

Yes And Amen-^{GM}

Understanding the Kingdom we're in!

By B. D. Tate

We have grown up in Church that has taught us to interpret God through our experiences. Often the argument presented is something along these lines, "Why do you believe that, just look around you and you can see that isn't the way it is." As an example, when it comes to healing, "If God wanted everyone healed, then why didn't this person or that person get healed?" We are coached and taught that our experiences outweigh the Word of God. **The warning is this:** Do not let what we do not understand (because of or through our experience), cause us to put away what we do understand in the Word of God.

At no time should we let what we see, hear, feel, touch, taste in this world by our senses, dominate what we actually believe. We are spirit beings, born of the Spirit of God **into a new kingdom** that is not dominated by the flesh, but lives according to the Word of God.

The Mix

The result of living and interpreting God's word by our experiences has created **a mix**. Look at what Paul, the apostle, wrote to the Church at Corinth, correcting their understanding of the gospel in these terms:

II Cor. 1: 19 "For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, **who was preached among you by us**—by me, Silvanus, and Timothy—**was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes.**

20 **For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen**, to the glory of God through us.”

This mix has brought forth teachings in the body of Christ that has left us all in doubt, tossed, and confused about God’s will. That is to say, that God’s will might be yes, or it might be no. We have heard many prayers that are asking God to answer, “If it be your will.” This comes from trying to **accommodate the many failures** to embrace, receive, and **experience God’s yes!**

We are coming to God like we would a parent, asking for something, thinking that mom or dad might say yes, or they might say no. Certainly God is our heavenly Father, **but He is not like our earthly parents who are fallen, limited in resources, and uncertain about many things.** God is not ignorant; but knows all things, and in His position provided wisdom, knowledge, understanding, leadership, and the way, truth, and life for us to walk in. God is not responding to life from a position of weakness, as our parents are often forced to do. Remember, according to scripture, it is weakness to not know God’s will:

Ro 8:26 **“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know** what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us...”

God is all knowing, almighty, and knows the future. God’s will **is the framework of life**; He upholds all things by the word of His power (Heb. 1:3). **God is the initiator, we are the responders.** In this truth, we are to grasp that God has **already anticipated every need** we will ever have. When God created the heavens and the earth (the plants, trees, and grasses, all the fish of the sea, the animals and all creeping things), He was anticipating Adam and Eve. Everything humanity would ever need was already made and created, by the time they arrived. Even in the garden, God made it so that everything was yes, except for eating from the tree of the

knowledge of good and evil. Even still, Adam and Eve didn't have to ask if it was God's will to eat of that tree, He told them not to. They were never in doubt as to what God's will was.

When it comes to the gospel, Paul has written to us that we are not supposed to live in grace with a **yes and no understanding**. **When we walk in the Spirit, all things are yes in Jesus**. All that God has preordained for us is yes and amen. It is not yes and no, or maybe, or **not yet**, as most of us have been led to believe.

We go to the Lord expecting to convince Him of our need, and the importance of answering it. This is all wrong. God already knows the need before we ask (Matt. 6:8). God has already answered our needs before we had them (II Pet. 1:1-3). We go to the Lord expecting a yes or no answer, like we are going to earthly parents—this is wrong too. God may be our heavenly Father, yes and amen; however, He is also God!

When God decides, He is not waiting for things to change, circumstances or situations to come to bear; He isn't waiting for the weather report, or new information. When God decides, it is from the supreme knowledge and power as creator. **What God decides determines everything else**. Somehow, we have put God back into the box of a human parent who must decide things based on imperfect information. Let's put this understanding aside, and realize who we are dealing with in the Lord God Almighty of heaven and earth!

We can break this down by looking at earthly situations, or positions that reflect this truth. In sports, when a coach puts a player into a position such as quarterback on the football team,

there are responsibilities, skills, and decisions that are already given. The quarterback doesn't have to ask the coach, "should I call that play?"—run the play the coached called. He doesn't have to ask what cadence to use, or on what count to make it. He doesn't have to ask if he should take the snap from the center, and begin to execute the play according to its design. In other words, there are many things that are already decided and a quarterback should know to do them without asking.

This applies to responsibilities at work. A manager doesn't have to ask the owner every time he/she has to make a managerial decision. The manager knows to direct and train the employees, to make schedules out, to have the store cleaned, to open and close the store, to purchase whatever is low or out of stock, etc. The manager already knows that the owner would answer, "Yes" to each one of these questions.

