

Aware Part I: Seeing the Signs
God at Work for You
June 26, 2011

Good morning everyone.

I want to start out this message with a single verse of scripture written thousands of years ago by the Old Testament prophet Isaiah.

*Since the world began no ear
has heard and no eye has
seen a God like you who
works for those who wait for
him! Isaiah 64:4 (NLT)*

Actually, I'd like for all of us to read that aloud together. Will you do that with me?

Here we go.

*Since the world began ... no
ear has heard and no eye*

*has seen ... a God like you ...
who works for those who
wait for him! Isaiah 64:4
(NLT)*

It's an amazing thought, really. Given that God is the Supreme Being, the King of the Universe, you would expect it to be the other way around. Instead of God working for people who wait for him, you would expect that people ought to be working for God. Yet the testimony of Isaiah – and many other prophets and teachers – is that God *is* working on behalf of those who belong to Him.

Of course, the question is ... what does that mean? And how do you know if it's happening in your life? What are the signs of God's presence and activity in that respect?

As I'm sure you know, that's the kind of thing we've been talking about in this summer-

long series called *Aware ...* which we've divided into two parts ... with the first part focusing on "seeing the signs" that God really is present and active.

So far, we've learned that it's critical that we look for the kinds of signs that God gives, which are not necessarily the big dramatic events most people tend to think of whenever we think of signs. Instead, because God seems to be more interested in *re-arranging us on the inside* than He is in arranging the events of our lives on the outside, we've learned to look for signs that He's working on us to chip away everything from our character that does not look like Jesus as well as signs that God is working *in* us to bring forth the nature of Christ in us.

As the Apostle Paul wrote ...

*We know that in all things
God works for the good of*

*those who love him, who
have been called according
to his purpose.*

*For those God foreknew he
also predestined to be
conformed to the image of his
Son ... Romans 8:28-29
(NIV)*

In other words, God decided in advance – predestined – that if we come to the point where we admit that we’re sinners in need of a savior and we believe that Jesus is that savior because he died on the cross and rose from the dead ... *in everything that happens to us from that point on – no matter what it is* – He will always be working to form us into a person who completely reflects the nature and character of Christ. That’s what it means for God to conform us “to the image of his Son.”

When it comes to you and me as individuals,

that is God's primary agenda.

The Greater Agenda

However, God has another agenda that's greater than His agenda for you and me. (Hard to believe, I know, that we are *not* the center of the universe, but it's true.) This agenda of God was in existence long before you and me and will live on long after you and I are gone. In fact, this particular agenda supersedes all other agendas – or, maybe a better way to say it is that all other agendas are subservient to this one. So, what is this agenda?

Well, in order to find out, you get to help me again by reading another passage of scripture aloud ... although this one is much more familiar and many of you could probably recite it from memory.

Read along with me:

Our Father, who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be Thy Name
Thy Kingdom come
Thy will be done on earth
As it is in Heaven.

I'm sure you recognize that as the prayer Jesus taught his disciples; the prayer we know as "the Lord's Prayer." What you may not know is that this is what he told them to pray in response to their request "Lord, teach us to pray."

In other words, "Lord, we're not very good at praying, but we've seen you and you kind of have this down. Would you give us some pointers? Give us some direction?"

"Sure, why not? When you pray," Jesus said, "start with something like this."

“Heavenly Father, the first thing we ask is that your name would be held in such high regard – that your reputation and glory on this earth would be so great – that the presence and impact of your Kingdom in the physical realm of this earth would be as great as it is in the spiritual realm of Heaven.”

Start with that, Jesus was saying.

Now, why do you think Jesus told them to put that as number one on their prayer list? *Because it's number one on God's agenda!*

Since the day the world and everyone and everything in it fell under the curse of sin and death, God's primary agenda has been to renew, restore and regenerate it ... beginning with individual human beings, like you and me, one life at a time, until the day

that Jesus returns to complete that transformation by instantaneously making *all things* new – literally and physically bringing the totality of God’s Kingdom to this world. That’s the project God’s been working on long before us and, assuming Jesus doesn’t return when the Mayan calendar runs out, it’s the project He’ll be working on long after we’re gone.

So ... when God works in our lives – when He works on us and in us to make us more like Christ – He does it for our benefit, obviously, but He also does it because it’s part of this greater agenda – the “Kingdom of God on earth as it is in Heaven” agenda.

