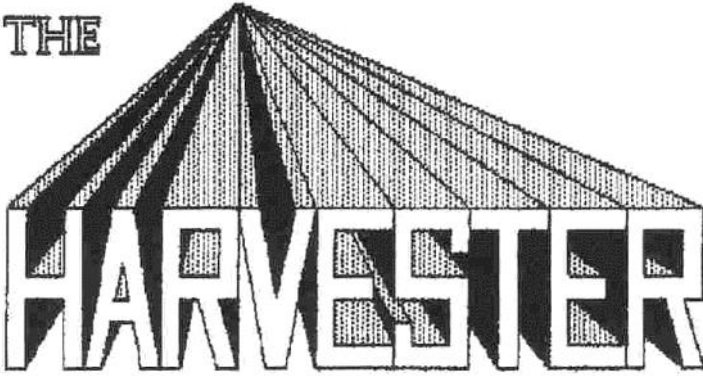


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"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2)

November 2013

No. 335

GOD IS NOT LIMITED

Part Two

Last month we explored these two truths: "God Has No Beginning or End" and "God Has Infinite Power, Knowledge, and Understanding".

Once that we realize the power of God, how can we access it in our life? James 5:15a states: "And the prayer of faith shall save the sick..." If God has unlimited power, why is my prayer not answered positively? Let's explore some conditions that are

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placed on our prayers that limit us, not God.

We must pray boldly, as shown in Hebrews 4:14-16 which says,

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

We must pray believing, as Jesus states in Matthew 21:22: *"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."*

We must pray according to God's will recognizing that His will is not always the same as our will, as seen in 1 John 5:14 which says, *"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:"*

For our prayer to be answered positively, we must keep His Commandments. This is shown in 1 John 3:22 which states,

And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

We must not doubt in our heart when we pray, and we must forgive others. Mark

11:23-26 says,

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

What is the "mountain" problem that we are praying about? We have seen that God certainly has the power to move any mountain all at once. But, what if God gives us strength, a shovel, and a lifetime to remove the "mountain" in our life, one shovel full at a time? Also, forgiving others is not optional!

Could it be that we ask for the wrong things for the wrong reasons? James 4:3 says, "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." So if our prayers are not being answered positively, maybe we are not meeting some or all of the conditions required in God's word.

Elias's prayer on rain was heard. James 5:17-18 says,

Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it

rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

Hezekiah's was prayer heard and he was given 15 more years to live. Isaiah 38:1-5 says,

In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live. Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed unto the LORD, And said, Remember now, O LORD, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore. Then came the word of the LORD to Isaiah, saying, Go, and say to Hezekiah, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years.

Paul prayed three times for God to remove his "thorn in the flesh." Second Corinthians 12:7-10 says,

And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in

weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

God decided it was better for the cause of Christ that Paul not be healed.

As heavy as the burden may seem that we are praying about, it is a "light affliction, which is but for a moment" in comparison to glory for eternity. Second Corinthians 4:17 says,

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

Again, present suffering is compared to eternal glory in Romans 8:18 which states,

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Sometimes suffering can remind us that this world is not intended to be our permanent home. As Christians, we have a hope for a much better home free from all the pain and struggles of this life. Revelation 21:4 says,

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

While we as humans are limited, God is unlimited. Our limits are increased when we operate within God's will as shown in Philippians 4:13 which says "I can do all things through Christ that strengtheneth me."

Christians reflect the light of God and Jesus to the world.

Christians are called out of darkness into His marvelous light. First Peter 2:9 states,

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Christians are to shine as lights in the world (even in the midst of a perverse nation). Philippians 2:14 states,

Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God's harvest (Luke 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address, address changes and all correspondence to:

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Christians are to let our light from God shine to show the world the way.

Matthew 5:14-16 states,

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

The moon has no light in and of itself; it is totally dependent on the sun to provide the source of light that the moon then reflects to the earth. Likewise, Christians have no power in and of themselves; we are totally dependent on the Son (Jesus) to provide His light to the world. We serve a powerful, loving, and unlimited God, and we must never forget that although He does not take control of every situation, He definitely is still in charge.

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NOTE: Audio of the sermon that this article is based on is available on The Harvester website at:

<http://www.theharvesteronline.com/sermons.php>

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. Elias prayed earnestly that it not rain.
How long did it not rain?

Gospel Meetings

DATES	PLACE	SPEAKER
November 1 - 3	Estesburg Eubank, KY	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)

2. According to Ruth 4:22 what relation was Ruth to David?

3. How many sons were born to David in Hebron?

4. In healing the blind man Christ spit in his eyes, put his hand on him, and asked him what he saw. What was his answer?

5. What city was Peter in when Cornelius sent for him?

...and remember last month's questions?

1. What sin did Noah commit after he began to be a "man of the soil?" DRUNKENESS (Genesis 9:20-21)

2. What bird did God provide to the Israelites for meat in the wilderness? QUAIL (Exodus 16:13)

3. Who ran from Mount Carmel to Samaria faster than Ahab could drive his chariot? ELIJAH (1 Kings 18:44-46)

4. The field that Judas purchased with his betrayal money was called Aceldama, but as what was it also known? FIELD OF BLOOD (Acts 1:19)

5. Who looked after the coats of the men who stoned Stephen? SAUL (Acts 7:58)