

## **Disillusioned with Jesus? Don't receive answer to your prayers?**

There seems to be a trend to first and foremost make Jesus the guilty partner accusing Him of unfaithfulness. Fact is, this is what it boils down to, i.e. when we fail to get timely response from our Lord. Now, instead of trying to solve this modern-day problem within the Christian community, many who used to believe in Jesus - naturally in accordance with their upbringing and Church membership - feel that things have gone out of control for them and they feel estranged from their God. They say they don't connect with God and Jesus properly and that their Church membership means zilch to them. Many therefore opt for the alternative way, namely Buddhism, Hinduism or one or other spiritual path that will connect their inner yearnings with some super force they feel they can reach via meditation and contemplative thoughts focused on "eternal bliss".

Once one feels so despondent about one's faith in God that nothing is to be gained from one's specific type of approach to the Almighty we have always known as "faithful", it seems natural, in one's desperation, to start looking for something "better" and something that may give us soul satisfaction. For this is what it boils down to.

However, instead of objectifying our situation trying to understand why no answer is received from that God who we have learned will never fail those who seek His face, we try to find Him in the measure in which He is dealing with us. Almost in a tit-for-tat way. If He answers our prayers promptly, He is in, and if He does not supply the answer as we desire of Him to, then He is out! Indeed like a child would react when a parent does not give what he insists on having.

However, answer to prayer does play a very important role in our connection with our God and therefore we are apt to first and foremost measure our standing in Christ this way. This is the standard we go by and this is then the standard which will be applied in general. But, in stead of probing our standing with God and His Son who had given His all for us in order to ensure the wonderful gift of redemption for us on the Cross, assessing where we stand with our God in relation to His Word - we are inclined to point the finger first and foremost to God as being negligent without realizing that we, as believers in Christ, must bring our full share - we must serve God diligently (!) should we want Him to help us in times of trouble - before we will see the required results. Results we so much yearn to experience (!) and which will of course foster a good relationship with our Saviour. Besides, we serve a "Saviour" because we expect Him to react and to help us in times of dire need and trouble, not so?

Failure to then come to our aid will result in disillusionment and this may even elicit extreme response on the side of those who feel cheated by God (Let's objectify our feelings). Opting for a "better" spiritual path, may then be considered.

But those who are so quick to resort to Eastern cults, trying this as an alternative to Christianity and all its strings attached, seem to forget that this path requires total and complete surrender, something which the accusers of God and His Son Jesus often loose sight of. Do they ever consider to what great lengths those who opt for the so-called "better" path are required to go before they will be able to "find" themselves this way? And, ironically, via the so-called "void" created and brought about by themselves and clearly acquired through much (!) personal effort? Total dedication, entailing extreme sacrificing of one's own pleasures and even ideals, are then required when opting for this so-called alternative "Path of Salvation".

Now, doesn't the wise Solomon frankly tell us that there is a path that looks as though it is right but the end thereof is death? And what better example can I use, i.e. from the Bible, as Solomon who himself tried hard to also find soul-satisfaction from the Eastern cup of so-called "ancient wisdom"?

Finding oneself easily in any religion and especially the Eastern way, is a myth, my friend! For it is not the beginning of the path that counts, but the end! And where exactly is this path leading to? Is it really better than the Old Rugged Cross Highway? A path that is trodden by so many but which are often not followed in the right spirit and the right mind-set for like the Eastern cults, the true Path to Life in Jesus Christ also requires of us total commitment, therefore total submission to one Lord and one Saviour. Doing it this way WILL render results, but opting for it in a slap-dash way will bring you nowhere. It may only lead to more confusion and

disillusionment.

Fact is, Jesus set the example of complete dedication to His Father for us and His apostles followed closely in His footsteps. We, as their posterity, are therefore called to follow Jesus, the only way to True Life (1 Jn 5.12; Jn 14.6), the proper, Biblical way and that would then entail not only prayer, but travelling in prayer as Jesus Himself had done it (Heb. 5.7), also complete surrender to God's will, if we tangibly want to taste the results of our faith in the Living, Most High God!

But it is just as though natural man who has not yet tasted this excellent Path of complete surrender and following Christ the Biblical way, would do all in his power to taste the fruit of bliss in Eastern religions, yet wanting to just take what is available when it comes to Christ and His Truth. Much effort will therefore be put into "finding oneself" in a strange Eastern cult whereas little effort will be spent on Christ and His cause. It is no wonder that many nominal Christians complain about Jesus and His lack of answering their prayers! Fact is Jesus remains the same, yesterday, today and forevermore (Heb. 13) and this coming from a man who has followed his Saviour with extreme dedication - there is just one path to true Salvation in and through Jesus Christ and that is to do it diligently!

Now, how come that we Christians always think we are not required to follow Jesus by His standards, by God's very own prescriptions? That everything was given us and all we must then do is to live and enjoy? It is because we have been taught that "Jesus' does not require anything more from us! Surely, He has indeed offered complete Salvation for us, but we believers in Him, is required to seek Him diligently and that entails full commitment: To be prepared to seek Him until we have found Him, to follow Him with all our heart, not being quick to accuse Him of negligent and careless behaviour, but rather to submit to Him - which requires deep reverence for Him, our Saviour, as He is above all gods and He is indeed the only proven source of Life! - which requires obedience and bringing our lives in line with God's Word.