Let me say that again: God’s project of working *on* us and *in* us is part of a larger “Kingdom project” that impacts the whole world.

And, what’s important – at least for today’s

message – is how those two projects relate. And it's critical that you understand this or it will be very easy to take what I'm going to teach today out of context and wind up disillusioned or disappointed with God.

So, think about this: if God's name is going to be "hallowed" on this earth – if He is to receive so much glory that people everywhere will consider making Jesus their King; inviting God's will to be done in their lives right now on earth just like God's will is done in Heaven, at least part of what has to happen is that there have to be real-life examples of God's greatness and blessing – examples of people like you and me who are being transformed by God. There have to be real-life examples that cause people to say, "Wow – so that's what having God in your life is like. Pretty impressive. Maybe that could happen to me, too."

See, the smaller individual projects – you and me – support the larger project – the Kingdom agenda. God uses us – or, I should say, God *desires* to use us because we have to cooperate –

God desires to use you and me and what's going on in our lives to play a part in the increasing of His reputation on this earth.

That's the relationship between these two little projects.

The Apostle Paul wrote about this in his letter to the Christ-followers at Ephesus. After reminding them of how God had saved them from their terrible sin and how He was changing them to make them more like Christ, he wrote:

God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward

us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 1:7 (NLT)

Commenting on this passage, one author writes:

Paul tells us that God's infinite mercy shown to us through Christ Jesus is not really about us at all. It is about the glory of who He is. The purpose of your redemption is so that God may be glorified. You are His trophies of grace. You are the display of the riches of His grace. You and I are the living proof of God's goodness so that He may be glorified.ⁱ

See, God wants to use us to play a part in the increasing of His reputation on this earth. So ... and this is what I want to talk to you about today ...

God is at work *for* us to make it possible that we could play a part in His Kingdom agenda.

God is doing things *for* you and *for* me right now that make it possible for us to bring him glory in this world.

Of course, this is the way it has *always* been with God. When you look at the very first pages of the Bible, we read that God came to a man named Abraham and said, "Abraham, I want you to leave your country, I want you to leave your people and I want you to leave your father's household. I want you to go to this land that I'm going to show you, and, I'll tell you when you're there, but you just pack everything up and go, and when you're there, I'll tell you you're there. And when you get there, I'm going to make you into a great nation, and I will bless you. I will make your name great, and you, then,

will be a blessing.ⁱⁱ

After Abraham obeyed God, God spoke to him again:

"I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed ..." Genesis 22:18 (NIV)

And this was kind of like a prophecy of what would happen when Jesus was eventually born. In other words, "Abraham, I'm going to do some amazing things *for* you so that you can bring me glory and my Kingdom will expand on this earth. I'm going to bless you so that you can then be a blessing to the whole world."

And in the same way God is doing things *for* you and *for* me that make it possible for us to have the same thing happen – for us to be a part of the Kingdom agenda.

Signs of God at Work

Of course, at this point, I know some of you are thinking, “OK, Rick, I get it. Thanks for the theology lesson. But let’s get practical. What kind of things are you talking about? What are the signs of God’s presence and activity in this respect, that God is working for me so that I can be part of His Kingdom agenda?”

Well, as I prepared for this message, I thought back over my own life and thought about the times when I was very sure that God was working *for* me. So I thought about how to phrase this and I boiled it down to

three conditions – three signs, actually – which I’ll give you up front like we did last week and then we’ll take them one by one and unpack them. Here’s what I came up with.

God is working *for* you when you get what you need, what you desire or what He’s promised and it leads you to glorify God by serving Him, thanking Him, and/or praising Him.

Let me say that again because it’s kind of wordy: God is working *for* you when you get what you need, what you desire or what He’s promised and that receiving from God then leads you to glorify Him by serving Him, thanking Him, and/or praising Him. Because, when we serve God, or thank God or praise God, His name is hallowed and His will is being done here on earth in some way.

Now, just to be clear, the reality is, all

through life, we're always getting some of what we need and some of what we desire. But, it's not always God working for us when that happens. Sometimes it's us working for us. We just do what needs to be done and these things happen. But what I'm talking about today is specifically about God working for us. Now, to be sure, there are ways that God works for us that aren't covered by these three conditions, but I think if you can get a handle on these three, you'll be better able to see the signs of God's presence and activity in your life. So, let's take these one at a time.

