



THEME: CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

Bible Study 3: Answered Prayer – “The Lord’s generosity”

INTRODUCTION For many Christians in this country today there are mixed feelings about prayer and how the Lord answers prayers. Often the experience of many has been a little hit and miss with many requests of the heart being seemingly left unanswered. This can and often does lead to a double mindedness in prayer where we are not confident that what we have sought the Lord for He will answer. Often our view can be one of where we ask for very little because we do not feel that it is the nature of God to show us generosity.

QUOTE :- “Often I have seen how cruel Christians can be to themselves. How cruel a man would be to himself if he starved himself to death in the midst of plenty, of which he might freely partake. Now, what excuse can a Christian have for all his doubts, fears, darkneses and perplexities, and how cruel he is to himself when such marvellous provision is made to set the Christian free from all such unhappy experiences. Do we live under such circumstances, and yet have a life of complaining? And is it a law of God’s house that His children almost starve? Is it a rule of God’s house that His children should not have grace enough to lift them above perplexities and unbelief? Does God starve His children to death?”

DISCUSS – Do you think God answers prayers if so why?

What do you think the outcome in Kingdom terms would be if Holy Spirit inspired answered prayer became the reality of God’s people?

With so many promises in the bible about God’s faithfulness to His children in provision, why do you think we struggle to live by faith?

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS about our relationship with the Lord – Ephesians 1 verses 3 – 6, Ephesians 2 verses 19 – 22, 1 Peter 2 v – 10, Romans 8 v 14 – 17, Galatians 4 v 3 – 7, 1 Corinthians 12 v 27, Colossians 3 v 1 – 4, 1 Corinthians 3 v 16 – 17, Ch 6 v 19 – 20, 2 Corinthians 6 v 16 – 18

DISCUSS – How do you think these passages concerning our identity should shape our understand of God’s ways and actions towards us in relation to answered prayer?

TEACHING SLOT – We are both God’s children and His ambassadors.

When we think and reflect on the consistent revelation of God and His actions towards us we see that the Lord does not change. In the Old Testament we see that the Lord makes a covenant with Abram that he and his descendants would be the people of God and would testify to the whole world concerning the One True God. The deep, personal and rich relationship that they would have with the Lord would testify to who the Lord is and the Glory of His reign, His truth and His power. Through the Lord Jesus Christ the Lord has now opened up for all people from every nation to come into a personal relationship with Himself. Again the beauty and intimacy of this relationship is to bear witness to the world that Jesus Christ is the Lord and there is salvation in no – one else. The Lord has made us His children, His body, His temple, His family with the express purposes that as we live for Him and work His purposes out in this world today. He will show the world something of His true love, generosity, power and justice at work in this world today. The simple truth is that it is the Lord Himself who desires to bless and make fruitful His people in His work and in overcoming the World so that the world might know the glory and power of His salvation. As His children and ambassadors of both His Son and His Gospel that Lord promises to provide all that we need to live in freedom, live in fullness and live in the victory of Christ. The Lord indeed is good and He is faithful and He holds back no good thing from those who belong to Him and are faithful to Him. For as we His people bear fruit in our lives, our actions and our ministries we bring glory and honour to His name.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS– Matthew 7 v 7 – 11, Psalm 81 v 8 – 10, Psalm 34 v 8 – 10, Psalm 103 v 1 – 5

TEACHING SLOT – Asking of the Lord

In Psalm 81 verse 10 that the Lord our God encourages us to open our mouths and allow Him to fill it. What is being said here is that the Lord knows the needs of His people. He know the plans of His heart towards His children. And as a loving and providing Father He is both interested and compassionate towards the needs that we have. God calls us to ask of Him great things. Not just to open our mouths, but open them wide, fully, to complete capacity that He may fill us with good things from His kingdom and His Father’s heart of love. As Ephesians 3 verse 20 says to us “ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power at work in us.” What is declared is that here is that if we open our hearts, our lives, our churches and our mouths wide in prayer and petition with faith and perseverance, the Lord WILL fill our needs. The reason for this is that the Lord has great interest in His church, He has a great interest in our lives as His children. As a result of this He is able to make His grace sufficient to enable us to do and be all that is required of us. So that we might honour and glorify His name. When God calls His people He also equips His people. Jesus walked on this earth and felt its keenest blow. Therefore we have one who understands our weaknesses and is willing to both provide and answer the prayers of His people. Rather than a God who begrudges giving His people anything, we see that the LORD would give us all that we need to overcome and be successful in Him. There is indeed provision made for our needs but we need to approach the Throne of Grace in confidence, faith and perseverance.

TEACHING SLOT – A Problem of unbelief.

The problem that we have in this country is one of where we find ourselves unable or unwilling to expect or believe any great or often even small things from the Lord. We have grown up with an expectation that other than in salvation terms the Lord’s heart is small towards His children and He is offended when we approach Him in confidence and faith.. THIS IS NOT SO for faith is a real and powerful core foundation of answered prayer. To release this faith we need to go back to the word, examine the heart of God towards His people and then respond in faith to what the Lord reveals to us by His Spirit. There needs to be a training of our minds and hearts in the Word of God so that we will believe in the heart of God which says...“ OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDE, AND I WILL FILL IT.”