

FAITH FOR TODAY

Psalm 127:1-5; John 4:1-42 / Psalm 84:1-12

Dr. Edwin P. Elliott, Jr.

I. Seek God's Will

A. Growing close to God refreshes as nothing else can. “Jesus answered and said unto her, *Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst*, but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.” (JOHN 4:13-14)

B. God meets the needs of His people. “They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for *he that hath mercy on them shall lead them*, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.” (ISAIAH 49:10)

C. Eventually every sorrow will pass away. “And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 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.*” (REVELATION 21:3-4)

D. God rewards those who seek Him. “But without faith *it is impossible to please him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*” (HEBREWS 11:6)

E. The answers which matter in life are available. “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*” (2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17)

II. Conversation Cannot Be One-sided

A. Scripture assures believers that seeking God with the whole heart brings blessings. “*Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.*” (PSALM 119:2)

B. Do not be half-hearted. “But *if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him*, if thou seek him *with all thy heart and with all thy soul.*” (DEUTERONOMY 4:29)

C. Knowing that the effort will be rewarded, follow the direction of Jesus. “*Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.*” (MATTHEW 7:7)

III. Start Simply

A. God will even teach the clueless what to seek in prayer. “*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.* For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.” (JAMES 1:5-6)

B. Solomon was not born the wisest man of all time; he got that way by acknowledging his shortcomings and seeking help from God. “And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy

servant king instead of David my father: and ***I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.*** And thy servant *is* in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude. ***Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?***” (1 KINGS 3:7-9)

C. Avoid attempting to second guess God. “***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. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.***” (PROVERBS 3:5-7)

D. Start seeking God now and He will manage the rest. “***Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.***” (ISAIAH 55:6-7)

E. The Apostles themselves had to start with confession of inadequacies and ask Jesus to teach them how to pray. “And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, ***teach us to pray***, as John also taught his disciples. ***And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.***” (LUKE 11:1-2)

F. Friendship with Christ will develop the rest. “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. ***Ye are my friends***, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I ***call you not servants***; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I ***have called you friends***; for ***all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.***” (JOHN 15:13-15)