**Putting God in a Box**

Do you ever Limit God in your prayers? Do you try and tell Him how to fix your problems or maybe just complain about them? Is He the 1st step to solving a problem or is He the last? Do you put God in a Box and only open it when you have runout of other options?

I guess the real question is: Do you have the right perspective on who you are praying too?

1 Corinthians 1:25-30 For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.  Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.  But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. it is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, (Christ became) our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

There are two ways of looking at every situation we face: through Man’s eyes or through God’s eyes. For example: David could have looked at the Goliath situation in two ways. 1st he could have said “Goliath is too big for me and my little sling shot and there is no way I can win” (Man’s view) or he could say “Goliath is so big how could I ever miss?” (God’s view)

The bible tells us that the way God thinks is not the same as the way Man thinks.

Isaiah 55:8-9  “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.”

We see examples of this in the following verses

Proverbs 25:21-22 If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink: …

Matthew 5:43-45 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the ways of death.

We find in the book of Exodus that Pharo had told the Israelites to get out after God had killed all the Egyptian 1st born sons. But after they left, the Egyptians realized they had just let go all their slave labor (Over million of them) and decide they wanted them back and pursued after them. Now the Israelites had taken a path (Directed by God) that led them to place with mountains on one side and the Red sea on the other and the enemy bearing down on them.

Now the Israelites could only see one ending, Death. They said to Moses, in Exodus 14:11 “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt?” But Moses saw things differently. He knew God would have a plan. A plan that would Glorify God and save the Israelites. So, in Exodus 14:13 Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. Then God opened a path through the sea with walls of water on each side (Exodus 14:22).

As Jesus said in Matthew 19:26 …“With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

When things become overwhelming and you can see no possible good outcome to things going on in your life, do you give up or do you open your eyes to the possibilities God can offer?

* If Shadrach Meshach and Abednego had not seen a “God option” would they have bowed down to the Giant statue
* If Daniel had not trusted God would he have stopped praying to avoid the lion’s Den
* Would Esther have gone before the king

Isaiah 43:2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

* **Are you limiting the possibilities in your life by not excepting or even asking for the possibilities God can offer you?**

As humans we are always trying to out think, second guess or explain away everything that God has said or done and continues to do or we just don’t trust him to do the things he says he will.

­­1 Corinthians 1:27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. (using fishermen & tax collectors as disciples, King of the world born in a manger)

Jesus said in Matthew 7:6 Do not give that which is holy to the dogs, nor cast your pearls before the swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn around and tear you in pieces

So the Lord will hide His truth from those who are not serious about knowing Him. Have you ever heard anyone say they have read the Bible but it just made no sense? When they read the Bible, they will find exactly what they expect to find. That is why so many people just don't get the Bible, for the natural mind cannot understand spiritual things (1 Corinthians 2:14). The spiritual truths in the bible can only be revealed by the Spirit. The first time I read the bible I didn’t get any of it. But the more I read and the more I wanted to learn, the more God revealed to me. I could read a verse and it would make no sense, pray about it, and come away amazed at the new meaning I had found.

It all begins with a relationship with Jesus. As you focus on drawing close to God and talking to Him every day, your understanding will grow. You can read the same verse seventy times and not understand it, then suddenly one day it will click and make perfect sense, when He reveals it to you. Grow in your prayer life and relationship, and you will also grow in your understanding of His word. Understanding His word, depends directly on how well you know Him.

This is why Jesus talked in parables

Matthew 11:25 5 At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children;

**🡪God hides true wisdom from those that think they are wise and stuck in their ways but shares it with those who are like children and willing to learn.**

Jesus told a parable of a Rich man in Luke 12:16-21 : And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’ “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’ “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

Don’t ever think you have life all figured out, or even worse, God Figured out. because God will throw you a curve ball that will change everything. We often see this with celebrities or Sport stars. They are all about themselves, rich and thinking they have it all together and then we see them broke, in jail, on drugs or worse.

**🡪Do you have a box where you keep God for those special occasions or is He part of your everyday life?**

Closing:

* Don’t try to second guess God
* Don’t listen to the wisdom of the world that tries to explain God away
* Pray about things you don’t understand
* And most of all Trust that he is in control

*“life is not what it’s supposed to be. It is What it is. The way you cope with it is what makes the difference.” Virgina Satir*

Don’t put God in a box. Open the box and put him on the throne of your life. let him lead you were ever He wants to take you and you will be surprised!

**(Also see Don’t be a fool)**