

## Do You Depend on God for Anything? (Everything?)

When God was making arrangements with Moses about the Israelites being brought into the land flowing with milk and honey, He said, "My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest." Moses replied, "If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence." (Exodus 33) Can we go about our life with or without God? Does He make any difference in how we live at all? Moses was the leader of millions of people and surely had his work cut out for him. Yet it was a no-go if God didn't go with him. He would quit. God was the air in his sails.

As a lost person, perhaps we can remember a time of complete deflation. A relationship soured, an occupation was past, life lost its meaning, nothing satisfied. Hopelessness is all there is for someone without God - unless it's another relationship, occupation, substitute meaning for life, or temporary satisfaction. As a saved person, not only do we not need anything to fulfill us besides the Lord, we purposely strip ourselves of anything that we put our confidence in over the Lord.

The question becomes "Where have I put my weight on the Lord?" or "What would happen if the Lord let go?" If nothing would change, that person does not have anything resting on the Lord. On the other hand, if sadness, poor health, chaos, or loss of direction resulted without Him, the Lord receives the just credit for indeed providing joy, divine health, order, and a path of righteousness, as He said He would.

The Lord's blessings don't all come naturally. An element of faith is involved. For sadness, circumstances aren't the cause. Joy is a fruit of the Spirit. A person has joy resident in their born-again spirit that they must identify with by agreeing with the Word (Galatians 5:23). To draw joy out we walk in joy. If we depend on God for it and it doesn't come out, we can tell. Jesus redeemed us from sin and sickness (1 Peter 2:24). If we believe that, why do we go to the doctor to find out if that's true? But if we don't go to the doctor, something might happen. There's the element of trust and dependency on God. We trust Him here, and if He doesn't show up we can tell. That's depending on God.

These examples are not to say God isn't true to His Word, but to exemplify what depending on God means. Say someone's life isn't reflected in the Bible; they're a mess. Then they see in Proverb 37:23 that "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way" and in Proverbs 3:5,6 "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths," To start following a different path, one perhaps not reasonable to them, is a risk. If they depend on God they will do it, however. If they don't, life is the same for them as someone who doesn't depend on God. James says if we don't do the word of God, we are deceiving ourselves . . . our religion is vain (1:23,26).

Those are examples of depending on God in specific areas. What about loving God according to the Great Commandment (with all our heart, all our soul, and all our mind)? Or what about being a living sacrifice to Him, which is our reasonable service (Romans 12:1)? That's being dependent on Him for EVERYTHING. If we believe the Bible, we can do no less.

The challenge is to press into God. Believe for something only God can do. If you're looking to Him for slimming down, don't ask the scale how you're doing. Ask Him. An added benefit is that as you slim down, you won't be filled with pride at "look what I did" or "don't I look good." No, instead you will be filled with praises to God from Whom all blessings flow. If you want help in preparing for a gathering in which demands are made of you, resolve to not be swayed by the demands, but to depend on God for the provision you need. If He doesn't come through you're sunk. That's dependence. God does and will come through according to the power that works in us (Eph. 2:20). If it doesn't happen, know that it was not God Who didn't come through. He has already provided everything we need that pertains to life and godliness (2 Pet. 1). As we grow in faith, drawing on the faith that we're encouraged to have by the Bible and that we see in those more mature than us Christ, we will see the harvest.

There's no doubt about it. God's word is true even if every man has to be a liar (Rom. 3:4). And it works through faith (Gal. 5:6). The lack is not in God but in us if something promised in the Word does not manifest. That's good news. Because we can fix ourselves. Depend on God. He loves us and gave His all for us. If He would even die a cruel death on our behalf, why would He hold back on anything for us? He wants us to succeed and won't let us down. He is completely, completely trustworthy.