

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO FOR YOU?

In 1994 an outpouring of the Holy Spirit which became known as the Toronto Blessing began to occur at the Airport Vineyard Church in Toronto, Canada. At that time, I was relatively new to life in the Spirit and had not yet had an experience such as this one. Naturally, my curiosity as to what it was and how I would be affected by that experience occupied my thoughts. But I was in no position financially to travel from San Antonio to Toronto.

Additionally, my husband had just begun to attend church with me after years of my going alone. My curiosity gave way to anxiety about how I would explain something I wanted to do to my husband when I didn't yet understand what it was. It never occurred to me to ask God to prepare the way, to provide the finances, and give Don a heart willing to join me in the adventure. Instead, I allowed myself to be dissuaded by the fear of Don's potential rejection of such a request and as a result, I preemptively struck down everything God wanted to do for me at that time.

Several years later, a friend of mine and her husband went to Toronto and came back praising God for the love they had experienced through the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit. My heart grieved that I had been unable to work through the obstacles I had perceived that kept me from sharing in that experience. At that point in my life, I was looking for the rush of the experience; I did not yet understand that God wanted to develop a relationship with me; and that what that requires was that I yield to Him – allowing Him to do things His way and in His timing. He would do everything necessary for me to grow in that

relationship through the shared experiences He would orchestrate for me. It was His work, not mine to accomplish.

Six months later, my friend told me that the Vineyard Church was sending out teams to the United States to bring the outpouring that had occurred in Toronto. One of the sites chosen for their teams to visit was Corpus Christi and she told me that two of her friends were planning to go. My thoughts were “I can go to Corpus Christi!” In other words, I could manage the cost of the trip and I could share expenses with these other two women. The only obstacle I anticipated was “How would Don respond to my request?”

It was several weeks before my friend brought me the registration brochure for the Corpus Christi conference. During that time, I struggled with the decision to go, how I would explain it to Don, the anxiety of asking him to take me, and all the other details a trip away from home can produce. I finally decided it would be easier if I did not ask Don to take me; instead I would broach the idea to him that I could ride with the other two women.

One day as I was driving to work, I had a vision. In my vision, I saw the inside of my bobbin box. Now, for those of you who sew, you know what a bobbin box looks like on the inside: it is the receptacle for all the bobbins that still have a useable amount of thread on them that come unwound as the bobbins jostle each other inside the box. So, when you open up the box, you have multiple colors of threads all snarled and knotted together.

As I am looking at the inside of my bobbin box in this vision, I noticed the two women I was hoping to ride with standing to the left of the bobbin box; and to the right of the bobbin box my husband was standing. I looked at the bobbin box,

then to the women on the left and finally to my husband on the right. I realized that God was showing me that I had allowed confusion to come into my mind because I was trying to accomplish His work my way. It was not His plan that I ride to the conference with those two women; it was His plan that I ask Don to take me to the conference. Now that I understood what God wanted me to do, I asked for courage and wisdom to make my request known to my husband.

That evening, when I got home from work, I told Don I wanted to talk to him about something. He was working on finishing a gun stock in the garage, so I pulled up a stool and sat down. With my heart shaking inside of me, I told Don about the conference and what I thought it was about. I told him that several of my friends had already attended the conference in Toronto and they had come back with a good report. I told him I would like to go and that there were a couple of women going with whom I could ride. Don's response was to say he would think about it.

Later, as I was cleaning up the kitchen after dinner, Don asked me to come outside with him. We sat on the tail gate of his truck and Don told me he had considered what I had shared with him. And then he asked me this question: "What are you asking me to do for you?" I was amazed at his question; but I quickly responded with, "I am asking you to take me to this conference." Don's question opened a door that gave me the courage to ask specifically what I wanted my husband to do for me.

Don took me to that conference and he witnessed all the Holy Spirit did in me. Although Don did not participate, he never left my side. He held my Bible and my purse until he could help me up off the floor and then he half-carried me, drunk in

the Spirit, back to our room. It was a life changing experience for both of us; and it began with the question: “What are you asking me to do for you?”

