

Handcuff God?

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic
By: Sis. Techie Rodriguez, Elder-Founder
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We are all God's children, and as such, He wants to help us. Just like children who hold on to their parent's hands, we also need to hold on to God's hands. However, our enemy, the devil, has a desire to "handcuff" God. He is always trying to restrain us from following God's plans. When we do not follow what God is telling us, we limit the possibilities that He has planned for us. We need to trust God and let go of our burdens.

1. Do we trust God or do we handcuff Him?

1.1. In the Parable of the Great Banquet, we miss out on the God's blessings when we refuse His invitation (Lk. 14:15-24). "Blessed is the one who will eat in the table during this feast for the Lord." However, many resort to excuses: "Not one of those invited will get a taste" (Lk. 15:24). Conversely, if we remain with Him and bear fruit, whatever we ask will be given to us (Jn. 15:16).

1.2. We "handcuff" God when we do not trust Him. A man who got lost in the darkness and fog accidentally grabbed a branch and held on to it, praying to God to save him. When He told the man to let go of the branch, he refused and continued to hold on. Surprisingly, He realized the next morning that he was only four feet from the ground. His lack of faith caused him undue suffering.

2. The Lord is watching to see if His Words are fulfilled (Jeremiah 1:12).

2.1. God will fulfill His promises depending on our faith. If we do not obey, our faith is nothing (Rom. 4). He has provided, empowered, given us peace and mighty things unknown to us (Rom. 1:2; Jer. 33:3). Hence, we must develop our prayer time and must not miss our daily communication with God.

2.2. A promise is fulfilled when God's strong and powerful hands move (Psalms 89:14).

He stretches out His hands against the enemy (Ps. 138:7; Ps. 89:14).

3. The strong and mighty hand of God will move in our life (Jn. 14) because His hand is not too short to save, nor His ear too dull to hear (Jn. 14; Isa. 59:1-2).
 - 3.1. The uniting hand of God brings people together (Ps. 33).
 - 3.2. God heals when we are all united in prayer. He healed the blind man and the lepers (Lk. 5:12-13).
 - 3.3. The providing hand of God will produce the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4).
 - 3.4. When we are united, the protecting wall of God will not allow the devil to come in.
 - 3.5. The providing hand of God will give us everything we need (Ps. 23).
 - 3.6. The empowering hand of God will protect us. God is always with us (Isa. 51).
4. **Why is He not hearing us? Our iniquities separate us from God.**
 - 4.1. Our sins have hidden His face from us (Isa. 59:2). Our prayers will not be heard.
 - 4.2. God would like us to confess our sins and sin no more.
5. **The hands of God were upon**
 - 5.1. Joseph the dreamer who prospered.
 - 5.2. Ezra who was a teacher and committed himself to serve God (Ezra 7:1-10).
 - 5.3. Nehemiah who surrendered everything to God. His every request was granted by the King (Neh. 2).
 - 5.4. The boy who gave the fish and bread. Then, they multiplied.; Only when we let go of things, our blessings increase (2Cor. 9:6-8.)

Conclusion:

Let us not "handcuff" God. We should let His hand move in our lives, for we have no right to refuse Him.

REFLECTION:

What is keeping you away from God's blessings?

Transcriber/Writer: Sis Jo Advincula
Approved/Final Edited by: Sis Vera I. Tuplano
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