

One man bought his clothing via the net. At the bottom of the online order form he noticed this statement: "If we do not have the article you ordered in stock, may we substitute?"

The first time that he ticked "yes," they sent him something that was worth double the price of the article he had requested. The company explained, "We are sorry we do not have the article in stock which you ordered. We are sending you something better at our expense."

After that, the man said he always ticked the word "yes" at the bottom of the online order. He knew he would not be disappointed by the substitution. (I'm glad for him, but it hasn't worked that way for me)

So too, when we pray to God, it is good to tell Him that we are quite willing to let Him take our weak prayers and answer them according to His will. Too often we pray and do not see our requests answered because we selfishly "ask amiss" (James 4:3). Instead, we need to examine the motives of our hearts and trust Him to give us exactly what we need. We can be sure that when we do He will send us something far better, yes, "exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20). —Henry G. Bosch

*I'll trust the Lord to do good for me
Whatever He deems best;
I know His answer will exceed
The hope in my request. —Hess*

God's answers are often wiser than our prayers.



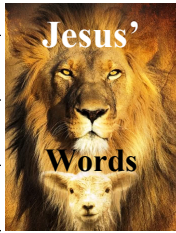
Central Mountains Baptist Church

JULY 19, 2020

Something Far Better

You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. —James 4:3





Insights on Prayer

Jesus' interaction with Bartimaeus in Mark 10:46-52 gives us two insights into prayer:

1. It's normally OK to _____, verses 46-48, 51

(Luke 18:35) Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho....

(Titus 1:2) God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,

(John 10:35) ... (and the Scripture cannot be broken),

(Matthew 20:30) And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, ...

(2 Timothy 3:16-17) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

(Luke 18:36-37) And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. [37] So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by.

(Matthew 20:30) ... "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!"

(James 4:3) You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

(Psalms 66:18) If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.

(1 Peter 3:7) Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

(Proverbs 28:9) One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.

(Philippians 4:6-7) Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; [7] and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

(1 John 5:14) Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

(Luke 22:42) .. "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."

(2 Corinthians 12:8-9) Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. [9] And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2. Please beware false _____, verses 49-52

(Matthew 20:33) ... "Lord, that our eyes may be opened."

(Philippians 1:29) For to you it has been granted ... to suffer for His sake,

(Romans 5:3) ... we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;

(James 1:2) My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,

(1 Peter 1:6-7) ... for a little while..., you have been grieved by various trials, [7] that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

(John 20:30-31) And truly Jesus did many other signs ...; [31] but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

◆ He promises to _____ us always,

(Hebrews 13:5) ... For He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU."

◆ He promises to _____ us always,

(Romans 8:31-39) What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ...[35] Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ... [38] For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, [39] nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

◆ He states that His intentions are always _____,

(Genesis 50:20) .. you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good....

(Jeremiah 29:11) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

(Romans 8:28-29) And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. [29] For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

◆ He will give us what we _____ for the _____ situations in life,

(2 Corinthians 9:8) And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

◆ He will _____ for us and _____ with us always,

(Hebrews 4:15-16) For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. [16] Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

(Isaiah 53:4) Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows;

◆ He gives us enormous _____,

(Revelation 21:3-6) ... "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. [4] And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." [5] Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." [6] And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts."

(2 Peter 1:3-4) as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, [4] by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.