

## *The* **BATTLE PLAN** *for* **PRAYER**

FROM BASIC TRAINING TO TARGETED STRATEGIES

PART IV: STRATEGIES

### **4**

## **The “WHATEVER” from God**

*“If you abide in Me, and My Words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.” (John 15:7)*

*“But if you step into My life in union with Me and if My Words live powerfully within you—then you can ask whatever you desire and it will be done.” (John 15:7 TPT)*

What if the Bible said we could ask God for whatever we want, not just for what we need? Sounds like it does, doesn't it? Did you read the words of Jesus in the above verse? Do you hear Him giving you complete permission to "ask whatever you wish?" Could that really be possible? God would actually do that for us?

Some people claim that God allows us to only ask for what we need, but never what we want. Sounds dutiful and honorable, but it's actually not biblical. The truth is, this "whatever" offer runs throughout the New Testament. It's not just an isolated statement. "Whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it" (Mark 11:24). "Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do" (John 14:13). "Whatever we ask we receive from Him" (1 John 3:22). "If we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him" (1 John 5:15). There's a noticeable pattern here. A "whatever" pattern.

Now we know, of course, God is not Santa Claus. He's "established His throne in the heavens, and His sovereignty rules over all" (Ps. 103:19). And we know He will not answer requests born in sin or for sinful things (James 4:3). Yet something in His nature and in the kind of relationship He's made possible with us creates an open-door atmosphere to ask for good things. Our "whatever" requests can be met by a favorable response from Him. Otherwise, He'd never make such an audacious claim. Why would He need to?

The key is, if you are walking with Him on the path He wants you to walk, and if He's your first love, and if your heart's desire is to please Him, then He delights in granting your heart's desires. Your good ones. When your motivation for wanting His blessing isn't to go chasing after sin with it, but rather to find your joy in the only place where true, lasting joy can be found, the possibility of receiving your best "whatever" wishes opens up for you. With stunning regularity.

And why shouldn't it? Why should God stop giving to His children at a point where even we ourselves wouldn't stop giving to our own kids? We are not more kind than He is. We obviously don't think twice about giving our children what they really need when they ask for it. Neither does God. And if they ask for something we'd already planned on giving them-similar to when we ask God for something according to His will-we don't suddenly decide not to give it at the last minute. Neither does God. But what if they ask for something they don't technically need, but it's something good that would bring them great joy and show them our love if they had it? And what if we knew that they were consistently desiring to honor and love us and respect our rightful leadership in their lives? Would we take extra steps to try giving them their heart's desires . . . if there was any way? And yet we think God wouldn't?

Hannah didn't need a son, but she asked for one and God gave her one (1 Sam. 1:27). Jesus didn't need to curse the fig bush, but that was what He wanted at the time and so it happened (Matt. 21:19). Yet some people make it sound wrong to do so. They describe God like He's an impoverished, distant dad who only lets his kids ask for socks and underwear for Christmas.

When our delight is in Him-when the beat of our hearts is to say, "Lord, what can I do for You today, my Father?"-the beat of His kind heart is to say, "Well, what can I do for you, my child?"

Jesus declared with His mouth and demonstrated with His life that He always does what is pleasing to the Father (John 8:29). So we shouldn't be surprised hearing His friend Martha notice, "I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You" (John 11:22). Jesus told Peter, while rebuking him for attacking the men who'd come to arrest Him, "Do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?" (Matt.

26:53). That's the understood relationship between them. The Son lives to honor the Father; the Father delights in blessing the Son. And that's where each of us can live too.

When we delight ourselves in the Lord, He says He'll give us the desires of our heart (Psalms 37:4).

But that word for "desires" in the original language is actually the word petitions. And that's where "whatever you wish" becomes not just a pleasant thought but a powerful prayer strategy. James 4:2, as we've mentioned, tells us that one of the reasons we don't have what we want from God is because we haven't asked for it—whether through a lack of faith, an inflated trust in our own self-reliance, or other misguided reasons. But in all these "whatever" verses from the Bible, God is telling us not just to throw out these good, legitimate desires in our hearts, afraid we'd be asking too much to actually ask for them. No, ask! Turn those desires into petitions! Hit the ball into His court and see what He does with them!

