

April 2009 Week 1 TEACHING

The Ultimate Partnership

by Kim Times

Ask yourself a serious question and be as brutally honest as you can be, why don't you have what you want in your life right now. Is it because you don't know what it is you really want? Is it because you haven't asked God? Is it because you think you're not deserving of anything good? Or is it that you don't believe that you have what it takes on the inside to get what you want? A lot of people make the mistake of thinking that God is withholding their blessing for some reason, but nothing could be further from the truth. So to ask yourself this question is simply to get you pointing the finger in the right direction. You might be surprised to hear this, but it really doesn't matter what you think the reason is. **TRUTH** is the only thing that matters, and the "truth" for the Christian is the Word of God.

In Matthew 19:16 NLT, Jesus Christ said "...but with God all things are possible." Jesus is letting us know beyond any uncertainty that whatever you desire, you can have it! We can have the desires of our hearts and then some. We can have abundance and all the trimmings that come with it, but there's one condition...it has to be "WITH God".

To be "with God" is to be in partnership with Him. He's the ultimate partner, so you can relax and come to grips with the fact that you are not working alone to achieve the things you desire; you have some help.

As Christians we have everything we need within us to reach out and grab the Father's goodies. We are *Kingdom Kids*...at least that's what I like to call us. Kids humble themselves and go to their parents for what they want. They realize that they are not in a position to acquire it for themselves, so with all the expectation they can muster, they ask mommy and daddy. Now I know this is a very simplistic way of looking at things, but our Heavenly Father likes simple. Look at Matthew 18:2-4 NLT:

2 Jesus called a small child over to him and put the child among them. 3 Then he said, "I assure you, unless you turn from your sins and become as little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. 4 Therefore, anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.

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Children want what they want, and they don't always see what is ahead of them, so they ask the people who love them the most for help. It takes humility to ask for help because you have to realize on some level that you are not able to get to where you need or want to be without some assistance. Being humble doesn't mean that we put others above ourselves. It means that we don't put ourselves above others. It means that we understand that our view is limited, and we need help to gain a broader perspective.

We may not view humility as being important to exercising faith, but the two go hand and hand. It's crucial to have desires, dreams, goals, and aspirations, but we must understand that our view of what we want is a very limited one. God has a greater view, and He requires us to be humbled enough to accept that.

Matthew 6:33 NLT

33 and he will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.

I love the New Living Translation version of this verse, although the King James Version is probably more familiar to you. It says *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you"*. God is telling us not to run to THIS person or THAT agency first. Psalm 75:6-7 KJV tells us that He is in charge of promotion. He knows how to lift you up at the appointed time.

In case you didn't know it, a partnership with God means that we allow Him first dibs at calling the shots, because He's the one with the plan; that's why we seek Him first. He wants to be in partnership with you. He wants to expand your vision of what is possible, and most importantly, to expand your vision of who you are and what you can accomplish through His love.

So if you don't understand why you can't seem to get ahead, if you are in dire need of a blessing in the right now and you have no idea how it will come to pass, remember your Partner. Remember that all things belong to Him. He's not going to just plop them in your lap without evidence of your commitment to hold up your end of the bargain. He requires that you set your eyes upon Him; that you prioritize your life in such a way that His love is #1. You've got to give it out!

God's business should always come first. Our relationship with Him should never take a back seat to anything. There is absolutely no reason you should ever settle for less when you are one of God's children. We have a right to

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expect the best, but it takes more than just expecting it, we have to be in a position to give it. Only then can we witness the kind of momentum in life that moves us up the spiritual ladder of bounty and blessings.

Whether it's taking time first thing in the morning to give thanks, speaking an encouraging word to co-workers and friends or helping someone who has lost their job, the number of good and Godly deeds are too many to number, but we can't skimp on them. They are a requirement for Kingdom Kids. It's about prioritizing and making strides to become a better person through giving your time and showing your love.

Opportunities to do good are all around us, we just have to keep our eyes open to them. You have multiple opportunities every single day to demonstrate God's love, and if you are missing those opportunities, how in the world will you see an opportunity to acquire what you want from God. The answer to that question is that you won't. If your arms are not open to give love, then they are not open to receive it either.

You are God's partner, an ambassador for Christ, so open your eyes to goodness. If you expect a rainy day, put an extra umbrella or two in your car in case you see someone unfortunate walking in the rain. You may run across a mother with young children waiting in the cold for the bus. Keep a bag of pretzels at your desk for that hungry co-worker or friend. Don't expect to get paid for every deed, but allow God to compensate you. This is a loving mindset that pleases Him.

Your blessing will come, don't doubt that for a moment, but the love of God within you must draw it out. So stay open to whims of kindness. Set your heart to be a good partner first and the spirit will lead and guide you to be a truly more loving kid.