

Seeking God with the Handle Turned Off

Now I want to make a point first. Let me give you a situation and you tell me what you think would happen to the person involved.

Turn the clock back and we are in the palace of Pharaoh's in Egypt in the year 1323 A.D. Pharaoh Ay's head advisor allows one of his subjects to come and tell Pharaoh what is on his mind. The man's name is Aten. He comes in and says, "Oh great Pharaoh Ay, god of the world and all knowing. Please hear my pray to you oh Pharaoh. Pharaoh Ay, I have all these problems with making my crops grow. My wife is sick and needs healing. My horse is on his last leg. Please Pharaoh Ay, bless my life, heal my wife, bless my crops, and produce a new horse for me and one for the head slave of my house. Amen."

Aten gets off his knees, turns around and starts to walk out.

What do you think Pharaoh Ay will do this to subject of his who is so rude? He begs things from him, he has the power to take care of his needs, and this rude subject does NOT give him a chance to say anything.

Pharaoh Ay orders Aten to be brought back in chains after he is whipped. And he is told that his rudeness will cost him everything and is banished to the desert.

Your have heard of the PastNow let's hear of the Present

You have heard how to Pray, the power of Prayer, the importance of Prayer. If you are blessed you had a parent who taught you how to fold your hands together, to ensure you close your eyes, and tell God everything you had on your heart. When you were done, you say "Amen", got up, and got ready for bed!

Do you see any similarities? Are we not praying and being Rude to God too? Is our praying done in faith that God will provide what we ask of Him? Have we considered what we will speak to Him before we are in His presence? Do we give God time to answer us back or even to talk at all?

Alan Redpath sums up how many feel even when they have prayed, "When we have finished our praying we can scarcely bring ourselves to believe that our feeble words can have been heard, or that they can have made a difference in the things concerning which we have been praying. We've said our prayers but we have not prayed."

We have read time after time in the Bible of God talking with people.

Let us turn our Bibles to Genesis Chapter 5. I am going to read the scriptures out of my Bible that was printed in 1629. This is a King James Bible in the Original Wood Board covers.

Genesis 5

²¹ And Enoch liveth five and sixty years, and begetteth Methuselah.

²² And Enoch walketh habitually with God after his begetting Methuselah three hundred years, and begetteth sons and daughters.

²³ And all the days of Enoch are three hundred and sixty and five years.

²⁴ And Enoch walketh habitually with God, and he is not, for God hath taken him

Enoch holds a rare distinction in the Bible: He did not die. Instead, God "took him away."

Scripture does not reveal much about this remarkable man. We find his story in Genesis 5, in a long list of the descendants of Adam.

Only a short sentence, "Enoch walked faithfully with God," in Genesis 5:22 and repeated in Genesis 5:24 reveals why he was so special to his Creator. In this wicked period before the Flood

most men did *not* walk faithfully with God. They walked their own path, the crooked way of sin.

Enoch did not keep silent about the sin around him. Jude says Enoch prophesied about those evil people:

Jude (KJV)

¹⁴ And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

¹⁵ To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

¹⁶ These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

Enoch walked and talked with God the 365 years of his life, and that made all the difference. No matter what happened, he trusted God. He obeyed God. God loved Enoch so much he spared him from the pains of dying.

Hebrews 11:5-6 (KJV), says Enoch's faith pleased God:

⁵ By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

⁶ 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.

What happened to Enoch? The Bible gives few details, other than to say: (YLT)

Genesis 5:24 - And Enoch walketh habitually with God, and he is not, for God hath taken him.

We have numerous examples of God talking with people in the Bible. God has spoken with men and women.

1. We have Deborah in Judges 4 who God used as a Judge in Israel and brought down an enemy of Israel; Jael with warm milk, a nap, and a tent nail through his temple. God told her where to pitch her tent in the vast open land, Exactly where Jael was going to flee, bring some milk, goats, bedding, and the few things that people from that area had in their tents....and she did exactly what God told her. They communicated and she did exactly what God told her with faith of His providing the end of this enemy of Israel through her hands and God told her.
2. Samuel from the time he was a child being brought up in the Temple until his last days had conversations with God.

3. Elijah spoke with God and we have the account of the still, small voice 1 Kings 19.

We are given many examples of people speaking with God throughout the ages from Brother Lawrence (Practicing the Presence of God), Corrie ten Boom (Hitler's concentration camp survivor), to Andrew Murray (revivalist of South Africa in the 1800's).

How to approach such an unusual subject? When you get through praying, ask God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, to speak with you. Wait, believe He will, and be quiet. I did this for months with nothing and sometimes falling asleep on the floor. And God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit did speak with me because it was their design to communicate with us. This is why the Holy Spirit is called "Our Teacher". Do you know any good Teachers who teach without talking with their students?

Wait on the Lord with respect and faith and listen after prayer.

Why is this important?

Ezekiel 22: 30-31

³⁰ And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

³¹ Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD.

I. God's *PLAN / PURSUIT*— A Man (“*I sought for A MAN..*”).
God's plan has always been men and women! E.M. Bounds said, “Men look for better methods... God is looking for better MEN!”

A. God is looking down from heaven... He is looking all over the world... He is looking up and down the seats of this church... SEEKING a man / woman to stand in the gap!

1. Isaiah 6:8 – Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here *am I*; send me.

2. Queen Esther stood in the gap! At the risk of her life, she stood between her people Haman's plot to destroy them.

B. That is where God wants us today! He wants **individuals...**

II. God's *PLACE* — A Gap (“*...that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap **before me for the land...***”).

A “gap” is a *break* or *breach*. The word “gap” only occurs twice in the Bible—Both times in Ezekiel (13:5; 22:30). Each time it has to do with a breach in a hedge or barrier.

III. God's *PAIN* — A Tragedy (“*...but I found NONE.*”)

A. **NONE convicted** enough to take the challenge of building up God's wall.

B. NONE **compassionate** enough to care for others in need of God.

Because God is seeking one man or one woman....it does not matter if that person is a kid, young person, middle age, mother at home, or an old person.....to stand in the gap between Him and the World. God honors prayers that are serious, habitual, and seeking His glory. It only takes ONE person to pray and cause a revival and flood this church full every Night and Sundays.

Leonard Ravenhill, A. W. Tozer, Duncan Campbell, and Charles Finney gives us accounts of their Prayer partners who wait for hours and sometimes months for God to bring Revival. Duncan Campbell recounts the two crippled sisters confined to their bedroom who prayed for revival and God brought him and revival to their island.

Of the great revival in Rochester, Charles Finney said that the key which unlocked the Heavens in this revival was the prayer of Abel Clary, Daniel Nash, and other unnamed folk who laid themselves prostrate before God's throne and besought Him for a divine out-pouring.

God sent me here, a man who has brought prayer teachings to every country in the world for over 7 years now. Are you the person that God wants to stand in the gap and revival this

church, city of Flint, State of Michigan, and this Nation? Are you the next John Wesley or Suzanne Wesley who changed England and the World by their prayers? Are you the next Praying John Hyde who changed the country of India in the late 1800's till this day?

God is calling YOU to be that person to stand in the gap. He is calling YOU to prayers and conversations with Him. May this message be covered by the blood of Jesus and may the Devil and his forces be hindered from using every instrument possible from taking this message out of your hearts and minds.

I charge you to go forth and seek God in respectful prayers and no long be rude to Him when praying.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May He shine forth His light in your lives and your families and keep you safe on your journeys this week. May He open your mind and change your ways to be more godly.

(Prayer of Departure)