In September of this year, Lance Wallnau, who authored the book, *God’s Chaos Candidate*, an insightful and accurate prediction of the candidacy of Donald Trump, delivered a powerful message concerning the present national crisis and then drilled it down to our own personal crises. He reminded us of what David had said in Psalm 142:2 *“I pour out my complaint before him; **before him I tell my trouble.**”*

Lance went on to share how one day he was praying – literally pouring out his complaint before God about his present circumstances and about the difficult situations our nation is experiencing. Then he heard God’s response: “Stop pouring out your complaint; instead, pray the solution!” In less than ten words, God orchestrated a paradigm shift for Lance. It can also be a paradigm shift for us. He was asking Lance, “What do you want me to do for you?”

This perspective should revolutionize our prayer life. What comes out of our mouths has power – the power of life and death. We cannot afford to pray lackluster, meaningless words that masquerade as prayers! We have been given authority over all the works of the devil and what we speak either opens doors for him or shuts him down. Rather than telling God about all the stuff the devil is doing to wreck our world, we should be declaring the Truth of God’s word that establishes the power of God to work in that situation, and causes the devil to flee from us!

God is asking us to be specific and intentional in making our requests to Him. Before He can move us forward in His plans for us, before He can bring the change in our lives we desire to see, before we can enter into the shared experiences He has for us so that our relationship with Him grows, we must answer the question He has asked: “What do you want me to do for you?”

The gospels record a number of questions Jesus asked of the people who were following Him. His questions were clearly stated and probed the heart of the listeners to respond with specificity. He didn’t waste time with euphemisms; He wasn’t one to beat around the bush; He always went to the heart of every matter. He wanted His audience to consider not only the words of the question, but the import of the question. He challenged people to reach beyond their present understanding so they could get a God’s eye view of their circumstances and understand that God was simply waiting for them to tell Him what they wanted Him to do for them. God is not offended by our telling Him what we want Him to do for us; He is offended when we trust Him so little that we do not come boldly before the throne and make our requests known to him.

In my research for this message, I found twelve questions Jesus asked.

1. Matthew 8:26 - Why are you so afraid?
2. Matthew 14:31 - Why did you doubt?
3. Matthew 16:15 - Who do you say that I am?
4. Matthew 21:22 - Do you believe?

5. Mark 5:35 - Who touched me?
6. Mark 8:17 - Do you still not see or understand?
7. Luke 10:26 - What does Scripture say?
8. John 1:38 - What do you want?
9. John 5:6 - Do you want to get well?
10. John 6:67 - Are you also going to leave?
11. John 21:15 - Do you love me?
12. In the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Jesus is recorded as asking this question, "What do you want me to do for you?"

Every one of the questions on this list is an invitation to a personal relationship with the God who created the Universe! Every one of these questions is designed to lift you up above your present circumstances so that you can get God's perspective on the matter that troubles you. Every one of these questions is God giving you an opportunity to experience an upgrade in understanding who He wants to be for you in the middle of your difficulty. If Jesus was standing here today, and asked you one of these questions, how would you respond?

God doesn't want us to focus on the events we are witnessing happening all around us. He wants us to look at Him. That is how we can see everything that is going on through His eyes and then pray the solution based on the Truth of His Word back to Him.

But what if you are blind?

The story of a blind beggar is recorded in three of the four gospels: in Matthew 20:29-34; Mark 10:46-52; and Luke 18:35-43. I am reading from the Mark passage out of the Passion Translation:

Mark 10 - Verses 46-47

*When Jesus and his disciples had passed through Jericho, a large crowd joined them. Upon leaving the village, they met a blind beggar sitting on the side of the road named Timai, the son of Timai. When he heard that Jesus from Nazareth was passing by, he began to shout, “Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me now in my affliction. **Heal me!**”*

The name “Timai” is Aramaic and means “highly prized” (or esteemed). Though unable to see, he was highly prized in the eyes of Jesus, who stopped what He was doing, in order to listen to his request. Why did Jesus do that? Even though the man was blind in the natural, he understood who Jesus was, the Son of David, the promised Messiah. Apparently, he knew the scripture in Isaiah 42 that the Messiah would “open the eyes of the blind”. The blind man believed Jesus was the one who was fulfilling the messianic claims of restoring sight to the blind.

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Verse 48

*Those in the crowd were indignant and scolded him for making so much of a disturbance, but he kept shouting with all his might, “Son of David, have mercy on me now and **heal me!**”*

He was determined not to miss the opportunity God had presented to him. He ignored the critical, judgmental responses of the crowd who sought to shut him

down. Satan will use other people to dissuade us from presenting our petition before the throne of God by telling us that our need isn't big enough to warrant God's personal attention. But Timai knew what he needed from Jesus – he knew he needed **mercy**. He didn't come thinking that God owed him something. ©2018

David Guzik, Commentary on Mark 10:46-52

His persistence demonstrated his faith that Jesus could heal him even though he had nothing to offer in exchange; he was a poverty stricken, blind, beggar. He came empty. He was looking for the fullness that Jesus, the Messiah, could give him.