In Christ Jesus, we can know that every decision we make according to God's will is "Yes." **We can know** that the Spirit approves of everything we'd do **that is what Jesus would do**. This is also true of every promise given found in scripture to every believer in Christ Jesus. We don't have to ask for something already promised. **We don't have to ask for something already given**. We should know that God's Word is His will; we should believe Him when He states what He's given to us in Christ.

If a parent told their son or daughter, "after supper you can have an ice cream sandwich." Then after eating, the son or daughter got up went to the freezer and got an ice cream sandwich, would it be necessary to ask? The promise was given

and the son or daughter BELIEVED his/her parent. There would be no need to ask, permission was already given.

If we can understand this truth, then maybe we can understand our confusion and mixed results **when we violate this**. We have whole theologies based upon this wrong understanding, and it is killing faith in the body of Christ. We present it as truth because our experiences have over ridden the Word of God and His promises. When the Word of God says one thing, but our experiences are another, we have often changed our understanding of God's will to reflect our earthly realities. **This is a huge mistake**. This cripples us and blinds us to the truth. We can't even get beyond God's will to attack the real culprits.

We will stay stuck wondering and wandering unable to know God's will. When we trump by our experiences, the promise of God's word, we are flat denying the straight forward sense of God's will. The temporal facts of this world are fallen and cursed and can be changed! For the eternal Word of God is greater in power, and able to change every fallen fact that exists to align with God's will. We know this because it is the eternal Word of God that created the entire visible world.

Applying it

Let's apply this fundamental truth that Apostle Paul wrote about, expressing it as, **"For all the promises of God in Him are yes, and in Him Amen..."** When we begin to think spiritually and have the mind of Christ **to see things the way God sees them**, our faith will soar. We will no longer be tossed back and forth asking, seeking, knocking for things already established in Christ. We will begin to realize just how big being born again is! We will begin to praise

and give thanks for all the things God has given and done in the atonement.

When Jesus said,

Mt 7:7 “**Ask**, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; **knock**, and it will be opened to you.

He was speaking to unregenerate men. No one had been born again because Jesus had not been glorified, and the Holy Spirit sent into the hearts of mankind. In other words, all that God has already decided, planned, and given in Christ had not yet happened. When Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, we know He is at the right hand of the Father because the Holy Spirit was sent. Now, when we ask, seek, and knock, it all comes to us in Jesus’ name **when** we were born again! The very next verse says,

8 “**For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.**

This relays it very plainly that if we ask, we receive; if we seek, we find; if we knock, it is opened to us! **All of this happened** just as Jesus said it would, **when we became born again!** When we became born again, all that we needed was answered! God has helped us!

2Co 6:2 For He says: "In an acceptable time **I have heard you**, And in the day of salvation **I have helped you.**" Behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.

In salvation, God already answered “Yes!” God has helped us, provided for us, protected us, healed us, and redeemed us from the curse. He’s given us His Spirit, His peace, His joy, His

power and authority! The problem has been, we didn't know or understand it this way. ***We thought we still needed to ask, still needed to seek, and still needed to knock.*** Most of everything we need has been given, been opened to us, and received in Christ Jesus!

The VISA card Analogy

It is like going to your mom and asking for money to go on a trip. You are going to need the car, gas money, money for food and lodging, money to attend the show, or whatever purpose the trip is for, and as you list these things she hands you a VISA card. You accept the card, but then don't realize what the card is and continue to ask for the money to go on the trip. Your mom just looks at you and then with her eyes directs your attention to what she's already given you—the VISA card.

You look at the card, but still don't understand, and come away thinking she hasn't answered you, or provided for the trip. You go to your friends, and they respond by saying something like, "Well you know how it is you can't always get what you need from your parents. Sometimes they just don't have the money; sometimes they just leave you hanging..." Then you run across another friend and you begin to express your disappointment with not being able to go on the trip. That friend says, "Well sometimes parents don't have the money, do you want to barrow the money?" You respond by saying, "No I'll just have to do without." The event comes and goes and you didn't make the trip.

