

Receiving

“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 (KJV)

God has the right to be God. He doesn't have to *explain* how He works in our life, *why* things happen the way they do, or the *timetable* by which He is bringing about His will concerning the vital issues we face. God has revealed ways in which He works in the Word but it is only a window into those ways, not an exhaustive treatment of how He works in every issue we may face. Sometimes Isaiah 55:8-9 applies to what we don't understand.

In the context of this passage, He makes known or brings into reality the plans He has for us as we seek Him in purity of heart. One of God's specialties is responding to heart-felt searching after Him. Faith does not possess inherent power as some teach. Faith never stands alone. If it did, faith wouldn't need God. Faith always has an object, that object of course, is God (Mark 11:22).

The *mystery* of faith is that it always reveals God but doesn't always reveal His workings in our life or our circumstances. Sometimes in the process of receiving, faith simply helps us pursue God's presence *rather* than His gifts. *Actually, if seeking God is from a pure heart, the attention given to what we want from Him fades away as we grasp the depth of His love for us.*

When this quality of seeking God is present in our relationship with Him, things come not because we want them, but as a result of God's great desire to love us and bestow gifts into our lives *in response* to our seeking Him for the fulfillment found in fellowship with Him.

Many of us fail to understand how God's grace is connected with this concept of faith and receiving. Much of the time, grace goes against how most of us describe our relationship with the Father. Most of us qualify our approaches to Him in terms of how faithful we have been in the areas that generally describe maturity or spirituality. I am talking about how much time we have devoted to prayer, Bible reading, church attendance, etc.

Works often become a significant part of how we define our faith walk. I have discovered over the years, that much of the time these areas don't have the degree of influence we often credit them with as to whether God intervenes in our lives or not. We certainly need to maintain faithfulness in what we know to do; we are required to walk as mature sons and daughters of God.

However, what I have discovered is, God usually intervenes in our lives because of His *grace* toward us and to demonstrate His ongoing *interest* in our lives in spite of how interested we are in Him. Many times His actions in our lives reveal His grace, not a response to the quality of our spirituality.

Grace is God's love demonstrated in tangible ways in our lives totally apart of our worthiness. If we are able to become worthy, then it is no more grace, but a response to our works and an acquired achievement of standing with God that requires His response to us, even our very person. Grace says you are loved and valued because of God's unending mercy and a capacity to confer favor that defies human understanding. Rethink your qualifications for your approach into His presence. It is not your personal righteousness that gives you entrance, but His unending love for you that opens a door of *acceptance, love, and forgiveness.*