

Tuesday's Touch ...#30

...from Pastor Ed ...August 18, 2009

The Blank Check of Prayer

*Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. **And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.***

John 14:12-14

*You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, **that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.** John 15:16*

*And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive.
Matthew 21:22*

Our Lord makes some astounding promises to his disciples concerning prayer. Were these promises only to the original disciples? Do they apply only those who can “work up” enough faith and believe hard enough to get whatever they want? What does it mean to “ask anything in my name”?

An illustration from my own experience might be helpful. I once worked for the owner of a manufacturing company. In addition to other duties, from time to time I would be given a large project to accomplish, such as “replace the entire phone system” or “install a completely new computer network.” Each time, at some point, my boss would hand me his own business credit card and say, “whatever you need, get it in my name.” Did he mean that if I wanted a new suit, or a new car, or a new house I could just go and get it “in his name”? Of course not. The context was always regarding the accomplishment of the particular project **he gave me to do**, i.e. the accomplishment of his will.

As children of God we have been purchased by the blood of Christ that we should no longer live for ourselves, but for Christ, who died for us and rose again (2 Cor 5:15). Our lives must not be about *our* goals and *our* will, but *His*. Now, in that context, as we obediently set out to accomplish His will, He has given us a book of blank checks and said, “Whatever you need in order to accomplish my will, go to the Father and get it in my name.” We must not limit this promise. We must not neglect this awesome provision. Although we may “ask amiss” at times, thinking something is needed that really isn’t, the limitless resources of heaven have been apportioned for Christ and His

kingdom. WHATEVER *is* needed to accomplish His purpose, and to sustain us as we do His will, *will* be given to faithful, submitted, believing servants.

And so, as we ask in prayer, there are a few things of which we must be mindful.

1. We must first ask ourselves, “Am I His servant who is concerned above all else about His kingdom, glory, and righteousness?” (Matthew 6:33)
2. We must remember that material things are *usually* the lowest priority in serving Christ. Moses had a stick; David had a sling shot; Jesus was born into poverty. How quickly we are apt to equate serving Him with material “stuff” (1 Tim 6:5-10). On the other hand, where there truly *are* material needs, He is neither reluctant nor unable to do “exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think” (Eph 3:20).
3. *Nothing* is impossible with God (Lk 1:37). Ask believing.
4. Know and trust that in His perfect wisdom our loving Father will always answer according to what He knows is best.

What is it that you think prevents you from serving Christ and accomplishing His will? The problem is never on God’s end. If you have fully embraced the above points, then...

Rise up and go forth...

...on your knees, believing.

Bestower of Every Good and Perfect Gift,

Make us relentless in prayer by Your Spirit as we live for Your glory and purpose.

Kneeling boldly before the throne of grace,

Amen

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