



Regaining Right Emphasis

The following statement is very old and very true. "God does love His people." What a remarkable thing the love of God is. Some look at the Word of God as a poetic collection of historical writings and fail to see the path to truth it reveals. Others can only see "Thou shall not" of the Commandments as negative demands and do not understand the words of life presented to us from the Author of all life. Philosophers read the text as a mere philosophy of living a good life without the beauty of the Love it's pages pour forth to the readers and ignore the relationship it establishes between God and mankind. Some say it is in the eye of the beholder and it can be taken in many different ways, and it's meaning changes with the times as to the message recorded in it's volume of pages. And some see only universal truths without any power to change lives. My point is, that unless we see the whole Bible as an unchangeable love story of God toward mankind, we miss the most important point of the Word of God, that God does love His own and offers His Amazing Love to all who will come to Him in faith.

"...how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

Why does God answer our prayers?

Love is the motivating factor for God answering our prayers and if we get all tied up in the formulas of prayer and not in the essence of prayer we can find ourselves struggling for the answers we are asking Him for. In the following scripture we see the Love of God the Father as described by Jesus Christ. **Luke 11:9-13** *"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened. Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"*

The above scripture shows God the Father as our loving, caring, and all Powerful Heavenly Father that will give us only what is good and not evil. Even in His just discipline and corrections we see His love to keep us from falling and to show us the right way to go with our lives according to His Will for each of us. When Jesus describes earthly fathers as being evil, he is saying natural fathers had fallen from the original state in which they had been created, after sin entered into the hearts of mankind in the Garden of Eden, and as such have a fallen character and nature. But even these Fathers would not do evil to their own children to cause them harm. We must also see that when Jesus says Fathers, He means real loving Fathers and not just the biological source of children who could care less and are loveless. He then says *'how much more will your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.'* Our Heavenly Father is perfect in His Nature and Being and will only give us what is good. The giving of the Holy Spirit is a seal of His love for us, just as sending His Son revealed to what lengths our Heavenly Father went to on our behalf.

Good and Perfect

James 1:17 *"Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow."* Every thing that God gives is good and perfect. Evil things come from another source, but not from God. Remember, that discipline and correction from Our Heavenly Father are not evil, but good and perfect. They are for our welfare and training as sons and daughters of God. If wrong behavior of a child goes uncorrected the child thinks it is OK to misbehave. In a similar meaning the Scriptures tell us in, **Isaiah 5:13** *"Therefore My people go into exile for their lack of knowledge; And their honorable men are famished, And their multitude is parched with thirst."* The Prophet speaks of the future captivity of Israel by the Babylonians, due to their unrestrained life styles and abandoning the knowledge of, and obedience to, God. Their unchanged behavior caused their own grief. So just as natural parents correct their children and discipline them for their own good to prevent them from present and future harm, God does the same thing to and for us. Let us thank Him for His corrective and disciplined love to keep His children in line.

The Right emphasis for the Blessings of God

All the blessings of God are the result of the Love of God. **Psalms 84:11** *"For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD gives grace and glory; No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly."* The blessings accompany our walking uprightly before God. **John 16:26-28** *"In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I will request of the Father on your behalf; for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father. I came forth from the Father and have come into the world; I am leaving the world again and going to the Father."*

Please notice the word Love. It is used to describe the Fathers love for those that are His, because they loved the One He sent to them, Jesus. We need to come to the total knowledge of the Love of God for us. If we come to God with an attitude of demands or even great needs without the knowledge of His Love and purposes, we are not asking properly and we do not understand God. But when we come with our spiritual eyes opened to His love and with humble child like faith, we are then approaching the Father with the right emphasis and attitude. Like a child asking for food because they are hungry, this is how we should come to God with expectations of His answering our prayers because He loves us and has made this access to Him through the sacrifice of His Son. *No good thing will He withhold.*

Un-complicate Prayer

Sometimes we pray loudly, quietly, privately, publically, and even silently as we speak to God from our hearts. But it is not the method in which we pray that reaches the Throne of Grace, but it is the Love we have for God and faith in what He has promised that rises to His Throne. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are just part of the Love of God for His Church and their needs as God's family on earth and eventually will fade away when the Kingdom of God is established on earth. But Love will never pass away and will abide forever. Solomon in all his Wisdom drifted away for years from the Wisdom of God for his own life, but in the Book of Ecclesiastes he remembered what Wisdom teaches. **Ecclesiastes 12:13** *"The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person."* Both fearing God and keeping His Commandments show our love of God. Jesus said, **John 14:15** *"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. If we don't really love God, we will not keep His Commandments. We obey out of love for God and not religious regulations."*

Have a blessed week. Pastor, Vince

Pray for our children!