

#117 WRESTLING FOR BLESSING

Q: I pray and pray and almost never see an answered prayer. I want God to use my life, but I don't have any talents He wants to use. Is there something I'm missing that keeps God from answering my prayers?"

Matthew 25:14-15 "For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey."

A: God loves you, but He is not impressed with anyone's humility in claiming they have nothing. Everyone is given talents. If you will not praise God, but complain about your lack and don't use what you have already been given, you will lose even that!

Matthew 25:28-30 "Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance; but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Q: "Whoa, that's pretty harsh, I keep trying but everyone tells me something different; why does God judge people who are just trying to please Him?"

Matthew 25:18&24 "But he that had received one (talent) went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money...²⁴ Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:²⁵ and I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine."

A: What are you doing with what God has told you already? Are you still collecting others' opinions or are you only seeking God's opinion? You can continue in the never-ending round of longing for what you do not have like the unprofitable servant, or you can believe God for what you do have.

Hebrews 11:6 "But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."

A: In God's word, the pattern established by those He uses for His purposes is to diligently seek the LORD, grab hold, catch a vision of victory, and do not consider that it might not work. Believe God and put all of the little faith you do have to work, and push forward the plan of God. Pray for the next step, then believe God and act on it.

Q: "But how can I push forward with the plan of God if I don't know what it is or what direction He wants me to go because I'm not hearing Him tell me anything?"

Isaiah 30:21 "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left."

A: God first speaks to us in small ways that you may not seem important, but it is in obedience to small things that God trains His children. If you are not hearing the voice of God behind you it is not because He is not there guiding you and telling you which way to go. You must be willing to obey His voice, you will miss His calling.

Matthew 23:37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!"

A: The unprofitable servant did not expect that God could do anything with the little he was given. What you expect to receive is probably exactly what you will receive.

Matthew 23:38-39 "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. ³⁹ For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."

A: Jesus does not want you to be like Jerusalem and miss His visitation to YOU! God doesn't want you to feel desolate like you do, so change your expectation, because Just like Jerusalem, you will not see God acting in your life until you bless Him with praise for what He has already done! Seek God with all your heart for His blessing!

Deuteronomy 4:29 "But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul."

A: Pattern your life after the pattern God established in His word through the lives of His people. What is it that you expect? Jacob expected to receive from God. He came in to this world with an attitude of expectancy and maintained that attitude all his life. God wants you to desire Him with all your heart and prevail with Him like Jacob by grabbing hold of His blessing!

Genesis 25:26,33; 32:28 "And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob...And Jacob said, swear to me his day; and he sware unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob. And He said, thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed."

A: From birth, Jacob showed a pattern in his life of grabbing hold onto blessing.

A: Jacob had a pattern of choosing blessing, and he made it happen. What pattern have you established in your life? Do you choose blessing and take action? Jacob, and also Moses' mother, Jochebed, would not take 'no' or certain doom for an answer.

Exodus 2:3 "And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink."

A: God saved Moses because his mother **EXPECTED** God would save him! Do you **EXPECT** blessing with that kind of faith?

*Deuteronomy 30:19 "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that **I have set before you life and death, blessing or cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.**"*

Q: "I do pray for my kids and my spouse to be saved, and I've heard testimony of other husbands/wives being saved after 20 or 30 years and how blessed they were, but that isn't fair, my kids need their dad/mom now!"

*Proverbs 18:21 "Death and **life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.**"*

A: Choose life and salvation and see it happen. See your loved ones saved and act on it. **Treat them with the same honor and respect as if they were everything you prayed for!** Get a vision like Jacob! When life wasn't fair, he got a vision!

Genesis 30:25-31:13 Jacob & uncle Laban.

A: When Laban tricked Jacob out of his rightful wages, Jacob prayed, and God gave him a vision of what to do: Jacob peeled away the bark of branches and laid them in the watering troughs like God showed him.

A: By the physical sign of laying spotted branches before the flocks, Jacob could see what God was about to do and believe it. If you truly believe God, lay out your sticks in the water trough, and peel off the part of your life God says to peel off. If you will listen to God's vision for your life and obey Him in the small ways like Jacob, He will answer your prayers in amazing ways!

*Job 22:28 "**Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee; and the light shall shine upon thy ways.**"*

A: Believe and see the vision that God shows you in your heart; grab hold of God's blessing, decree it, expect it, wrestle for it, and don't let go. Believe and see your loved ones praising God; don't take the 'no' of the circumstances you see for an answer! When loved ones come to you for water, lay out a picture for them to see. All are thirsty to be loved, highly esteemed and praised. As you water God's way, you and your loved ones will begin to drink deeply and become transformed by God's blessing.

Ephesians 3:20,21 "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end, Amen."

PRAYER: *Dearest Father, forgive me for not seeing and using the talents you gave to me all along. I seek you with all my heart Lord, and believe You are my reward. I choose life, and I choose to believe and act on the visions you plant in my heart, and pray you will use my life for your glory, **in Jesus name, Amen.***

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Bringing God's Word
For
Life's Questions

This tract series has grown from the weekly Bible study targeting personal life issues faced by God's people through the pages of the Bible, and in our lives today, while looking to the power of God's word that comes alive through His indwelling Holy Spirit, to bring truth, lasting change and wholeness to our lives. We pray these tracts will help you to become more effective in your individual life and in opening doors to express and share your faith, so that many will come to know our God of grace, mercy, love and redemption through your personal ministry to them.