1. God is working *for* you when you get what you *need* and it leads you to glorify Him by serving, thanking and/or praising Him.

And I'll never forget the first time I realized that God was truly at work in my life. I was about 20 years old. I was living at home with

my parents and my sisters. I was the oldest son/child. I was living at home and occasionally attending the University of Maryland. And I say occasionally because I was playing in a band and I was too busy with that (writing music and I was a trumpet player) and I didn't have enough time to go to classes, which wasn't a good deal – it got me kicked out of school. And, my parents weren't real happy with that. Anyway, it got really rough about this point in time in my life. I can remember having lots of stress with my mom in particular, and one night we had a really bad fight. It was horrible. And it just so happened that we had called out for a pizza and I was looking for any reason to get out of the house, and I said, "I'll go pick up the pizza." So, I storm out of the house and as I walk out the front door I say, "God, you have *got* to get me out of here. You've got to get me out of here." So, I go and pick up the pizza and when I get back home, my

mother says, "you had the most interesting phone call while you were gone. This group in California, called the Continental Singers, needs a lead trumpet player for three months. You'll travel the western United States and the South Pacific (Hawaii, Samoa, Fiji, Tahiti, New Zealand) and it costs \$1,000, and your dad and I will gladly pay if you will go. God was working in my life because I needed to move. *They* needed for me to move. And, God worked for me by meeting that need and allowing me to move into a situation where I actually got to serve Him for the whole summer. It was a mission-type group and we did concerts in churches and all over the place for three whole months. And by the way, that summer, on that little tour, I met the woman who's been my wife for over 30 years. And, I'll say more about that in a minute.

But, Paul wrote to the Christ followers at

Philippi, he said,

My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Philippians 4:19-20 (NIV)

Again, the meeting of the need by God produces glory for God. So, the question to ask is - if you're looking for how God might be working for you - How else might God supply every need so that it would bring glory to Him through you? Well, I think one way is by helping you find spiritual support in friendship, through the fellowship of Christians known as the Church. And if you're a follower of Christ you need that. In fact, if you're here today and you're part of this congregation and you're getting to meet some people and you're getting connected

with some people and you're being encouraged by that, *that* is a sign that God is working for you right now. And you ought to thank Him for that and appreciate that.

I think sometimes God meets a need by bringing people into your life who encourage you, because we all need encouragement. It's interesting, just right before this service, I was talking to somebody and we were talking about his situation, and he said, "we come from a more traditional background and we're kind of missing this aspect of traditional church, and North Heartland is a great church but it's not traditional, and we've been wrestling with what we're supposed to do." And, you know, I want everybody to think we're the greatest church in the world, so *that* does this little thing on me. And, amazingly, right after that, two people came up to me, and the first person said, "you know, what you just talked about

this morning, I'm living what you're talking about and I'm so excited that God is working in my life." And she was in tears about this. Then, right after that, this other gal comes up to me and says, "I've been coming here for a year and all this stuff you've been talking about in the past couple of weeks, God is doing this in my life and I just can't believe it; I'm so excited." And it was almost like God just met that need. God brought these people right there at that moment, right before the service, to encourage me to continue to serve Him. God does that for you sometimes as well.

Sometimes God gives us what we need by granting us favor with the "powers that be." You know, the Bible says that the Kings heart is in the hand of the Lord like the rivers of water, He turns it wherever He wishes. And, sometimes we don't see that and we think, "Well, this is what my boss says" or "This is

what the constraints of my situation are” or “this is what the bank says, and I’m kind of stuck.” But sometimes God will grant us favor with the powers that be.

When we bought this property years ago, in 2002, we had done a long period of discernment, kind of like what Ladell was describing, right where we are right now as a congregation. We had been in a period of discernment and we were looking for “where does God want us to be as a church?” And we came across this building and we prayed over this building and this whole property, and we felt like God was saying “Yes, this is your property. This is what you’re supposed to do.” But we could not get a loan. We had \$750K in the bank and nobody would give us a loan to buy this place. We had this contract and we had to have our financing in place by October 15, or whatever the date was, I can’t remember exactly. And on

October 14, around 9:00 p.m., a group of us are sitting in the offices we rented in Riverside and we were just praying "God what are we going to do?" And, one of the guys had done a Google search on church finance and he came up with this company called The California Plan of Church Finance. And they were going to call us at 9:00, and at 9:00 we explained our situation and they said, "Of course we'll finance you." And God delivered us. He met that need for us by giving us favor with the powers that be. We've been here for eight years. We've been doing ministry and God's been doing great things. Sometimes God will do that for you.

