

# When God Gives You Everything You Want

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In my years of ministry I have heard people tell me that they have received a “prophetic word” in which God told them that, “God was going to give them **everything** they wanted and **everything** they desired.” At first, this might sound to some of us as a “Praise God!!!” moment. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if God gave me everything “I” wanted? Some of us would be so excited. After all, isn’t that what it means to be a child of God? Isn’t that what God’s love and grace is all about? However, if we take a closer look at this “prophetic word” we begin to see that maybe it is not such a good thing that God was telling those individuals. For the purpose of our discussion, let us proceed on the premise that it was indeed a “word from the Lord.” Is this really a good thing for those people or did God mean it as a warning? Should we really be excited when God tells us that He will “give us everything that we want?”

One example that comes to mind concerning God giving people what they wanted is found in 1Samuel 8:5-22 - The Children of Israel wanted a king

- The children of Israel wanted a natural, physical king (just like all the other nations).
- God, through the prophet Samuel, tried to warn them about the consequences of having such a king.
- The people still wanted what they wanted - a king
- God, in 1Samuel 8: 22 tells them through the prophet Samuel - *“And the LORD said to Samuel, Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king.”*
- In 1Samuel 12:17-19 the people realize the results of getting what they wanted - *“...I will call unto the LORD, and he shall send thunder and rain; that ye may perceive and see that your wickedness [is] great, which ye have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking you a king. So Samuel called unto the LORD; and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day: and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel. And all the people said unto Samuel, **Pray for thy servants unto the LORD thy God, that we die not: for we have added unto all our sins [this] evil, to ask us a king.**”*
- It was always God’s plan to be their “one and only God and King.” Yet the people rejected what God’s plan and desire was and just wanted what they thought was the best thing for them. This affected their entire history and its affects are still being felt today. God giving them what they wanted did not work out too well for them, did it?

The scripture that many people use concerning asking the Lord and expecting God to give them what they want is Psalm 37:4, 5 (NKJV) - *“Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He shall bring [it] to pass.”* It would seem that God is saying that He will give us the desires of our heart and the He will bring it to pass. In truth, this is exactly what the scripture is telling us. Unfortunately, we as people with our faulty human nature, look at the above scriptures from a tainted, shaded viewpoint. We see and read these scriptures from a selfish, self-centered mentality which causes us to take these scriptures and make it “all about us.” Maybe... just maybe, it is not “all about us.”

As we read Psalm 37:4, 5 (NKJV), we must look into and truly study what the text is really saying. To do this we must first look at the phrase, *“**Delight** yourself also in the LORD...”*, and look into what that really means. Many of us look at that phrase and think it means that we are to be happy and joyful in our relationship with Yahweh, God. This is true. However, there is a deeper understanding to this. The Hebrew word translated “delight” (נָגַעַ, pronounced *aw-nag*) literally means to be delicate or feminine. It carries the idea of being sensitive (being highly responsive to something; readily affected or changed by various agents such as light, etc) as well as being pliable (flexible; having the ability to bend towards something). In this particular context, it means to be dependent upon God, flexible to turn towards God and to respond and be ready to be affected by Him. It points to the fact that an individual is to derive one’s life and pleasure from God. The word “delight” used in this scripture infers “to be delicate, such as a flower is delicate.”

A flower needs sunlight as its source of life. If you are a gardener, you know that at night a flower closes up. When morning comes, at the first rays of sun, the flower begins to turn towards the sun, opens up and then follows the sun throughout the day thriving on the nourishment of the sun. What the scripture is telling us is that we need to “delight” or turn towards God as the source of our life. I become “closed” minded to the things of the spirit realm without His nourishment. As He “arises” within my life and His Glory washes over me, I become alive. As I turn towards Him, I soak and bathe myself in His life. As I follow Him every moment, as I delight in Him within my heart, His goodness and mercy will lead me and follow me all the days of my life. (Psalm 23:6). We begin to see that “delighting myself in the Lord” means to be delighted in, with and by Him. The things that delight His heart now are the things that delight my heart – not the other way around.