Verses 49-50

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him to come to me." So they went to the blind man and said, "Have courage! Get up! Jesus is calling for you!" So he threw off his beggars' cloak, jumped up, and made his way to Jesus.

Why do you suppose Timai threw off his beggars' cloak before he came to Jesus? Could it be that it was dirty or rumpled or so long that it would impede his progress? Don't miss the significance of this action. Matthew Henry's concise commentary puts it this way: "The gracious calls Christ gives us to come to him, encourage our hope, that if we come to him we shall have what we come for. Those who would come to Jesus, must cast away the garment of their own sufficiency, must free themselves from every weight, and the sin that, like long garments, most easily besets them. (Heb 12:1).

<https://biblehub.com/commentaries/mark/10-50.htm>

Verses 51-52

Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The man replied, “Rabboni, please, let me see again!” Jesus responded, “Your faith heals you. Go in peace, with your sight restored.” All at once, the man’s eyes opened and he could see again, and he began at once to follow Jesus, walking down the road with him.

Jesus responded to Timai’s cries with a question: “What do you want Me to do for you?” It might seem that Timai’s need was obvious. Yet Jesus had a deliberate purpose in the question. There was real power in both the asking and in the answer of Jesus. God may ask us the same question, and we should be able to articulate an answer that glorifies Him. [©2018 David Guzik, Commentary on Mark 10:46-52](#)

Timai then acknowledged who Jesus was when he said, “Rabboni, that I may receive my sight.” (NKJV) The title **Rabboni** means ‘my lord,’ ‘my master.’” (Lane) When Timai said this, he expressed his humble submission towards Jesus as His Lord. His response opened the door for God to work in his life. [©2018 David Guzik, Commentary on Mark 10:46-52](#)

There are many Christians who have accepted Jesus as their Savior, but they have never asked Him to be their Lord. They have never submitted themselves to His Lordship. How would your life change if you invited Jesus to fill your inmost part with His Light and then submit to Him to rule and reign in you as your Lord?

Jesus acknowledged Timai’s faith when He said, “Your faith heals you. Go in peace.” Timai received not only the restoration of his vision, but the word translated “heals” in the phrase “your faith heals you” is the Greek word *sozo* which means “delivered, saved, restored, healed, rescued, preserved, made whole”. The implication of the verse is that the man was saved, healed, and

delivered, with sight restored, all at the same time. (© 2017 The Passion Translation, BroadStreet Publishing Group, LLC, Commentary, Page 455)

Now healed and saved, blind Timai then **followed Jesus**. The way of Jesus became his way. This was especially significant when we consider where Jesus was going at this time – He was going to Jerusalem where a cross waited for Him. First Jesus told Timai to **go your way (NKJV)**. Then, Timai **followed Jesus**. He made Jesus' way his own way, and became a follower of Him. ©2018 David Guzik, Commentary on Mark 10:46-52

All it took for Timai's life to be completely changed and to receive his sight was for him to tell Jesus exactly what he wanted Jesus to do for him.

I was in a prayer meeting yesterday where one of the ladies present in the meeting, a sweet 85 year old prayer warrior, told us that she wanted us to pray that she receive the refrigerator she had ordered in September. She had been told that it would be delivered in November; however, it was now the 13th day of November and the new refrigerator had not yet come. No one at the store could tell her when she could expect delivery and her old refrigerator was failing quickly. She was having to move food to a cooler to keep it from spoiling.

We prayed – specifically, telling God we wanted the refrigerator to be delivered today. One of the ladies present in the prayer meeting actually works for the store and she was able to give her the name of the person to call, a person who had the authority to give her an answer.

After the prayer meeting, she went home and got herself ready to go to the store to see the person whose name she had been given, in the hopes that he might be

able to tell her where her refrigerator was. As she was preparing to leave her home, there was a knock on her door...and guess who it was! It was the delivery man with her refrigerator!

Jesus is well able to meet all these needs. He is our All Sufficient, All Knowing, Loving, Provider, Protector and Healer. What do you need Jesus to do for you today?