Sometimes God will give you what you need by just taking care of your basic needs. Jesus spoke about this and he said, "Why do you worry, saying, 'what are we going to eat; what are we going to drink; what are we going to wear?'" He said, "The pagans

(people who don't know God; they have no concept that there is a personal God who loves them), they run after all these things because they see it as being all up to them. But your Heavenly Father knows that you need them."

See, God is working for you when you get what you need and then it leads you to glorify Him by serving, or thanking, or praising Him.

However,

2. God is working *for* you when you get what you *desire* and it leads you to glorify Him by serving, thanking or praising Him.

And that is what is so awesome about God. God is a great and loving Father who longs to give us more than what we need. He actually cares about our desires. Sometimes He works *for* us to bring those desires to

reality if they will lead us to serve, thank or praise Him. If they help us play a part in the Kingdom agenda.

Before that summer when I traveled with the Continental Singers and I met Jetta, I dated several girls throughout high school and college. They were all nice ... most of them. But, I wanted more. I wanted not only a girl who was "hot" (to quote our Youth Pastor, Irving, from his message several weeks ago – although we didn't use that term in those days), I wanted a nice looking gal, but I also wanted a woman who already loved God on her own and didn't need me dragging her along. That was my desire. Because I had already decided that no matter what I ended up doing for a living – whether I was a college student for the rest of my life, or a software engineer, or a ditch digger, I didn't really care what it was - I decided that I wanted to live a life of serving God in some

way and I wanted a woman who would help me in that. And God said “yes” to that desire.

The Bible says,

*Delight yourself in the LORD
and he will give you the
desires of your heart. Psalm
37:4 (NIV)*

I remember about a year after we were married, we were living in a duplex in Arlington, TX, and it was across town from our church. We made some wonderful friends there and God was meeting that need in our lives, but it was just such a pain because we had to go through a lot of cross town traffic to be there. We had a desire to move closer and we said, “Man, wouldn’t it be awesome if we could just get a house in the neighborhood of our church.” So, one day after church we were driving around

and we saw a sign that said "house for rent" and we had already talked about what we needed if we were going to move. It would have to be less than \$400/month. We don't have a lawn mower; we don't have a refrigerator; we don't have a washing machine. We don't have any of this stuff. And we also made a list of things we would love to have. Wouldn't it be cool if we could move into a house that has a fireplace, or a covered porch, or a flower garden out back. And when you live in an apartment you really long for these things. So we drive up to this house and we're sitting in front of it and I said, "Honey, they're asking more than \$400 a month for this. I guarantee it." She said, "well, let's just go in and look anyway." So we get out of the car and we go in and walk around ... beautiful fireplace, covered porch. And I asked the lady, "Do you have a lawn mower?" And she said, "In the garage." So, we're walking around and I'm

looking at Jetta and thinking this is great – but this is \$600 a month. It was \$400 a month! We could not believe it. We told people over and over about that miracle house that God gave us. We brought Him glory through that. And, it's interesting, the same thing happened when we moved to the house where we live now. In the early '90s when we lived in the Parkville area, we had a friend who lived in the Hills of Walden. We would go over for dinner or to play games, and when we would drive through that neighborhood we would think, "man, wouldn't it be awesome, wouldn't it be sweet, if one day we could live in a neighborhood like this." Well, as it turned out, right before we started this church, we saw a house for sale and we needed to move from the parsonage where we were and it was like God said, "here, I have a house for you." And God provided. It was what we could afford. And it resulted in us being better able

to serve Him, to say nothing of the praise and thanksgiving.

