

Being a Skillful Receiver

Have you ever wondered why some people seem to effortlessly receive from God while others struggle and strive? The key lies in understanding that we were created to be like sponges - designed to absorb God's life, love, and goodness without working for it.

What Does It Mean to Be a Spiritual Sponge?

Just like a dry sponge transforms when placed in water, we're designed to absorb God's presence naturally. A sponge doesn't work to get full of water - it simply sits in the water and absorbs. Similarly, we don't need to strive to receive from God. We just need to position ourselves in His presence.

The problem is that many people are too busy moving around and running to allow God to fill them up. They're working and striving, trying to receive instead of simply believing and absorbing.

Why Is Receiving from God So Important?

Receiving from God is the most important skill in life because every good thing comes from Him. If you can't receive from God, you're in a tough place. Whether it's healing, provision, guidance, or any other need, your ability to receive by faith determines your quality of life.

Think about it - regardless of your occupation or circumstances, you need God's assistance, help, and blessing in every area of life. This is why we should dedicate our lives to becoming skillful receivers.

What Does Jesus Say About Faith and Receiving?

In Mark 11:22-24, Jesus provides clear instructions: "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will come to pass, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."

Notice the key elements:

- Whoever - This applies to everyone, not just special people
- Whatever - There are no limitations on what you can receive
- Believe without doubting - Faith requires conviction, not trying
- Speak in agreement with God's word - Your words matter

Understanding God's Laws vs. Human Emotions

God operates by laws, not emotions or moods. Just as we can predict when the sun will rise or when the tides will change, God's spiritual laws work consistently. The Bible mentions several spiritual laws:

- The law of the Spirit of life (Romans 8:2) - This law sets us free from the law of sin and death
- The law of faith (Romans 3:27) - This is how we receive righteousness and blessings
- The law of love - God's love operates consistently

These laws work every time you work them, just like physical laws. God isn't moody or unpredictable - He's faithful to His word.

Why Do People Struggle to Receive?

Many people operate under the "law of works" instead of the "law of faith." They're trying to earn God's blessings through their own efforts, which leads to stress, fatigue, and burnout. The law of works connects with the law of sin and death, keeping people under pressure and burden.

Others struggle because they've been taught that God's will is mysterious and unknowable. They've been told "you never really know what God wants" or "it might not be God's will for you." This kind of thinking destroys faith because you cannot have faith for something if you're not convinced it's God's will.

How Can You Know God's Will?

God is not holding anything back from you. James tells us that God "gives to all liberally and without reproach" - that means He gives to everyone generously without finding fault. The problem isn't God's willingness to give; it's our ability to receive.

When sin or wrong thinking clouds our conscience, it affects our ability to receive from God. But God Himself isn't withholding anything. He's pursuing you, chasing after you, wanting to bless you right now.

Moving from Striving to Soaring

Instead of grinding through life under the law of works, God wants us to soar through life by His grace. When you operate in the law of faith, you experience:

- Rest instead of stress
- Peace and joy in believing
- Renewed strength like the eagles
- God's provision and help in every situation

This is what Isaiah prophesied: "Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31).

The Key to Successful Faith

Faith doesn't try - faith believes without doubting. When you're "trying" to have faith, you're actually doubting. True faith is a conviction of the heart, not a mental exercise.

If your faith isn't working in a particular area, ask God: "Lord, perfect what is lacking in my faith." Then position yourself to receive revelation and understanding from His Word and His Spirit.

Life Application

This week, commit to becoming a more skillful receiver of God's promises. Instead of striving and working for God's blessings, practice positioning yourself like a sponge in His presence. Spend time in His Word, focus on His goodness rather than your problems, and believe that He gives to all liberally without finding fault.

Ask yourself these questions:

- Am I operating in the law of works or the law of faith?
- Do I truly believe God wants to bless me right now?
- What areas of my life am I "trying" instead of believing?
- How can I position myself to better absorb God's presence and promises?

Remember, you were created to be a receiver of God's goodness. Stop making it complicated and start believing that as a "whoever," you can receive "whatever" you need from a God who loves you and wants to help you soar through life.

Quotes

1. "We were created to absorb the life, love, and goodness of God—not strive for it."
2. "The most important thing in life is learning how to receive from God, because every good thing comes from Him."
3. "What could possibly be more important than being able to receive from God?"
4. "Faith cannot receive what the heart is not convinced God wills to give."

5. “God is a God of order and structure; His consistency is even seen in creation.”
6. “The Spirit moves by divine laws—not mysticism—and those laws work every time they’re applied.”
7. “The kingdom is taken by those who know how to receive with holy force.”
8. “You must learn to take by faith what the enemy fights to keep from you.”
9. “The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has broken the power of sin and death over me.”
10. “When the law of the Spirit is activated, the pull of sin and death loses its power.”
11. “If people accomplish much through works alone, how much more can be done through the law of faith with God involved.”
12. “God’s blessing makes you rich without adding sorrow to it.”
13. “Faith produces works, but works were never meant to replace faith.”
14. “Faith was never meant to make you strive through life, but soar through it.”
15. “Nothing is more important than knowing how to receive what God already wants you to have.”
16. “Peace and joy are found in believing God.”
17. “God shows no favoritism—He gives generously to all who will receive.”
18. “God isn’t holding your past against you; often the only one who is, is you and the devil.”
19. “God is not withholding anything good from humanity.”
20. “Faith speaks to mountains with confidence before it ever sees them move.”

Verses

1. Mark 11:22
2. Mark 11:22-24
3. Mark 11:23
4. Mark 11:24

5. Romans 8:1
6. Romans 8:2
7. Romans 3:26
8. Romans 3:27
9. Romans 3:28
10. 1 Corinthians 14
11. Acts 10
12. Acts 19
13. James

Summary

Many believers struggle to receive from God because they're operating under the law of works instead of the law of faith. We were designed to be like sponges, naturally absorbing God's goodness without striving or working for it. Jesus taught that whoever believes without doubting can receive whatever they ask for in prayer. God operates by consistent spiritual laws, not emotions or moods, and He gives to all liberally without finding fault. The key is positioning ourselves in His presence and believing rather than trying. Instead of grinding through life under pressure, we can soar through life by grace, experiencing rest, peace, and renewed strength like eagles.