

Having the Faith to Believe God's Word

Romans 8:32 says, **He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?**

When I was a child, my mother cleaned houses for a living. On my school breaks, she would have me go with her, which I usually didn't like, unless it was Mrs. M.'s house. I always enjoyed going to her house because she seemed to be so prosperous. For instance, they had a color television set, a window air conditioner and wall to wall carpeting. Hers was the first house that I was ever in that had these things. You can imagine the impression this would have on a little boy; it was always an exciting experience!

Almost every time I went to her house, after giving my mother instructions and before leaving, she would lean down and look me in the face and say, *"Now Jesse, you just make yourself at home."* And, as soon as she'd pull out of her driveway, I'd run into the bathroom and fill the tub and soak in it for about a half hour or so, until I looked like a prune, because we didn't have a bath tub in our house. My mom would come in and tell me to get out of the bath tub, *"...because if Mrs. M. knew this, I could lose my job."*

Then, when my mother would get caught up working in another part of the house, or doing the laundry, I would go turn on the television set and be so amazed that the images weren't in black and white: they were in color. Of course, you know as soon as you start watching television, you always get hungry. So, I'd go into the kitchen, open up the bread drawer and get the potato chips and go to the refrigerator and get a huge bottle of soda that always had a stopper in it and sit down on the floor and watch television and eat stale potato chips and drink soda that had lost its fizz. At the time, I didn't know any different, because at our house, we never had potato chips or soda.

After a while, my mother would begin to wonder where I was, and she'd come in and find me in my own little world, having the greatest time. She would scold me and say, *"Turn that television set off and put the potato chips and soda up, because if Mrs. M. ever found out this was going on, I could lose my job."*

This went on until one day, when I was a teenager, I wandered into Mrs. M.'s kitchen and was reaching my hand into her cookie jar. Mrs. M. always had Pepperidge Farm cookies and my parents had never in my lifetime had store-bought cookies, *much less* Pepperidge Farm cookies! All we had was the home-made stuff. Poor people don't buy cookies; if they have any, they made

them. To my surprise, my mother caught me! She came in behind me and yelled, "Get your hand out of that cookie jar! If Mrs. M. knew that you were eating her cookies, I could lose my job!"

For the first time in my life, I turned to my mother and I said, "Mom, if Mrs. M. did not intend for me to have these, why did she tell me I could?"

People will endeavor to put unworthiness and guilt feelings on you to intimidate you from asking for what you desire, want or need. Their attitude is, 'Why have the best when the other will do?'

As a child, I knew Mrs. M.---if she didn't want you to do something, or have something, she was the type of person that in no uncertain terms, would have told you not to touch something or not to do something. But on numerous occasions throughout the years, she would say to me, "Now Jesse, you help yourself to what ever I have."

It all comes down to this with the Lord: ***Either you believe God meant what He said and have the courage with or without the feelings to step out and take Him at His Word---OR---you don't believe, therefore you never ask for or receive all that He has for you!***

I look forward to sharing more with you tomorrow.

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

Your Word of faith pastor,

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