



What if God actually did what we asked Him to do?

- Too many times we pray about something without really believing it will ever happen

Act 12:5-7, 12-16

Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him

...the angel of the Lord came upon [him], and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from [his] hands. ... 12 And when he had considered [the thing], he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying. 13 And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda. 14 And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate. 15 And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel. 16 But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened [the door], and saw him, they were astonished.

If God sent a revival of the Holy Ghost – some people in the church would rejoice and some people would leave angry

- Revival breaks us out of the box of spiritual mediocrity...and that can make us very uncomfortable!

When God moves – I have no business trying to dictate how and on whom He chooses to move

Jonah 3:5, 10

So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them. ... 10 And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did [it] not

Jonah 4:1

But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry.

Why Was Jonah Angry?

Trigger Point #1: God Blessed People Who Jonah Felt Didn't Deserve to be Blessed

Jonah 4:2

And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, [was] not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou [art] a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.

How you respond when God blesses your enemy is a revelation of the true condition of your heart

- God doesn't have to ask your permission before He blesses people

...for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Matthew 5:44-45

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven

Whatever you give out is coming right back at you in greater measure than what you gave it out

Luke 6:38

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Luke 6:32-37

For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. 33 And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. 34 And if ye lend [to them] of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. 35 But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and [to] the evil. 36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. 37 Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:

Trigger Point #2: Jonah Was More Concerned about his Reputation than God's Reputation

Jonah 4:3

Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for [it is] better for me to die than to live.

Genesis 16:12

And he will be a wild man; his hand [will be] against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.

Galatians 4:30

Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman

These are Arab people who wanted the Jews to die – yet God was willing to put His reputation on the line and save an entire city of Arab people to show the world that He is no respecter of persons

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

We can't be so concerned about the reputation of our church being protected that we somehow discourage people who need Jesus the most from coming

Trigger Point #3: God Didn't Change His Mind

Jonah 4:5

So Jonah went out of the city, and sat on the east side of the city, and there made him a booth, and sat under it in the shadow, till he might see what would become of the city.

When God forgives and shows mercy – there is nothing that can undo or reverse His grace

- Nothing can touch the people who are under the protective arm of the Grace of God