

#33 FORUM POST ON PRAYING FOR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Dear R____,

If Christ is working within you (preparing your heart) and Christ has made you realize that you may not have all that is necessary for your salvation, then Christ will cause you to pray for His spiritual gifts:

Luke 11:9-13 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. 10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. 11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? 12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit (Latter Rain of the Spirit) to them that ask him?

Believers who do not have a "love for the truth" and who are already dwelling in "peace and safety", will not pray for the spiritual things they really need. Only Christ's intervention within their lives will cause them to pray for what they need. If Christ is opening your eyes to what you are lacking, He will cause you to pray for those things. Pray for the Lord's will in your life and surrender everything to Him just as Christ told this rich young man:

Matt 19:16-22 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

Christ's words are "spirit" (**John 6:63**) and have "meanings different from what man's wisdom teaches" (**1Cor 2:13**). Also, spiritual words apply within us, between our ears so to speak. When Christ told the young man to sell all that he had and give it to the poor, Christ was speaking of spiritual things. Those spiritual things are the young man's beliefs and ideas that He holds as truth. We are to sell these worldly beliefs and give to the spiritually poor who still value them. Only then can we receive the true bread from heaven and follow Christ. But the young man, being carnally minded, could not understand Christ's true meaning and thought He was speaking about his material possessions which he could not give up.

When you pray for spiritual gifts, you must be willing to give up all that you have so that you can receive the true gifts from heaven.

Learn the truth from this parable:

Matt 13:33 Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

All the "Kingdom of Heaven is like" parables are teaching on certain aspects of the Pathway to Salvation. We all must follow the same pathway so ALL these parables apply to each of us whether we want them to or not.

In this parable, the Woman (also called the Great Harlot) represents the carnal nature of a Called Out believer. When the Woman prepares her bread, she takes "3" measures of meal and then "hides" leaven in it which causes the WHOLE loaf to be leavened. The number "3" represents a spiritual process which we all must experience. Leaven represents false teachings which originate from Satan. The woman "hides" those teachings in Christ's truth (bread) until the entire truth of Christ is corrupted. When a believer eats this bread, they think they are receiving the truth of Christ because they do not know the bread is fully leavened with the false teachings of Satan. These false beliefs are the things that we hold in high value because we think they are Christ's truth. But in truth, they are not. We must sell those false beliefs (forever removed from us) so that we can receive the true bread from Christ.

Only the second appearance (second coming) of Christ to the believer, when Christ brings the Latter Rain of the Spirit to them, will heal their spiritual blindness. It is only with that event that a deceived believer will be able to realize that they had been deceived by Satan and were following Satan's ways instead of the ways of Christ. The Man of Sin is revealed to them and they find that he is the one who is looking back at them in the mirror. That is quite an earth shaking event. So much so that our paradigm that we hold about Christ will be destroyed. After that event, the sun is darkened and the moon is turned to blood - in other words, we no longer receive the false truth of this world but are now receiving the true light (truth) from heaven.

What I have just described above are the "good gifts" from God. Pray for them and work out your own salvation with fear (reverent trust) and trembling. Why "reverent trust and trembling"? Because we cannot save ourselves. We must be "chosen" by Christ to be saved in this age, otherwise, we will receive our portion with the unbelievers.

Phil 2:12-13 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. Because it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

If you can accept what these verses teach, then Christ is already preparing your heart for His return.

Rev 22:20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Joe