Now let us take a look at the section of Psalm 37:4 which states, *“...and he shall give thee the **desires** of your heart.”* The term translated “desires” (מִשְׁאֲלוֹתָ, pronounced *mish-aw-law*) refers to “petitions or requests.” In Hebrew thought, the “heart” was primarily the seat of the “inner man.” It was the source of a person’s will. In other words, the Psalmist is telling us that God will honor the “delighting ourselves in Him” by graciously granting what we ask of Him. The key here is that as we turn towards God as the source of our life, then it will be God and His desires that will truly become the desires of our heart. The promise in this scripture is not that God will give us what we want if we delight in Him. No. The promise is that God will give us **Himself** and all that He is and desires for us, if and when we delight and turn towards Him.

The question to ask ourselves would be, *“If we are **delighting ourselves in God...**, whose desires should begin to resonate within our heart?”* As I turn towards God and acknowledge Him as the source of my life then all of a sudden my own desires and wants fade away and now **HIS** heart becomes my heart. **HIS** desires become my desires. I begin to want what He wants, not what I want. The attitude of my heart becomes one in which I commit my life to see God accomplish what He wants to take place, not what I want. I align myself with His plans, His will, and His desires for me. As I do that, I have a confidence in knowing and resting in the fact that He will now bring **His** desires to pass within my life. You see, it becomes all about what **HE** truly wants for me, not what I want or what I think God wants for me.

Let's read Isaiah 55: 8 -11 (KJV). As we read these scriptures we must remember that it is God speaking. It has nothing to do with what we think or desire. He is speaking about what **HE** desires and wants to see accomplished for His Kingdom's sake as well as what is best for His people.

*"For my thoughts [are] not your thoughts, neither [are] your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9) For [as] the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10) For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11) So shall **MY** word be that goeth forth out of **MY** mouth: it shall not return unto **ME** void, but it shall accomplish that which **I** please, and it shall prosper [in the thing] whereto **I** sent it."*

These are very familiar scriptures to us and ones that we all have heard and read many times. However, even though we have heard, read and even declared these scriptures countless times we miss something so very, very important, especially in verse 11. Many of us have read, taken and used verse 11 in error and not realized it. For the purpose of our discussion you may have noticed that I bolded and capitalized some of the text in verse 11. You see, when many of us pray, we pray and use the scriptures in what **we** think the outcome should be. We pray and ask for what **we** think should happen. We pray what **we** desire.

For example we use the scriptures for healing and we believe God hears His Word and will bring healing. We use the scriptures for supplying our needs and we believe God hears His Word and supplies our need. The scripture is clear in 1John 5:14, 15 - *"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."* Hey, there is no doubt about it - God hears His Word and will answer every one of our petitions as we use His Word in that situation. However, many times when we pray or use the scriptures, we already have a preconceived idea of how it should turn out and how it should come to pass. We become convinced that the result we are looking for is the result that must take place, regardless of what God's plan and desires are in that particular situation. If we ask for healing, God's word will not return void. Healing will be accomplished. However, the result might not be what we think it should look like. Why? The answer to that is simple - God sees the whole picture and we do not. None of us do. We may think we do, but we do not. Only God knows the "end from the beginning." (Isaiah 46:10)

Another, possible problem is that we sometimes, find ourselves taking the place of God. We sometimes think we can manipulate God and change His mind by the things we do or say. We have the audacity to think that we can change the course of things that God has designed, planned and knew would take place and happen from the beginning of time. We actually think that it is because of something we do, say or command of Him that will cause God to do what we desire and want.

As I had mentioned previously, God hears His Word and will answer every one of our petitions as we use **His Word** in that situation. Many times we call that "praying in faith." Let's take a "Selah" moment and pause and think on this for a moment. Is our faith placed in the God who knows all and sees all, or is our faith placed in ourselves, in our wonderful, flowery prayer? Is our faith placed in the One whose will shall be done here on earth as it is in Heaven or is our faith placed in the notion that we will get what we desire because we are praying correctly?

**T**here is a fine line that we must never cross over. Yes, we are to pray according to how and what the scriptures tell us. However, it is not the correctness that God hears. It is not the “seven steps,” or “five steps” or “three steps” to effective prayer that we may have been taught or learned. That is all well and good. There is nothing wrong with those things. What matters most is that our faith is not necessarily in how we pray but rather our faith is to be in the One to whom we are praying and in what His will is to be. It is our heart and the attitude of our heart that He hears.

