

ALAN TAYLOR

P O BOX 700623; TULSA, OK 74170-0623

918-447-8951

alantaylorministries.org

Understanding Authority

I used to have an issue with God. I know that might sound disrespectful, but I honestly was bothered by something. It is a wonderful thing that God isn't insecure or too sensitive to answer our questions. In fact, He welcomes all our concerns. I was having a problem with His requirement for me to ask Him for help. As it says in this verse, Matthew 7:7-9, *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."*

My conversation with God went along the lines of "Why must I ask you for things before you give them to me? Why can't you just give me all I need since you know about my situation already?" I felt it was somewhat superior of Him to require that of me. I know He is God but must He force me to ask, just so I will acknowledge His divinity? I almost saw it as Him asking me to grovel down before Him before He would answer.

Praise the Lord that I asked my question because His answer has helped me ask freely every day of my life. He showed me that the asking wasn't to open the door for me but instead to open the door for Him to help me. He always is designing help for my life and yours. Every minute of the day, He is devising answers over every single issue I am going to face.

This is what He shared with me, that He already had the answers for me, but He still needed permission from me to implement those answers. In other words, He needed me to ask not to prove my loyalty but to help Him do what He wanted to do. As it reads in Matthew 6: 6-8, *"But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him."*

He wants us to pray to Him and to ask of Him so that He can do what He's always wanted to do in every area of our life. What many of us fail to understand is that God is limited to what He can do for us...by us. He needs our permission and authority to work His plans in our lives. If He were able to simply make everything great in our lives, then it would have already been finished a long time ago. If He could heal our hearts and our bodies, then we would already enjoy it. He needs our permission and authority to free Him to step in. Asking God is opening the door and inviting Him into our circumstances to have His way.

He is entirely in charge of things in Heaven, and there is no sickness, no disease, no sorrow, no pain, and no sin, but love, joy, and peace are abundant. This is God's will, and yet it is the opposite here on earth. He desires to bring His will here to the lost so they can taste of His goodness, but why hasn't He done it already?

I heard it said that “the costliest thing in Heaven has been God-honoring the free will of His creation.” He knows exactly what to do but will not force anything on us as He will not override our will. He didn’t with Adam as He watched and allowed him to eat of the fruit disobediently. Even in Heaven, God didn’t extinguish Lucifer’s life the moment sin was birthed in him. God honored their choices, and He will honor ours even if we are in disobedience.

He will not control us like robots, but He will walk with you hand and hand through every decision you face and will walk you into victory after victory. As we come closer to Him, it frees Him to come closer to us. *“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”* Hebrews 4:16.

Prayer is so much more than asking God for help; it is the pathway to our answers. There is intimacy established in prayer as we partner with God in our needs. There is trust built in prayer as we yield our will with His. There is a hope built when praying as we learn of His great love for us. Prayer is not about getting God’s attention; prayer is about letting Him do His will. We are not groveling in our asking God; we are giving Him permission to step into our circumstances and situations with the answer He has already created for us.

He cares about every aspect of your life, and there is nothing too big or too small for Him. His love for you is amazing, and He thinks about every need, care, and worry you have and patiently waits for you to open the door so He can walk on in. All we need to do is ask, you have a Father who loves you and is for you.

ALAN TAYLOR

P O BOX 700623; TULSA, OK 74170-0623

918-447-8951

alantaylorministries.org