

What Things Soever Ye Desire...

Not long after I got saved, I became acquainted with Mark 11:24, where Jesus said, **"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."** Up until that time, my prayer life had consisted of *"hoping and praying"*, instead of believing that I had received when I prayed. It was a verse of scripture that revolutionized my prayer life. I began to share it with others, just *knowing* that they would be thrilled to discover that God wanted to give them the desires of their hearts. But to my surprise and dismay, I got mixed responses. Many dear Christian friends told me things like, *"That verse doesn't mean what you think it does...God doesn't want us to pray and ask for things...He knows our needs better than we do...He'll give us what we need...you should always pray, "If it be Thy will."*

One brother took it upon himself to come to me personally. He felt that it was his mission from the Lord to do everything that he could to persuade me that what I believed was in error. He began to tell me about all of the people that he knew who had prayed for something and never got what they prayed for. He explained that therefore, Mark 11:24, *"...doesn't mean what you think it means. Because what about all of those people who loved the Lord and prayed, and didn't get what they prayed for?"* If God had never intended for us to have all of our prayers answered, and for us to receive good things from Him, (such as healing, financial prosperity, success, protection, guidance and living in total victory) there would be no verses that would promise us these provisions. I knew then that there was no way I was going to persuade him, for he was just like many other Christians who based their beliefs on experiences, rather than on the written Word of God.

Just after I moved to New England, a lady from an organization came to welcome me to the community. When

I opened the door and invited her in to do her presentation, there was no place for her to sit and she said, *"Oh, the moving van hasn't arrived yet?"*

I said, *"Well, no, they're not coming."*

She said, *"Where's your furniture?"*

I said, *"You're looking at all of it."*

She cringed at the idea that I'd moved to her town with little or no furniture. She was very proud of the town that I'd moved to. She informed me of its history, its culture and arts, and gave me pamphlets, booklets and coupons to use in the local businesses. She came across as very stuffy and snobbish. She was very disappointed in my lack of enthusiasm for her presentation to introduce me to the town. Many times, intellectualism and wealth can make people very haughty.

Eventually, as she was leaving, she asked me if there was anything else that she could be of assistance in. I asked her if she knew of any convenience store in town that was open 24 hours a day. She said, *"This is not a trucking town,"* and *"Why would anyone want a store open that late?"* I said, *"Well, I travel and I don't get home until late, and many times I need someplace to go to that late to get some groceries."* And I said (before I thought), *"Well, I'll just pray and believe God that He'll open up a place."* In anger she barked back at me and stated that she didn't believe God did things like that. And I said, *"Jesus said in Mark 11:24, "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. And I'm going to ask the Lord and He will do it."* And she yelled back at me, almost in a rage, *"No He won't!"* And I smiled and said, *"We will see."*

Well, not only **one** convenience store opened up in town, **three** did. I often wonder what that lady thinks as she drives through her town and sees those three convenience stores. This goes to prove that even though people may not be interested in our needs, **God is**, as long as our motives and intent of our heart are right. We should unashamedly approach the Father God in Jesus' Name, and we will never be denied access to the throne room. As Paul confirms in Hebrews 4:16, "**Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.**"

I look forward to sharing more with you tomorrow.

Your partner in faith,

Brother Rich

Remember, God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers (3 John 2).