**I** was corrected by the Lord in this very aspect of our discussion. I began to get into a “habit” that after I would be praying for someone I would try to reassure them that our prayers would be answered by saying that “I have faith in the prayers that I pray.” I thought that this was a statement of faith until the Lord corrected me by asking me, “Do you have faith in your prayers and in how you pray and that the prayer will be answered because of what you did and how you prayed? Or do you have faith in the One you are praying to and that He will be the reason that the prayer was answered and the outcome will be what HE desires no matter what you think it should be?” It may seem like a matter of semantics and something very small. However, in a very subtle, unwitting way I was taking the place of God in this time of prayer. I was edifying myself and my “wonderful” prayers and not really pointing to the Father, to Jesus and to the Holy Spirit.

**A**s we return to Isaiah 55:11, notice that it is all about God. He is speaking and He is telling us that it is all about “**MY** (God’s) Word that goes forth out of **MY** (God’s) mouth.” It is sent forth by God and it will accomplish what He wants it to accomplish - not what we want or think should take place. You see, all we are called to do is speak forth and declare His Word. As we do, His Word will accomplish what **He** wants it to accomplish. Sometimes, that may or may not be in conjunction with what we are thinking that it should accomplish. Here in lies the problem for us. Whether we realize it or not, we begin to “play God” and use the Word for what we desire and think should take place. We begin to use or misuse the scriptures for what we think the scriptures are saying and what the outcome should be.

**W**e have a tendency to think that we know best, just as the children of Israel thought when they asked for a king. Even though God told them through the prophet Samuel that it would not be good for them, they believed they knew better - God was wrong and they were right (in their own eyes). You would think God’s reaction would be that He would say “No. No. I know what is best for you. I see the end from the beginning. This is not a good thing for you so I will not let you have a king.” He didn’t say that. He gave them what they wanted and the rest is history...

**I**n the same vein, many times we think that we should be in a particular ministry or that we should be doing something for the Kingdom of God. This is all well and good. However, it does not matter what we want or desire to do. What matters is what God desires for our lives. Many times in the decisions and choices we make, we think that we are always being led by God. After all, I am “**always right on target**” and anything I “hear,” **I always** hear from God. Therefore I know that I am always right. I pray you understood that I wrote that “tongue in cheek.” However, if we are honest, that is the way many of us think. Unfortunately, this happens with many that are in leadership within the Body of Christ. We begin to think that as a leader within the Body, we always are “hearing” from God. Pride can enter in. What many times happens is that we are coming to conclusions and decisions based on outward appearances or our own agendas. We many times end up leaning on our own understanding and viewpoints. The “voice” we are “hearing,” may not be that of the Holy Spirit, it may be really our own. In doing this we may actually end up opposing God’s divine plan and order of things for our lives and those around us.

Let's read the following scriptures:

- Proverbs 3:5 - *Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and **lean not on your own understanding**;*
- Proverb 14:12 - *There is a way [that seems] **right to a man**, But its end [is] the way of death.*
- Proverbs 16:25 - *There is a way [that seems] **right to a man**, But its end [is] the way of death.*

We must have an attitude of heart that was represented and expressed by Jesus at His most desperate hour. While He was in the Garden of Gethsemane, even though the Father would have done anything He asked and even though Jesus, Himself could have stopped His own crucifixion, the attitude of His heart was, "not my will but Thy will..." Is this the attitude of my heart? Or, is my attitude more like - I want what I want because I know it is what God wants for me whether God knows it or not. Hmmm...!!!!

Let's read the following well known scriptures and really take them to heart:

- Psalm 143:10 (NKJV) - *Teach me to do **Your will**, For You [are] my God; Your Spirit [is] good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.*
- Luke 11:2 (NKJV) - *So He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. **Your will be done** on earth as [it is] in heaven.*
- James 4:15 (NKJV) - *Instead you [ought] to say, "If **the Lord wills**, we shall live and do this or that."*
- Revelation 4:11 (NKJV) - *"You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by **Your will** they exist and were created."*

In the beginning of our discussion, we read about my experience in hearing from people that they received a "word from the Lord" which told them that God was going to give them everything they wanted. Our first thoughts may have been that this was a good thing to hear. Upon further review, our thinking may have changed. This may really have been a warning and a "red flag" given to them by the Lord. My suggestion to you (as well as myself) is that if you ever hear "a word from the Lord" telling you that He will give you everything you want - do not hesitate, before you take another breath - fall to your knees, repent and cry out to the Lord something like, "No!!! No!!! Not my desires!!! Not my will!!!! Lord, I want Your will and Your desire for my life."