More recently, and this is very recent, we're seeing signs that God is working in the lives of our oldest daughter, Marilyn, and her husband, Tim. They've been married five years and they live in Nixa. We go visit them from time to time, and when we walk into their house it's like there is a spirit of peace that's over their house. And I think it's because here are two people that delight in the Lord. They love God; they serve God. They are just wonderful people but, the problem is, they can't have kids. They've been struggling with this for a long time now, since they've been married (5 years). Recently, there was a phone call to their church – someone called the Pastor and said "do you happen to have someone in your church who might be interested in adopting, because I have a girl here who is

19 years old and she can't keep this baby. She wants to give the baby to a good couple, a good family," and their Pastor said, "Yes, I know exactly who that is." So, that gal and my daughter and her husband are working out the adoption for this baby when the baby is born in October. So, it looks like God is working for them.

God is working for you when you get what you desire and it leads you to glorify Him by serving, thanking or praising Him.

And, finally,

3. God is working *for* you when you get what He's *promised* and it leads you to glorify Him by serving, thanking or praising Him.

There are many things in the scripture that God has promised. We could spend all day talking about that but I'll just give you two

examples.

For instance, when it comes to temptation, did you know that the Bible says that there are no temptations in your life that are different from what other people experience, and this is I Corinthians 10:13, it says,

God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand.

And, here's what God does, here's the promise,

When you are tempted, He will show you a way out so that you can endure.

So, even in the middle of temptation, when you're faced with a situation where "I know I shouldn't do this, but I'm thinking about this," but there is a way out. And if you'll look, God is there and God is working for you so that

you can bring Him glory out of that temptation.

One of the other ways, and most consistent ways, that I've seen God working in my life in this way, working for me, is in finances. God, in the scripture, consistently promises that if we give to the work of His Kingdom, He is going to resupply our finances so that we can give even more.

Again, over and over in the scripture, but here is just one example, Paul writes in II Corinthians 9, he says,

*God is the one who provides
seed for the farmer and then
bread to eat.*

So, God is on both ends of the equation is what Paul is saying.

And now he applies it to giving, he says,

*In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous.
2 Corinthians 9:10-11 (NLT)*

Paul is saying it's kind of like there's this cycle. You put some seed out, then there's a harvest. And from that harvest there is more seed. Then you put more seed out ... This cycle goes over and over – you give, God gives back to you so that you can give more. And I could tell you story after story about how God has worked for me and my family in this area. Probably the most stunning one up until recently (and I'll tell you what happened recently), the most stunning one was several years ago we did a capital campaign. It was a three year deal and we made a pledge in the first year (I think it was

\$5,000 for the first year, \$10,000 the second year, and then \$15,000 – over and above what we were already giving). I think we made the pledge on December 15. On Christmas morning there's an envelope on our tree that was sent to me by my parents. I opened it up and there was a check in there for \$5,000 – our first year's pledge in one day, on a check! My parents had just sold their house (see, we had gotten better on speaking terms – we kind of have an up and down relationship I should say). But this check was in there and my mom had written a note that said, "Dear Rick, you've been such a good son to us. You've never really needed anything from us. We just sold the house and made a lot of money, and we thought we'd share this with you. Merry Christmas." She had no idea that that \$5,000 paid the \$5,000 pledge we made for the first year.

Just recently, another thing like that happened. My sister called me and said her daughter, who is 17 yrs. old, wanted to go to this Christian leadership training camp in Florida and she needed about \$1,000 to get started. And I said, "okay, we'll give her \$1,000 for that. It sounds like a great deal." And, of course, now, I just had a daughter get married in January. I have another daughter who is getting married in October. I'm going to be a Grandpa in October. I mean, there is money going out the wazoo here! But I'm thinking, I'm supposed to give \$1,000 to this, so I write a \$1,000 check and send it to my sister and tell her I want a full report from Kerry when she gets back about her experience. You won't believe this ... a couple of days later there is a check in the mail for \$1,400 that we were not expecting. I'm looking at this and thinking, you've got to be kidding me. See, God is working for you when you get what He's promised and it

leads you to glorify Him by serving, and thanking, and praising Him. And I could go on and on, but I think you get the picture here.

The words of Isaiah really are true: No ear has heard and no eye has seen a God like ours who works for those who wait for him.

If God Isn't Working

I guess the question as we bring this to a close is ... is God working *for* you? Are you getting what you need? Are you getting what you desire? Are you getting what God has promised? And is that leading you to glorify Him by serving, thanking and/or praising Him?

And, I think this morning some of us can honestly answer "yes" to that question. Some of you could say, "I can tell stories that

would top your stories. This has been happening and it's a wonderful thing."