Boaz so delighted in Ruth that he gave her a blank check: "I will do for you whatever you ask, for all my people in the city know that you are a woman of excellence" (Ruth 3:11).

But her request was an honorable one. Lots of people wouldn't know how to handle a blank check like this. When King Herod said to his stepdaughter Salome, "Whatever you ask of me, I will give it to you; up to half of my kingdom," (Mark 6:23), she and her wicked mother asked for the head of John the Baptist on a platter. When Samson, in his careless and sinful days, still felt like he could do whatever he wanted, he demanded a certain Philistine woman for his wife (Judg. 14:2). But he would later regret his foolish, self-gratifying demand. What we want today, we might not tomorrow. Most of the junk at garage sales is comprised of items that once seemed like something a person wanted really badly. So we should be wise and careful in the asking.

But God wants you experiencing His answers to desires that don't grow old or out of style. Like when He said to Solomon, soon after this son of David had risen to his father's throne, "Ask what you wish Me to give you" (1 Kings 3:5). The young king's request, you probably recall, was for wisdom—which the Bible says was "pleasing in the sight

of the Lord that Solomon had asked this thing" (v. 10). Wisdom was what God wanted for him, too, more than wealth and long life and victory over his enemies. And because Solomon's heart was turned toward making the best choice—the one in line with the heart of God—the Lord said, "I have also given you what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that there will not be any among the kings like you all your days" (v. 13).

How many of your desires are the kind that please the Lord when He hears them? And how might He likely respond to them if He found them so delightful?

We serve a God who "richly supplies us with all things to enjoy" (1 Tim. 6:17). He delights in His amazing creation and wants us to fully delight in Him and all the good things He's made. Think about it: He not only made food necessary and nutritious, but delightful and delicious. He could've easily made everything taste like rotten eggs and dirt. Or given us no taste buds at all. He not only made the universe functional, but also beautiful. And then He gave each of us eyes equipped with 3D, high definition, automatic focus and self-cleaning lenses that can see a billion-plus colors in panoramic real time, positioned on a pan-and-tilt, image stabilizing neck.

He could've made our seeing and hearing painful to our bodies, with every second of sight data taking months for us to mentally process. Instead He made it instantaneous and effortless. Our God makes daily sunsets beautiful, music amazingly emotional, and marital intimacy euphoric. He didn't create strawberries and honeycombs and then expect us to only have an appetite for turnips and asparagus.

The devil wants us to view God as dull and to view sin as delightful. Righteousness unpleasant and immorality liberating. But the truth is, the devil has never created anything good. Or created anything at all, for that matter. Every good and perfect gift you've ever enjoyed in life has come to you from God (James 1:17).

And because of answered prayer, you haven't seen the last of these gifts. Not if your delight is in the Lord.

Set your heart upon Him. Live to please Him. Acknowledge Him as being everything in your world. Then you're free to ask Him for the

moon, knowing He'll give you either that wish or something even greater . . . because He delights to give His beloved children the desires of their hearts.

**PRAYER:**

*Lord, I'm so grateful that You delight in blessing me. And I don't want to miss a single one of them. Keep me so close to You, Lord, that nothing can stand between us. I realize no joy exists anyway outside of Your will for me, outside of the desires You've placed within me for following hard after You. I know I'll never reach the bottom of Your goodness and compassion toward me, and this truth makes me love You from the bottom of my heart.*

**HOMEWORK:**

1. The truth is, this “whatever” offers runs through the New Testament.

- ☞ Whatever you ask in \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ that you have received it. (Mark 11:24)
- ☞ Whatever you ask in My \_\_\_\_\_, that I will do.” (John 14:13)
- ☞ Whatever we ask we \_\_\_\_\_ from Him.” (1 John 3:22)
- ☞ If we know that He \_\_\_\_\_ us in whatever we ask, we \_\_\_\_\_ that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.” (1 John 5:15)
- ☞ A noticeable pattern is \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Y N NS: God is Santa Claus?

