

“Take the Limits Off”

Pastor Al Brice | Sunday, March 10, 2019

Psalm 78:40-41 NKJV:

⁴⁰ How often they provoked Him in the wilderness,

And grieved Him in the desert!

⁴¹ Yes, again and again they tempted God,

And limited the Holy One of Israel.

Proverbs 16:7 NKJV: When a man's ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

*** How do I please Him?**

Hebrews 11:5-6 NKJV: ⁵ By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. ⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Romans 10:17 NKJV: So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 12:2 NKJV Strong's: And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

“**Conformed**” – ‘To conform one's self (one's mind and character) to another's pattern, fashion one's self according to.’

Romans 8:29 NKJV Strong's: For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 NKJV: ⁹ Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be **well pleasing** to Him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

* **“Well pleasing”** means, ‘To be in full agreement with.’

Amos 3:3 NKJV: Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?

Psalm 78:41 NKJV: Yes, again and again they tempted God, And **limited** the Holy One of Israel.

“Limited” - It has the sense of ‘restraining and restricting a person or persons from what they can do because of others’ own attitudes or actions.’

* **How do we limit God and His blessings for us?**

a. Questioning God’s power and His willingness to release it for you or others puts limitations on God.

Psalm 78:42-43 NLT:

⁴² They did not remember his power
and how he rescued them from their enemies.

⁴³ They did not remember his miraculous signs in Egypt,
his wonders on the plain of Zoan.

* Remember the man who wanted his son set free from demonic oppression?

Mark 9:22-23 NLT: ²² The spirit often throws him into the fire or into water, trying to kill him. Have mercy on us and help us, if you can.”

²³ “What do you mean, ‘If I can’?” Jesus asked. “Anything is possible if a person believes.”

Luke 1:37-38 NKJV: ³⁷ For with God nothing will be impossible.”

³⁸ Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Psalm 138:7-8 NLT:

⁷ Though I am surrounded by troubles,
you will protect me from the anger of my enemies.

You reach out your hand,
and the power of your right hand saves me.

⁸ The Lord will work out his plans for my life—
for your faithful love, O Lord, endures forever...

b. Questioning God's ability and willingness to provide our needs will limit Him.

Psalm 78:19-20 NKJV:

¹⁹ Yes, they spoke against God:

They said, "Can God prepare a table in the wilderness?"

²⁰ Behold, He struck the rock,

So that the waters gushed out,

And the streams overflowed.

Can He give bread also?

Can He provide meat for His people?"

Philippians 4:19 NKJV: And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6 NKJV: Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God...

Matthew 6:31-33 NLT: ³¹ "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?'" ³² These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. ³³ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

c. To live and walk in sin after God has given me His grace, mercy, and salvation through Jesus Christ will limit Him.

Psalm 78:17 NLT: Yet they kept on sinning against him, rebelling against the Most High in the desert.

Romans 6:12-16 NLT: ¹² Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. ¹³ Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. ¹⁴ Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.

¹⁵ Well then, since God's grace has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning? Of course not! ¹⁶ Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.

d. What does God desire for those who will obey and live for Him?

Leviticus 26:3-13 NLT: ³“If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands, ⁴ I will send you the seasonal rains. The land will then yield its crops, and the trees of the field will produce their fruit. ⁵ Your threshing season will overlap with the grape harvest, and your grape harvest will overlap with the season of planting grain. You will eat your fill and live securely in your own land.

⁶“I will give you peace in the land, and you will be able to sleep with no cause for fear. I will rid the land of wild animals and keep your enemies out of your land. ⁷ In fact, you will chase down your enemies and slaughter them with your swords. ⁸ Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand! All your enemies will fall beneath your sword.

⁹“I will look favorably upon you, making you fertile and multiplying your people. And I will fulfill my covenant with you. ¹⁰ You will have such a surplus of crops that you will need to clear out the old grain to make room for the new harvest! ¹¹ I will live among you, and I will not despise you. ¹² I will walk among you; I will be your God, and you will be my people. ¹³ I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt so you would no longer be their slaves. I broke the yoke of slavery from your neck so you can walk with your heads held high.