But I also think that some of us would have to answer, "No, I'm really not seeing the kinds of things you're talking about happening in my life. What's the deal?"

Well, I think there are four possibilities.

1. You might not be "asking, seeking and knocking." Jesus said,

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Matthew 7:7-8 (NIV)

And I think what happens is there are a lot of us who are Christians, and we know God's

got our eternity in His hands, but then when it comes to day to day living we're just like, "well, it's all up to me. I've got to figure out how to meet my needs and desires and maybe some of God's goodness will flow to me through His promises but it's kind of all up to me." We're not asking, seeking, or knocking, so we're not seeing this evidence of these signs of God's work in our life.

2. It could be that you *are* asking, seeking and knocking but the Kingdom is not first in your agenda. According to James,

You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. James 4:2-3 (NIV)

In other words, you're always asking for God to do something, you're always seeking for

something, you're always knocking, hoping a door will be opened, but it's never about "what does God want to do with my life?" or "how does God want to use me?" It's always like, "man, I hope the weather is good today because I'm playing golf. God, could you make it 75° and sunny?" And that's the extent of your asking. You're not seeing this kind of stuff in your life because you're not a Kingdom first kind of person. You don't see how God wants to use your life so you don't ask out of those motives.

It could be that,

3. You are not waiting on God.

Remember, Isaiah said, God works for those who wait for Him. God works for those who wait for Him. And I like the way Pastor John Piper explains what that means, he writes,

In Isaiah, waiting for God is written to imply that the people of God are in trouble. The nation of Israel is in trouble. They're in danger from their enemies. They're faced with this temptation to hastily seek the help of men instead of waiting for God to act.

But, in Isaiah 31:1 it says,

Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help and rely on horses. Those who trust in chariots, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel or consult the Lord.

See waiting for the Lord, Piper says, first means looking to the Lord, consulting or seeking His will before any human aid is pursued. In short, he says, we wait for the Lord when we pause to pray before we act and it should go without saying that when we wait for God's counsel we're going to be

submissive and open to that counsel. The answer, he says, may come from the Lord in two forms, both of which involve more waiting. He may tell you to do nothing. Or, He may tell you to do something eventually. For example in Isaiah 30:15, the Lord says,

In returning in rest you'll be saved. In quietness and in trust you will find strength. But you wouldn't do that, (the Lord said) instead you said, 'No, we're going to get on fast horses. We're going to ride on these swift steeds.' [God says, guess what? Your pursuers are going to be just as swift]

In other words, God was saying, "please, let me save you in quietness and rest." But, they wanted to escape their own way and God didn't work for them. So, when we pray for God's counsel, we've got to be prepared to hear Him say what Moses did at the Red

Sea – “Fear not, stand firm, and behold the salvation of the Lord, which He will work for you today ... The Lord will fight for you,” Moses said, “and you only have be still.” So, the second thing in waiting means to trust the Lord enough to be still when He says, “be still” and then He’ll begin to work for you.

But, at some point, God may say, “it’s time to get in the battle. It’s time to take action.” When the Philistines were pursuing David, the Bible says “David asked of the Lord, ‘should I go up against the Philistines?’ And the Lord said, ‘Yes, go up against the Philistines for I will certainly deliver them into your hands.’” He didn’t take matters into his own hands, instead he waited for the Lord. And when the Lord said to act, that’s when he acted. ⁱⁱⁱ

So, if you're not seeing God working in the ways that we're talking about, working for you, it could be that you're not waiting on God. You're just running ahead. It could be that you're not "asking, seeking, or knocking." It could be that you are asking, seeking or knocking, but with wrong motives.

But, there is one more possibility, and that is ...

4. You are not a believer, you're not a Christian, and therefore God is not going to work in your life in this way.

Now, that doesn't mean God is not working in your life at all. Actually, God *is* working very hard in your life. He's working to draw you to the point where you will admit that you are a sinner in need of a savior. In fact, He's brought you here this morning – allowed you here today – because He wants you to repent and believe the good news that the

Kingdom of God is near and now, as well as far and future.

And, as we close, I want to say a prayer for you ... and actually, a prayer for all of us because I think all of us are in some of these conditions. Let's do that and then we'll close.

Endnotes

ⁱ See skipmoen.com/tag/trophy-room/

ⁱⁱ Genesis 12:1-2

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.soundofgrace.com/piper82/090582m.htm>