

RANDOM THOUGHTS

By
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Be careful what you pray for. You just might get it! Why do people say that? Where did it come from? I want what I pray for! I wish God would answer all my prayers just like I pray them! What does that mean any way: "Be careful what you pray for. You just might get it." I have something I need to pray for right now. "God! You know that little car I have is getting old. Why it has to be ten years old! I've had it in the shop three times already this year, and we are still in March. I am starting to miss too many days at work. I couldn't even get to church last Sunday. What I am trying to tell you, Lord, is that I need a new car. Nothing exceptionally fancy. You know, something like a Toyota Camry or a Jetta. Well I deserve it Lord. I work hard. Go to church every chance I get. Sing in the choir. Don't tell lies (well not big ones!). And You know I love you. Yes. I know I can't afford this kind of car. But all credit belongs to you and I know you can find the right terms for my budget. So I'm going to leave it in your hands and know that you will provide my every need. Thank you Lord for the reality of your blessing!" So! What could be wrong with that? Hold that question for a moment.

What about your prayers when you face relationship challenges? What do you mean? Well have you ever asked God to deal with someone like sister Beaneye? She's always in my face making ugly comments or talking to her laughing buddies about me or somebody else. "God! Please take notice of sister Beaneye and get her out of my face before she makes me hurt her. Please put kindness in her heart." What? What's the problem?

Well, let's see. Suppose God answers your prayer and you get that "not so fancy" little car. Yes! You have the car but you also have big, frustrating monthly payments! God owns everything. He is rich in houses and land and everything else. You could simply pray for the specific car you want and allow God to bless you according to His wisdom. Or you could ask God for a long-term solution, to your car problems because you need transportation to church and you can't afford to miss more days at work, without telling Him how to fix it. Why limit God to one way to bless you?

Now in the case of sister Beaneye, what are you doing? Perhaps God will say OK! I'll do it! What will this do for you? You're the one bothered! What will you do when the next sister Beaneye comes along. Maybe instead of being so concerned about her, you should be asking God to give you more patience, understanding, a genuine love, and the willingness to display it even when sister Beaneye and others like her are in your face or behind your back (Rom 12:9-14). Maybe the problem is not sister Beaneye. You might ought to look a little closer than the person standing next to you!

I see your point. If I believe God and believe in prayer, I must be very, very careful what I pray for. God is powerful. His word is powerful. Prayer is powerful. Before I put that power to work, I should seriously consider the nature of God, the circumstances, and my motives (James 4:3). Because I just might get exactly what I pray for.

OK! Your point deserves a lot of thought. But I still don't like sister Beaneye!