be of good cheer, trust in God. He is there to take you by the hand and lead you if you would only ask Him and call on Him.

Will you endure to the end trusting in the Lord?

Or will you indict God? When you do you are showing yourself unworthy to receive His blessings.