

Whatever You Ask

Key Scripture:

*And King Solomon gave unto the queen of Sheba all her desire,
whatsoever she asked,
beside that which Solomon gave her of his royal bounty.
1 Kings 10:13 (KJV)*

Today's Portion for the Journey:

The Old Testament often provides us with pictures that portray spiritual truths to help us better comprehend God's character and working in our lives (Rom 15:4). Our Key Scripture is one of those snapshots of God's generosity to give from His heavenly abundance. It would mean little for Sheba to be offered "whatever she asked" if Solomon were a poor man, but the true impact of this generosity is established in our understanding of his incredible wealth, power and authority. All that was Solomon's is nothing beside the incomparable riches of Jesus Christ who gives to us abundantly beyond anything we could even think of to ask Him to give us. Jesus tells us, *"That's why I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it and it will be yours."* Mark 11:24

Another picture of God's willingness to give "whatsoever we ask" is seen in the book of Esther. *"Now it came about on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace in front of the king's rooms, and the king was sitting on his royal throne in the throne room, opposite the entrance to the palace. When the king saw Esther, the queen standing in the court, she obtained favor in his sight; and the king extended to Esther the golden scepter which was in his hand. So, Esther came near and touched the top of the scepter. Then the king said to her, "What is troubling you, Queen Esther? **And what is your request? Even to half of the kingdom it shall be given to you....**" Write also concerning the Jews as it pleases you in the king's name, and seal it with the king's [signet] ring—for writing which is in the king's name and sealed with the king's ring no man can reverse." Esther 5:1-3; 8:8 (AMP)*

It is important that we understand a few things related to these passages in Esther. In the culture and times in which this was written, the king had absolute authority of life and death over all of his subjects. No one approached the king apart from his royal invitation. If someone approached him without his invitation, it could easily result in the person being put to death. In the same way, no one is able to approach God's throne apart from a royal invitation. Unless we enter God's throne room through Jesus no one can stand in His presence and live. Esther found favor with the king and he offered her whatsoever she desired. In Esther there are three emblems of royal authority and power offered to Esther, his scepter, his name and his signet ring (or seal.) Jesus has given us His authority, His name, and His seal (Holy Spirit).

Jesus said, *"And whatsoever you shall ask in My Name, will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."* (John 14:13) A.W. Pink, in his exposition of the book of John explains the context of this promise. "He was calling them to an increased confidence in Himself." In the previous verse, He had just assured them that His cause would not suffer from his having to depart to return to the Father. He gave them a new way of drawing near to Him, and this was through prayer. He assured them, that because He was leaving, they would be given the power of the Holy Spirit, to do the same things and even greater things

than He had done while He was with them. Do you long to see His power manifested in Your day? Do you long to see Him answer prayers in the way that He promised us in His Word?

Digging Deeper in The Word:

1. Did you notice the two "photos" we were given of the King's offer of His Kingdom were both women? Why do you think this might be significant in the picture God is showing us of His Kingdom?

2. Read the following verses in which Jesus promises to give us His Kingdom. What do you learn from these verses? Who is the promise given regarding the Kingdom of God? Dan. 7:22,27; Matt. 13:11, Mark 4:11; Luke 8:10; Matt. 6:33; Zech. 3.

3. "Whatsoever" There is no exact English equivalent of this word. Several different Greek words are translated "whatsoever" as though even the Greek does not have one word sufficient to portray this promise the LORD has given to us, His children. The Greek words speak of "how great," "how many," "magnitude" and "how many times, how often," and "how much? So much more." In Strong's #3748, it also includes the idea of anyone who, everyone who, all, whosoever, someone. The check He is signing is not only a check with the amount yet to be filled in from an account which knows no limit to the resources available, it also has yet to have the name filled in. This means this promise was not meant just for the disciples or a favored few but for all of us, if we meet His conditions.

4. "Ask" Word Wealth in the Spirit Filled Life Bible says this word denotes insistent asking without qualms, not commanding God but solidly presenting a requisition whose items He longs to distribute." Are there any conditions to receiving the promise that we can ask whatever we want from the Lord? Read the following verses and write down what conditions are included: Matt. 16:19; 18:18,19; 21:22; John 11:22; 14:13-14; 15:7,16; 16:15,23,24; 1 Cor. 2:9; 1 John 3:22, 5:14,15; Mark 11:23,24; James 4:2-4

5. What did Jesus teach us about prayers to "ask" Him for anything? Meditate upon the following verses, and look them up in several different translations. What does the word "Importunity" mean? Luke 11:9-13; Jer. 33:3; Matt. 7:7; James 1:17

6. What prevents you from believing that God will do what He has promised? If we believed these verses, how would it truly effect our prayer life? Are there changes that you would like to make in your relationship with the Lord? With your prayer life?

What Is God Speaking to You?

My Response to God?