Then when you see your mom again, you are all dejected and bummed out because she didn't help you go. Then you think she must be clueless to ask you why you are so down; you

respond by complaining about how bad you wanted to go on the trip. She says to you, "...but I gave you what you needed to go on the trip." You argue that she did no such thing. You asked and she didn't give you the money. She looks at you rather odd and asks, "Didn't I give you the VISA card?" You respond and say, "Yes I have it, but what does that have to do with this?" She lovingly says, "Son, when I gave you the card, I gave you everything you'd ever need. That card is a credit card **with my name on it** to use to purchase gas, food, lodging, and get into the event! All you needed to do was present the card." You listen for a moment and begin to rebuff, but suddenly realize what a huge misunderstanding you had. You had been looking for cash and answers in a certain way, not realizing that all of it has been taken care of through the VISA card.

This analogy is just like being born again, we have misunderstood how powerful it is. We have the name of Jesus to exercise, or present that name to deliver, heal, redeem, provide and protect, but haven't used it, because we didn't know what it was.

Many of us have come to think that being born again is a ticket to heaven, and God's presence to be with us no matter what happens. We have thought of faith as something to keep our attitude right, despite what may come. The truth is, when we became born again God answered, opened the door, and we received all that we'd ever need to walk as Jesus walked.

The more we know Jesus, the more we know the promises of God, the more we receive revelation of what God has done in

the cross, the more grace, peace, and power, we'll understand we have. Listen to verses like these (II Pet. 1:2):

Ro 5:17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, **much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)**

1Jo 4:17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; **because as He is, so are we in this world.**

1Jo 2:6 He who says **he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.**

John 17:18 **"As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.**

As we look at this truth thoroughly, and with our whole heart, we are going to see amazing things! God gave us in Christ a VISA card that is good for anything, **according to the name of Jesus!** We asked and received; we sought and He answered; we knocked and the door opened (Remember, Jesus said I am the door. John 10:9)!

Instead of thinking humanly about these things, begin to see it the way God did it! He's not up in heaven dishing out answers to prayer and saying yes, no, no, yes, to each one. He's already answered every believer by giving us Jesus.

Consider then how this plays out in our life. First, we must understand and be established in what the atonement did! It redeemed us from the curse. It forgave us all our sin. It established peace between us and God—the war is over. It healed our bodies through His stripes. It made us righteous because He

became sin for us. God has poured out His love and grace through the blood! **The atonement is huge and it is finished!**

We do not have to allow the curse, or sin to rule over us; in fact, we are told by the Word of God to use our VISA card, which is the name of Jesus, to do just that:

Ro 6:14 **For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law **but under grace.****

Don't Need to Ask

We are forgiven of all our sins past, present, and future! When Jesus died on the cross, it was two thousand years ago and all of our sins were future to it; however, even now, when we come to Him, our sins are forgiven and paid for—all of them!

2Pe 1:9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has **forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.**

Heb 10:14 For by one offering He has **perfected forever** those who are being sanctified.

Jesus, as our priest, lives forever and forever covering us; there will never be a time when He doesn't!

1Jo 1:7 **But if we walk in the light as He is in the light**, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His son **cleanses us from all sin.**

All who are born again are in the light as He is in the light—that's what born again means! Therefore, we can fellowship always, not being under the law ever again, **and the blood of Christ cleanses us from all sin—always.** This is continuous, forever, established and done in Him. Amen.

What this means is that God **cannot, not, forgive us!** There is no sin that isn't covered; there is no sin that God holds back from forgiving (Except the rejection of Jesus as Lord). Whenever we come to the Lord having sinned in this realm, we know we are already forgiven through His great grace. His great love compels us to walk in love too. God isn't going to hold a grudge against us, as some might on this earth. God isn't going to wait to forgive us again. God has already forgiven us of every sin we are ever going to commit. **Therefore, we don't need to ask to receive ever again! We have asked** and when we became born again, we received FORGIVENESS FOREVER! **We don't ask anymore,** we just thank Him, and thank Him again!

When we realize we don't have to ask for what we've been given, we are operating in spiritual truth. We are moving from, **"Yes and No"** to, **"for all the promises of God in Him are yes, and in Him, Amen."**

The power to live a godly, righteous, and holy life has been born into us. It is through accepting, acknowledging, and acting as if it is true, that we begin to walk as Jesus walked (Philemon 1:6). We are no longer under condemnation (Rom. 8:1); we are free from guilt (from all sin), because we **have been cleansed** continuously, forever! This gift of no condemnation means, we are receiving God's love and acceptance. We believe we are the beloved of God. In fact, we are seeing what God wants us to see, that He loves us just as He loves Jesus:

John 17: 23 "I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know **that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.**

Don't Need to Seek

We have already sought when we accepted our born again experience of the Spirit. ***We have sought and found;*** we no longer need to seek! We don't need to seek after His righteousness, because His righteousness was given when we found Christ!

