

Transforming Daily
“ . . . let your requests be made known to God . . . ”
Philippians 4:6

This is one of the most interesting passages of Scripture. One of the reasons it's interesting is that it is written in the imperative mood. In other words, these verses carry a sense of command. They are to be read with an understanding of command not suggestion. But notice what Paul commands the believer to do. He is commanding the believer to do what the believer should already want to do.

Paul is talking about praying to God. He is specifically talking about making requests of God. Everyone wants to do that. As a matter of fact, much of everyone's prayer life is doing just that. Our prayers are filled with supplications and requests from healings, to employment opportunities, to possessions, to weather conditions, etc., none of which is out of bounds. God wants to hear from us more than we want to talk to Him.

Notice in verse six that it isn't what is being asked for, that is the matter, but how it is to be done. The prayers and supplications are to be done with an attitude of thanksgiving. In other words, before anything is even acted upon by God, before anything is received or even asked for, the attitude before hand is to be one of thanksgiving. We're not talking about the popular miscontextualized and misconstrued practice of "naming and claiming." What Paul is referring to is an attitude of gratitude and humility when approaching God in prayer.

God gives us more than we can ask for before we can ask for it. It isn't a matter of giving and receiving tangible blessings, it is a matter of personal relationship, right fellowship, grateful hearts toward God because of who He is before, or even if, He decides to grant our petitions. Here in lies the biggest misunderstanding in communicating with God. Go to the Garden of Eden. What did Adam and Eve lack? Nothing. They had everything. It was God's desire to fellowship with them. He initiated contact. He sustained their manner of living. In return, Adam and Eve chose to follow their own lusts. We would have done the same. As a matter of fact, every day we choose to do the same.

Are you grateful to God for who He is? When you speak to God, is it in a matter of humility? Do you pray to God demanding and claiming that He do this or that (be careful about doing that)? Let me suggest that when you pray, do so having first developed an attitude of thanksgiving, and then let your requests be made know to God.