

“Great Attitudes = Great Blessings”

It's safe to say that most people want more out of life. Even the average person dreams of a better day filled with accomplishments, achievements, and security. Truly, that is the “American dream” whether or not you live in this country. It is the reason why so many will go to school longer, study harder, amass multiple degrees and get into a massive amount of debt, all for the pursuit of achievement, success, and security. This doesn't only apply to the student but also to the entrepreneur who dreams of business success and financial independence. It applies to the employee who strives to climb the corporate ladder, the church pastor / leader who desires to reach more souls for Christ as well as grow his church membership, and even to the parent who pours his/her heart to give their child the very best. Truth be told, all of these people share a common denominator. It is the desire to move from average and ordinary to *extraordinary*. The ‘status quo’ for these individuals is just not good enough. There is something built inside of them that says, “you were meant to be better, do better, do more and become more!” GOD puts that burning desire there within us. When the Bible declares, “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb”(Psalm 139:13 NIV), it means that GOD designed you to be a certain way. He knew what kind of person you would be and what you would be capable of. He knows that you desire more and better for your life and that you want to “be somebody”, so to speak. He wants to “... give you the desires of your heart”(Psalm 37:4), but GOD is also in the business of people development. Although He desires to bless us with more, there are lessons that He wishes for us to experience and learn in order to refine us and prepare us for the next blessing.

If you have been specifically praying and desiring for further accomplishment, greater blessing, or a new season and you find that you are still waiting for GOD to deliver, then the answer for the delay may lie in the story of the desert-wandering Israelites to whom GOD had promised a better place. When the Israelites (whom the Lord had delivered from oppression in Egypt) were in the desert, GOD had provided a diet of manna (Exodus 16:4) to sustain them. Yet, after some time the Israelites began to complain about the manna that the Lord was providing and started wailing about wanting meat, even, going as far as declaring better times in the hands of the oppressing Egyptians (Num11:4-5). The Bible says that this behavior made the Lord “exceedingly angry”(Numbers 11:10) because they had “rejected the Lord” (Numbers 11:20). The issue was not the rejection of manna or the wanting of meat, but a failure to demonstrate proper gratitude and appreciation for what the Lord had done so far for them. God, who was in their midst, was their constant source of good, yet the Israelites failed miserably to see that. Although God's original plan was to deliver them, bless them and bring them to a better place, He could not move them forward because their attitudes.

Today, we can learn a few lessons from what GOD wanted to teach the Israelites back then. First, we must always have an attitude of gratitude. As we are praying and asking GOD for His future blessings, we must *always be grateful* for what he has already done. Second, while we are waiting on GOD for His promises to manifest, we must take that opportunity to *develop our faith, trust, and obedience* to Him. Third, just as the Israelites failed God's test of faith, we must *wait patiently and faithfully* for GOD to bring forth the blessing at His appointed time. Lastly, don't complain about what you don't have but rather *be thankful for what you do have*, and never compare what others have over what you don't or compare the past to the present or vice versa. Unfortunately, the Israelites of that generation missed the mark and it cost them (Numbers 11:34).

GOD is consistent and unchanging and His “...plan to prosper you...to give you hope and a future “ (Jeremiah 29:11) is as strong for us today as it was for the Israelites 3000 years ago. He desires to fulfill your dreams, aspirations, and bring forth that new level that you are striving for. So, keep dreaming, keep seeking, keep striving, keep shooting for the stars...and remember you have no bigger supporter than GOD!