

Understanding True Faith—Part 3

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BIG SANDY, Texas—In three consecutive church services at the Church of God Big Sandy in September 2011, I gave three sermons as part of a three-part series titled “Understanding True Faith.”

Toward the end of the sermon, I spent a significant amount of time discussing three important concepts. Here they are.

- I believe that God (as a perfect Father) will supply our personal needs—because He is trustworthy and because He loves us.
- I believe that God will often give us the desires of our heart—because He loves us.
- I believe that God sometimes says “no” to our requests (which are often some desires of our heart)—because He loves us.

Supplies our needs

Some people attempt to use Luke 11:9-10 in an attempt prove their theory that God is required to answer all prayers with a yes. Yet notice what it says.

- Luke 11:1: “Lord, teach us to pray.”
- Verses 2-4: The model prayer.
- Verses 5-8: Asking a friend for bread at midnight.
- Verses 9-10: Asks-given, seeks-finds, knocks-opened.
- Verse 11: If a son needs bread, does the father give a stone? If a son needs fish, does the father give a serpent?
- Verse 12: If a son needs an egg, does the father give a scorpion?

God is the perfect Father who provides our needs. And He wants us to come boldly before the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16). He promises help in time of need.

Often gives us our desires

The apostle Peter wrote that believers should cast all their cares upon God (1 Peter 5:7). That may begin with our needs, but it also includes our desires.

As a loving Father, God is generally happy to hear our little voices tell Him about the desires of our heart.

I believe that God will often give us the desires of our heart. Notice the following.

- Psalm 21:2.
- Psalm 145:15-16.

Let me quickly mention that one of the greatest desires of our heart is justice. It is an understandable desire—nevertheless, it is a desire.

Christ did not receive proper justice from people during His physical life (Acts 2:23). However, Christ was given justice by His heavenly Father through the resurrection (verses 24-36). Likewise, Philippians 3:10 reveals that believers may have temporary injustice in this physical life before receiving true justice in the resurrection.

Sometimes says no

You may remember some of the reasons I mentioned last week why God sometimes says no to prayers. First, God sometimes says no because people ask for wrong reasons (James 4:3). Second, God sometimes says no because of sins people commit.

However, God sometimes says no because He wants to show His power (2 Corinthians 12:8-9).

- God's strength was made perfect in Paul's weakness.
- The power of Christ rested upon Paul.
- When Paul was weak, God helped him to become strong (verse 10).

Reminder of three points

- We can have faith that God provides our needs.
- We can have faith that God often gives us the desires of our heart.
- We can have faith that God sometimes says no because He loves us.