We then need to be reborn as Jesus plainly told Nicodemus, if we want to taste the fruit of Life to its fullest. We need to be that tree of righteousness planted by living streams of water, doing what God demands of His blood-washed, before we will ever taste the results of our faith in God. Should this be insensible to us, there is only one problem and it is that we are failing through lack of knowledge! True knowledge of God's Word and understanding that we, followers of Christ Jesus need to DO what God desires of us, even going to great lengths to seek and find Him - meaning to come to Him in prayer wholeheartedly, breaking with our sins and a wrong mind-set, loving God above all, following Jesus as He rightly states in the Gospel, i.e. leaving everything aside for His sake - before we will see and taste the results of our faith in Him.

Fact is, Gospel Truth does not come cheap! We have been made to believe that we can just have our names inscribed on a Church register and then everything will be hunky dory! So it is our mind-set that must change and this will increase our knowledge of what God desires of us in our relationship with Him. We need to reshape our lives and our outlook on Christianity around not only God's promises but also keeping in mind the conditions upon which His promises are based and then we WILL be able to taste the goodness of our God in and through Jesus Christ our blessed Saviour!

My advice is : Should you struggle with answer to prayer, don't "try" Jesus! BELIEVE in Him the Biblical way and be prepared to seek His face diligently, even going aside in fastings and in prayer, committing your life wholly and fully to Him so that He can reign as Lord in your life and not just being regarded as a quick crutch to lean on in times of trouble!

Those who seek, shall find and those who knock will discover an open door to the Throne of God! Those who LOVE Jesus, and to the extent where they will want to follow Him through thick and thin, no matter the cost or the challenge experienced when following Him in a world that is lying in the grip of satan, those who are even prepared to go aside in fastings and in prayer, humbling themselves before God this way and confessing their sins and especially the sin of disobedience, those are the ones who will be heard by God and those are the ones who will receive answer to their prayers. Being always quick to accuse Jesus of lack of interest in one's affairs, not able to answer prayers timely, is nothing but arrogance for we must know that it is a privilege to know the Most High God in and through His Son. It is even a greater privilege to know that Jesus died on the Cross of

Calvary to give us eternal life!

So if you seem to be left out in the cold by God and you feel like turning to some alternative path of Salvation, before doing so, reconsider your options and, in stead of being prepared to go fully out following the ways of Eastern cults instead, apply your faith with the same diligence you would be required to do so in any Eastern Cultic path. Come to Jesus with a heart that desires to meet with Him! Come to Jesus with a mind that wants to submit to His authority! Come to Jesus shedding every wrong teaching you have been stuffed with since your youth! Come to Jesus forgetting Church play and rather opting for a relationship with Jesus instead of just waiting passively for an answer to your prayers!

First and foremost foster that relationship with the Most High by giving up your own selfish desires. Rather make a decision to understand with a new heart and a new mind-set. To shed every spirit of error and to just kneel and say : "Lord I am coming home to You. I am coming on your terms and your conditions inscribed in your Word. I am not following paths and ways that are leading me away from you but I am submitting to you so that my soul shall live! I am confessing my sin of unbelief and lack of love for Christ who has given His everything for us on the Cross. I am confessing the sins that I have done. I am shedding the spirit of this world in order to come closer to You! This is authentic faith!

I can give you wonderful testimonies of answer to prayer. Jesus is faithful! And He remains faithful to the bitter end but He desires of us to follow Him God's Way. He came to testify of His Father, not regarding His own needs as more important. Not promoting Himself, but sacrificing His own pleasures and keeping faithful to His Father with dedication of mind and spirit. Jesus (Yeshua) sacrificed everything in order to snatch us from the grip of Satan. So let us Christians come to Him with a repentant heart and a submissive mind and pray and pray until we touch the hem of His garment!

Jesus will take you deeper, I can assure you, into the stream of true and authentic Life! Then He will be quick to answer your prayers! That is if you seek His face diligently. And you will brim with Life in one Saviour : Jesus of Nazareth.

So seek Him until you have found HIM! Then everything will be given unto you and that which we don't and cannot receive from His hand, will be made plain by Him to us for those who have tasted this precious path of knowing Christ first and foremost and then demanding of Him the desires of our hearts, will be able to understand the length, the depth, the height, the breadth in Jesus Christ our Lord!

#### NOTE

I left my load at Calvary!

Where Jesus died for you and me  
And then there came  
A peace so sweet  
When I left my load of sin  
At Jesus' feet!

Invite your friends who believe in the risen Jesus (Yeshua) to this blog. Here we are carrying forth the message of true Life in the Son of God. Here we will uphold true Christian values and especially faith in God in and through Jesus the Son. Here we will forge ties of true Christian love and we will try to inspire those whose faith is dwindling, to return wholeheartedly to Jesus! Pray with us for a true Holy Spirit revival and ingathering of the followers of Jesus across the globe and so that we can promote that bond of unity in Jesus which is so often lacking today in the hearts of many who pose as "Christians". Let's GROW TOGETHER IN THE LOVE OF JESUS!

Note added on 2014/08/12:

I have again listened to a testimony of a woman who really lived for Christ. In her book she mentions a

testimony of a worker of the Lord who consulted Him on the issue of unanswered prayer. The Lord drew his attention thereupon to (1) unforgiveness and (2) the necessity of bearing the fruits of the Spirit. Once we can succeed to completely forgive and to bear "much fruit" - bringing our lives in line with God's Word and His prescriptions for us - we will see how God will come to our aid, answering our prayers timely. We of course also have to add faith to our prayers, knowing that whatsoever we ask God - our needs! - He will supply in accordance with our petitions and our prayers.

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