1Co 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us **wisdom** from God—and **righteousness** and sanctification and redemption—

When Jesus preached,

Matt. 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

He was saying to all of us, first be born of the Spirit, and then realize that all things shall be added to you! **All things you need, seek, and knock for are added.** We don't need to seek them anymore; we need to thank Him! We need to realize what we've been given, and find it within us, in the Holy Spirit!

The Lord Cannot Not!

The Lord "cannot **not**" make us righteous in Christ because we are! The Lord, "cannot **not**" forgive us; the Lord, "cannot **not**" heal us because He already did; the Lord, "cannot **not**" provide for us; the Lord, "cannot **not**" protect us; the Lord, "cannot" leave us—He never leaves; nor forsakes! The Lord "cannot **not**" deliver us when we exercise authority in Jesus name!

God has already committed, poured out, given, bestowed, and covered all these things in Jesus! **Is there anything not in Jesus? Is there anything not included with Jesus?**

We Don't Need to Knock: Use the Name!

The Real Culprits

Now we turn towards *the real culprits*. It is the fallen world. We turn towards the curse and rebuke in Jesus name! We turns towards sickness, disease, lack, poverty, ignorance, weakness, deformity, and all manner of the curse, and speak the will of God in Jesus' name! We turn towards evil and command it to leave in Jesus' name; we turn towards the demonic and cast it out in Jesus' name! We take what we've been given and use it just like the son should have used the VISA card!

How does it get done? We do it through the finger of God (Luke 11:20); we do it through the Spirit of God. We do it as His ambassador, bride, body of Christ, and His ministers of reconciliation! We do it with the Lord, **who lives and abides in us (John 14:12)**. We do it as Jesus did it, by being **One** with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Just as Jesus is, so are we in this world, because we have Jesus in us! **When we do these things, we are authorizing God's power to do what God already wants done!**

P. S. Another Analogy

Insurance Companies create policies for insuring our car, our home, health, and life. They go to great lengths to specifically write the things that are covered, and under what circumstances. When we purchase a policy, we are insuring things for future events. When those events take place, we don't go back to the Insurance Company and ask them to cover for the loss after the

facts. We don't call them up and ask, "Will you please cover the loss of our car due to an accident?" We don't ask, "Would you please cover the fire damage in our house?" If the loss has taken place, it's too late to ask, as in purchase. Furthermore, most if not all policies, do not cover preexisting conditions.

Nevertheless, even if we have purchased a policy and clearly the loss is covered, we still don't return to the company to ask. ***We go to them to confirm that the loss is covered.*** Once we established agreement that a loss is covered, we follow the steps **to make our claim.** Under the law, we could sue a company for not covering damages to a loss that is clearly covered; however, as noted already, even if a loss is covered by a policy we purchased, **we still have to do something to receive the benefits.** We must follow the company's rules for making a claim.

If we do not make a claim, put in the required information etc, we may be covered but never receive the funds to pay the loss. As far as the loss is concerned, the company covers the claim and the answer is "yes;" but, we have our part to play, we must take the next step and stake the claim.

Likewise, God's word covers all of our needs, but we will not receive the benefit of that coverage, until we stake our claim. Sometimes time passes from when an insurance policy was purchased, and the insured may forget what is covered. They may suffer a loss and never think to make a claim, thinking it's not covered. This is what happens to born again believers, either they forget what is covered, or they don't know what is covered; in either case, they can miss out on God's provisions. In the case of sickness and disease, many do not believe it is covered for today.

Many simply will not believe God healed them physically in the cross. Without being convinced, many will never make a claim. In fact, many treat healing as yes and no, maybe, maybe not, or yes but not now; when Paul said the gospel is yes and amen in Christ Jesus!

P.S. It is vitally important to transform our mind to agree with God's grace and the way He set things up for us in Christ Jesus. It may take some time retraining the way we approach prayer, for example. I struggled for months changing my prayer to God about His help. In times past, I would always ask God for help. That seems reasonable to most of us—but it is wrong. Why? It is wrong because according to scripture and the bulk of this message, God has already helped us. So I'd catch myself and stop. Then, I'd rephrase it, "Thank you God for helping me!" At first, it didn't seem emotionally real or right, but in time, as my mind became renewed, it became a great faith booster. I understood that I was standing exactly where God wants me, believing Him, asserting the things He's already given and done for us in Jesus—Amen!