

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Bubbles Part III

Questions written by Allan Gitobu, Small Group Leader
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We want to hear what God is doing your groups! Please fill out your weekly report on Small Group Manager. =)

MINISTRY PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray for the Small Group Staff and the impending new hires in the Small Group Ministry.

MEMORY VERSE

"Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!" Psalms 66:20

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

It is captivating to watch children grow and observe how things change as they figure out things around them. One of the interesting changes is in what they say and how they say it. Notably, children who could barely stop talking when they are about 4 or 5 years old resort to one-liners during teenage years. 5 year olds may take half an hour telling about their day in school but when they become teens this may be cut down to one word, or none at all. At this age parents crave to hear their children talk again. Parents will coax their children to get in a conversation. However, they get to talk again after their teens although they may not be in the house, around the parents much longer, who longed to hear them talk.

Interestingly, some teenagers only engage in a conversation with parents when they are asking for something. This contrasts with three year olds who may go on and on telling their moms how much they love them and that they are the greatest mom "in the whole wide world".

In many ways communication with God can take this kind of trend. When we first get to know God it is not difficult to adore Him. However, "familiarity" with God could set in and we find ourselves with much less to say to Him, and limit our communication to just asking for stuff. God wants constant communication because after all "the point of prayer is not to get what you want." (Pastor Miles)

Getting Started

1. We all have relationships with people to varying degrees. One of the most unpopular type of friend, is one who uses you. This is the kind of friend whose sole purpose of seeking you out is to get something from you. Think about two of your friends: the one you talk to the most and the one you talk to the least. What is the essential difference between those two friends?

Digging Deeper:

God answers our prayers in several ways. Some of these ways are:

- a) No
This is for something you absolutely should not have or do.
- b) Wait – Psalms 25:3 “Indeed let no one who waits on you be ashamed”
Here God wants you to be patient since He is never late with His answer.
- c) Yes – 1 Chronicles 2:10 “So God granted him what he requested”
God has allowed you to have what you are asking for
- d) Wrong prayer. God chose not remove Paul’s thorn in the flesh – 2 Corinthians 12:8-9
This is when you have asked for the wrong thing or in the wrong time. This can be due to timing or circumstances.
- e) Keep praying. Jesus asked His disciples to remain in prayer at least for one hour – Matthew 26:40
This is where God requires you to be persistent in your request. Take time to engage God.
- f) Done
This is where God has already provided an answer to your prayer.
- g) Why are you asking me for that?
This is when God wants you to think through what you are asking.
- h) Get your life right
The point of prayer is not to get what you want. It is for developing a relationship with him.

The most sought after answer from God is a “Yes”. However, God does not answer “Yes” all the time. While we may always want this answer it is easy to observe that very well meaning parents do not always answer “Yes” to all of their children’s requests. This can help us understand why God gives the answers He does to our prayers.

Using the prayer response letters above provide the answer you would give your 14 year old daughter if she asked for the following things. The second one is entered for an example.

Item	14 year old daughter’s request to parents	Parent Response
1	She has \$10.00. She asks you if she could use the money to buy a meal for a homeless person she always sees as you drive from school.	
2	She asks that you send in money for school lunch	f
3	It is 9.30 PM on a Sunday night while school is in session. She asks if her best friend could pick her up to go and spend	

	the night at her house.	
4	She asks how much you owe on your credit cards.	
5	She asks to change schools.	
6	Asks for another brother or sister.	
7	She asks to get a tattoo.	
8	She asks you to change homes. She asks that you sell your house, or change apartments / rented home, and get another one.	
9	She asks to join you on a trip to the gym then go for ice cream.	
10	She asks for her own credit card.	

- a) Compare the answers you have given. What are the similarities in your responses? What are the differences in your responses? Explain.
- b) Which of those answers would you change if your daughter was 21 years old?
- c) Think about some prayers to which God has answered you with a “No”. How has that changed your prayer life? What did you learn from not having your prayer answered? How did you grow?

Bringing it Home

How will you improve your readiness for the answers God gives you in prayer? What three things can you do to prepare yourself for the Lord’s blessing your prayer request?