



Sermon:

God's To Do List

"Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Matthew 18:18

Dear God, please be with us today; Dear God, give me your peace; Dear God, heal my disease; Dear God, please protect me; Dear God, please get the devil off my back; Oh Lord, please forgive me; Lord, bless me today.

Have you ever heard these prayers from others or have you ever said them yourself? I prayed this way for many years. I was taught that if you needed something, ask God, but was also warned that He may say yes or no. I got a "no" almost every time. I realized the knowledge I had was incorrect. It was wrong teaching that could have eventually made my life miserable here on his earth. (Hosea 4:6)

But then I learned the finished work of Jesus Christ. I learned of all that was actually accomplished on the cross 2,000 years ago. I thought, as many do today, that Jesus died ONLY to forgive me of my sins; nothing more. That is part of it; and a major part. Thank God for salvation, but there is much, much more.

I knew nothing of the healing, prosperity, deliverance, protection, wholeness and abundant life that Jesus died to give us. To know that Jesus died not only to forgive us, but so that we could walk in health because He took all our sicknesses and diseases onto His own body, opened up a whole new world for me. I began realizing that the reason I wasn't getting healed in certain areas when I asked God to heal me was simply because He already healed me 2,000 years ago! Salvation is not limited to forgiveness of sins.

A simple example would be if my child asked me for \$5.00 and I handed it to him. He then looks at me and asks me for \$5.00. I would want to know why he was asking me for something I already gave to him. This is exactly what we do with God. We try to get Him to do something for us that He hasn't done yet. This is not correct. God has done absolutely everything He will ever do! He moved ONCE and for all. (Hebrews 10:10) It was all done at the cross!

Let's look at the Greek word, SOZO. This word has been translated to mean "save" or "saved" which refers to salvation. But it also translates to physical healing (Mark 5:23 & Acts 14:8-10). It also applies to deliverance from demons. (Luke 8:36) It also translates to "made whole" referring to healing physically and emotionally. (Luke 8:50) And 2nd Corinthians 8:9 makes it clear that we are redeemed from poverty.

So it's obvious from the Word of God that salvation includes everything - forgiveness, prosperity, healing, deliverance, wholeness and completeness, yet we keep asking God for these things as if we don't have them. But

we DO have them! We just have to learn how to use our faith to release these things in our lives.

Al gives a great analogy on this: A banker tells you that you have a million dollars in the bank under your name. You thank him but do nothing about it. You never go to the bank and withdraw the money. You know it's there but do nothing to receive what has been given to you. We need revelation in this area because many Christians are asking God to do something He told them to do; or they ask God for something He already gave them. He can't answer prayers He already answered and He can't say No to what He already said Yes to.

Al had a vision a while back of God in the center of thousands of people who were a bit below Him. They were all praying and their prayers were going upward toward the face of God, but their prayers passed by God continuing in an upward direction. It was almost as if He didn't hear them. Al asked the Lord to show him the meaning and God said that He couldn't answer them because they were already answered.

So, why ask God to heal us when Matthew 8:17 says: *"...Himself took our infirmities, (weakness and pain) and bare our sicknesses."*

Why ask God to forgive us when Hebrews 10:12 says: *"But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever..."*

Why ask God to be with you when Hebrews 13:5 says: *"...I will never leave thee, or forsake thee."*

Why ask God to bless us when Ephesians 1:3 says: *"...who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ..."*

Why ask God to give us more faith when Galatians 2:20 says: *"...and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith OF the Son of God..."*

Rather than asking God to do what He already did, we should be thanking Him for what He has already done! And then, by faith, we call those things into our lives and receive them.

A good example would be if someone were in financial trouble. God has already provided prosperity so rather than asking God to get money to you, you should tithe from what you DO have, purposefully, and then expect it to come back to you 30, 60 or 100 fold. You can say something like this: "I have put this money into Your Kingdom Lord with a cheerful heart and according to the Word of God, I will receive back 100 fold. I expect increase in my finances. Thank you Lord that Your Word is true when it says to give and it will be given unto me good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over..." (Luke 6:38)

When we speak like this, heaven hears and, believe it or not, responds. Heaven responds to what we say. Matthew 18:18 says that whatever we bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever we loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. So heaven is waiting to hear from us on the matter!

God does not respond to need; He responds to faith. Have you ever wondered why these poor countries remain poor? I thank God for all the Christians going there and meeting their physical needs, but why don't they ever get out of their poverty? They are asking God for things He already provided. If we would rise up in faith believing that we already have everything, then things would change.

We must understand that the devil is behind all evil, sickness, poverty, etc. But praying to God to get him off our backs will not work. God has given us authority over the devil. We are not to fight the devil because he was already defeated; we are to STAND on the Word of God being watchful, sober, and vigilant defending what has been given to us. (1 Peter 5:8)

I heard this story from a bible teacher: He was in England at Buckingham Palace. Outside the palace stood several soldiers dressed in red with black hats holding guns and bayonets. They do not speak. You can tell they are highly trained because their weapons were real. If you were to ask them how many enemies they killed that day, they would say "none." If you asked them how many they killed yesterday, they would say "none." Then what are they doing there? STANDING. Why are these honored soldiers, highly trained and skilled with good weapons just standing there? Because the battle for that acreage had been fought many years ago. They are not there to conquer England; they are just there to make sure nobody else does! The battle has been won. Spiritually, the battle is already won; the territory has been purchased. We are just keeping the devil from trying to take it.

I can't possible include all I want to in these brochures, but I do want to touch on how to pray for salvation for our loved ones. A common prayer would be, "Lord, please save my children." Again, God already saved them; they just need to see that they need a Savior. We need to rebuke the god of this world that is blinding them from seeing the truth. (2 Corinthians 4:4) And we need to pray that God would send someone into their life to minister the love and grace message of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 9:38) Then thank Him for doing it! We have been lied to by the devil, but now that you know the truth, I encourage you to take a stand and protect what has been given to you! Stop begging God and start believing! Amen.