

P U R S U I N G R I G H T E O U S N E S S

“ P r a y e r i s t h e k e y a n d f a i t h u n l o c k s t h e d o o r ”

“My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from Him.”

Psalm 62: 5-8

P R A Y I N G I N E X P E C T A T I O N

Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray dear Lord my soul to keep ... For many of us, we were taught this little bedside prayer at a very early age. Much like our ABCs, we repeated it over and over and over again till not only we could say it from memory. We could say it in our sleep. Well, similar to the prayers we learned as children, as adults we often pray with hearts truly desiring God to hear us, but not really sure what He will answer. We often pray without expectation.

In our focus scripture, we find that David not only believed God's word, but he trusted in God's answer. He expected God to do just what His word said He would do. David could say with bold assurance that God was his salvation, his defense, his refuge and the rock of his strength, because David's expectation was in God not in man. David's trust in God was a natural by product of his expectation of God. Many of us today, believe totally that God is able to do more than we could ask or think. But we fail to trust that God will do just what His word says He will do. We are like the young son of a famous tight rope walker.

For many years the little boy grew watching his father walk across the tight rope. He watched him carry many things across the rope with him, some large and some small. One day the father asked his young son if he wanted to go across the rope in his arms. The child with much excitement ran and jumped into his father's arms. As the man neared the end of the rope, he accidentally dropped his son. He repeated his walk with his son four or five additional times. Each time prior to completing the entire rope he would drop his son from his arms. This really puzzled the man, so he began to practice carrying things much larger and heavier than his son. The next time the man asked his son to let him carry him across the rope. The boy responded to his dad with great hesitation and reluctance. The boy was sure his dad could carry him; he just didn't trust him to make it to the end. Are we like this little boy with God? We know God can, but do we trust Him to carry us to the end. Trust is born when our expectations are realized.

Not very long ago I was made aware of the plight of a young newly wed couple. Both of them were sincere believers and lived exemplary Christian lives. They loved children and focused on leading children and young people to Christ. After a while the two of them prayed that God would bless them with a child of their own. Months and even a year or two went by and still no child. Whenever anyone would ask, she would always answer the same. We are still believing God for a child. One day her mother asked her why aren't you pregnant yet? Before she could finish her answer, her mother stopped her and said; you've got to stop just believing what God said He can do, and start trusting that He will do just what He said He will do. You believed God before you prayed; now expect Him to do what He said. When the young wife went to church that night, her husband was teaching a bible lesson on the birth of Jesus. He said to his class that when Mary went to visit Elizabeth, she didn't know she was with child. Mary just expected the Angel's words to come true real soon. That lesson helped change the young wife's entire thinking about God's promises in His word. A few months later her mother asked her again are you pregnant yet? She now answered with great pride, mom we are expecting.

Praying in expectation simply mean praying in line with God's word. God has already conceived inside of us the object of our prayers long before we could even think or ask God about them. Our prayers are the breath of life God breathes into His plan for our lives. When we pray in expectation we tell God about what He is already doing, and then we wait to join Him in the tangible reality of His Word.

((A church that prays together, grows in faith together))

L e t u s p r a y

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