James 4:3 AMP—“You ask [God for something] and do not receive it because you ask with wrong motives [out of selfishness or with an unrighteous agenda], so that [when you get what you want] you may spend it on your [hedonistic—a person whose life is devoted to the pursuit of pleasure and self-gratification] desires.”

3. Yet something in His nature and in the kind of relationship He's made possible with us creates an open-door atmosphere to ask

for \_\_\_\_\_ things.

4. The KEY is:

- ☞ \_\_\_\_\_ you are walking with Him on the path He wants you to walk, and
- ☞ \_\_\_\_\_ He's your FIRST love, and
- ☞ \_\_\_\_\_ your heart's desire is to \_\_\_\_\_ Him,
  - then He \_\_\_\_\_ in granting your heart's desires.
    - but rather to find your \_\_\_\_\_ in the only place where true, lasting joy can be found, the possibility of receiving your \_\_\_\_\_ 'whatever' wishes opens up for you. With stunning regularity.

5. When you delight in Him—when the beat of your heart [spirit] is to \_\_\_\_\_, “Lord, what can I do for You today, my Father?”—the beat of His kind heart is to \_\_\_\_\_, “Well, what can I do for you, My child?”

6. Jesus declared with His \_\_\_\_\_ and demonstrated His \_\_\_\_\_ that He always does what is \_\_\_\_\_ to the Father. (John 8:29)

☞ Define ‘*declared with His mouth*’ means to you?

☞ Define ‘*demonstrated His life*’ here on earth means to you?

7. The Son lives to \_\_\_\_\_ the Father; the Father delights in \_\_\_\_\_ the Son.

8. Apply to you with this and say: I, son/daughter of God live to honor the Father; the Father delights in blessing me His child. When I delight myself in the Lord, You say You'll give me the desires of my heart. Thank You, Father in Jesus' Name.

9. Interesting the word ‘desires’:

- ✎ John 15:7: ‘will, desire, wish’ defines in Greek word—‘to be resolved or determined, to purpose, to desire, to wish, to love, to like to do a thing, be fond of doing, to take delight in, have pleasure, have in mind, intend’.

- ✎ Psalms 37:4–‘desires’ in Hebrew word defines ‘request, petition, desire, prayer’.

Ruth 3:11–“I will do for you whatever you ask, for all my people in the city know that you are a woman of excellency.”

10. Boaz delighted in Ruth that he gave her a what?

11. You should be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in asking.

12. God wants you experiencing what?

13. Name a thing Solomon asked for? \_\_\_\_\_

14. Remember recently lesson 2 what you have learned:

- ✎ The more you abide in the Word
- ✎ The more you reading the Word
- ✎ The more you journaling the Word
- ✎ The more you underlying the Word
- ✎ The more you memorizing the Word
- ✎ Then the more it [the Word] will become second nature, almost like a second language.
  - 1 Kings 3:5–“Ask what you wish Me to give you”.
  - 1 Timothy 6:17 VOC–“...instead, fix your hope on God, the One who richly provides everything for our enjoyment.”

15. The devil wants you to view God as \_\_\_\_\_.

16. The devil wants you to view sin as \_\_\_\_\_.

17. The devil wants you to view righteousness as \_\_\_\_\_.

18. The devil wants you to view immorality as \_\_\_\_\_.

19. T F: the devil has created anything evil.

20. James 1:17 AMPC says, “Every good gift and every perfect [free, large, full] gift is from above; it comes down from the Father of all [that gives] light, in [the shining of] whom there can be no

variation [rising or setting] or shadow cast by His turning [as in an eclipse].” [part from VOC–‘He is consistent. He won’t change His mind or play tricks in the shadows’.]

21. T F: Every bad gift and imperfect gift you’ve enjoyed in life has come to you from God?

22. Your delight is in the Lord:

👍 Set your heart upon whom? \_\_\_\_\_

👍 Live to please Him. How? \_\_\_\_\_

👍 \_\_\_\_\_ Him as being everything in your world. What does it mean to you?

👍 Y N NS: Are you free to ask God for something?

👍 Y N NS: Are you God’s beloved child He delights to give you the desires of your heart?