

Deal Bountifully

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Psalm 119:17

Deal bountifully with Thy servant,
that I may live, and keep Thy word.

This should be our prayer, asking God to deal bountifully with us - knowing that when He deals with us, He does so according to His Word.

Psalm 119:65

Thou hast dealt well with Thy servant,
O Lord, according unto Thy word.

So, you can see, when we pray like the Psalmist prayed in verse 17, God is going to deal with us according to His Word.

We should all want God to bring us into the place where we would let Him have His way in our lives, so that He can free us from sin and from all fleshy and worldly ways.

Some think they are holier than they really are. They think that they're keeping the Word of God right to a 'T'. Yet are bound with worldly ways.

It seems so hard for them to break away from the world and its ways. But we have to break off from those ungodly things with which the world gets involved.

We should want no part of those things, for we are told to come out from the world:

II Corinthians 6:17, 18

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Our prayer should be, *Lord, deal with me that I might get into the place of being free from sin, free from all fleshy and worldly ways.*



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It can be done - if we would totally surrender our will to the will of the Lord.

The world is only interested in its will. That is all that people in the world live for. They have no concern for the will of the Lord.

However, our desire should be that the Lord would make us into a vessels that are clean and pure, vessels fit for the Master's use.

In order to be those clean vessels, there are many things that will have to be dealt with, many things that are going to have to be removed.

The first thing is to have a desire to pray that the Lord would deal to get these things out of our lives.

Pray He would chasten, if needs be, until He brings us into the place where we can be that clean pure vessel - willing to do the will of God without reservation.

Psalm 119:18

Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law.

Bad Attitudes

One area that has to be dealt with is our attitudes, those attitudes that are not right. We need for God to set us free from those bad attitudes - such things as resentment and bitterness that creep up in the hearts of God's people over circumstances they allowed themselves to become bitter over.

We don't want anything in our lives that is displeasing to God.

Things such as bad attitudes, resentment and bitterness are blemishes. They are wrinkles in a life and need to be rooted out.

We need to pray as the Psalmist prayed, asking the Lord to deal bountifully with us that we might live and keep His Word.

Ephesians 5:27

That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Keeping His Word.

First of all, we must hear the Word. Sometimes God's people tune His Word out when it is being preached. Instead of listening to what the Lord would have to say from His Word, they get their mind off on something else.

But we must be in the place where our ears are attentive to the Word.

We must hear the Word of God. And then, after we have heard the Word, we must be in the place where we receive the Word.

Some don't want to receive God's Word. They feel their way is better.

This may be a place where God will have to deal with you. He may have to deal about listening to His Word when it is being brought forth, paying attention and receiving it into your life.

Psalm 119:97

O how love I Thy law!
it is my meditation all the day.

Now, we are to love the Lord, love His Word, love people - but we are told **not** to love the world nor the things of the world.

I John 2:15

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

You hear many say, *I love chocolate cake! I love spaghetti! I love steak and potatoes!* It seems they have such a love for food.

You might like food very much, but you shouldn't love food. Your love should be for God, for the things of God, and for people.

You'll never get in trouble by loving God's Word; but you could get in trouble by loving food. Why? Because you could become gluttonous and very greedy for food - and that is a sin.

Now, we want to be in the place where we can hear God's Word, where we receive God's Word, and where we love God's Word - and we should

obey God's Word.

How can we obey the Word of God if we have never heard His Word?

We have seen the importance, then, of hearing God's Word, receiving God's Word, loving God's Word - and obeying God's Word.

We saw that we should be praying for God to deal bountifully with us as individuals.

There are things that need to go, things that hinder the moving of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Those things hinder the Spirit from really having His way in us.

So far, we have taken note of some of the things that hinder: wrong attitudes, resentment, bitterness, gluttony, greed. These need to go.

Many buck against the Word of God, buck against the servants of God. They get upset when the Word begins to reveal things in their lives that are sinful and wrong.

If this is true of you, it should prove to you that there is something wrong in your life that has to be corrected.

Deal with me, Lord, according to Your Word. Deal with me, until I get these things out of my life. Chasten me, if needs be.

I'm hindering the Spirit of God from moving in my life, and from moving in the church.

We've got to be careful.

Remember when Jonah tried to run from God? He caused a lot of havoc on that boat. He sure did.

Remember when Achan stole the old Babylonian garment and the wedge of gold? He brought sin into the camp, and there would be no victory in the camp until it was removed.

See Joshua 7

And the Lord said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face?

Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff. Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.

Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow: for thus saith the Lord God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: **thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you.**

God said to get the sin out of the camp - and Joshua did just that. We need to get these things out so that God can break forth.

Some have an attitude that they don't want others to be used by God, but that it should be done by them. Listen, it's the way God chooses, not what we choose.

It's not the way we think, or what we want.

I Corinthians 12:11

But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will.

It's what God wants. And when He decides to move, He'll move in whomsoever He will - and it won't be according to what you or I think it ought to be.

Just as simple as that! These are the things that hinder the move of God in our lives, and in the church. We're going to have to get these things out. We should be praying that the Lord would deal.

What if the Lord would come when you have such attitudes?

You think you are serving God and following His Word right to the T - but you're not, if you're holding hard feelings in your heart, if you're bitter and resentful, if you're upset and balking against the Word of God.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The Word of God is sharp. When it goes to work in one's life it will cut. And when it starts to cut, that's when many begin to rebel and resist. They get upset because they don't want to hear it.

They feel the servant who is delivering the message is picking on them. But it is really God's Word revealing the thoughts and intents of their hearts.

The Word of God is alive (quick and powerful), and is sharper than any two-edged sword - able to cut right down inside to reveal one's heart.

Yes, when the Word of God goes to work it will cut away and prick, It causes some to feel very uncomfortable when it is being preached.

Why? Because they are being dealt with.

Some roll their eyes, and get up and leave; others shut their ears, not listening. They can't wait for the message to stop.

If you are displeased and upset with the one who is delivering the message from God's Word - know that you're actually being upset with God, upset with His Word.

Some may not show their faces in church for many weeks after hearing a message that upset them because God was dealing. Eventually, when they cool down, you'll find them back - until the next time God begins to deal through the message.

This is what happens to many when God deals with them. His Word begins to cut, begins to work, begins to come alive to them - and they listen to the adversary,

Forget it. Don't listen to them. They're just talking. That's not God. God is a God of love.

Yes, God is a God of love. I will not deny that.

And, because He is a God of love, He shows His love in warning us of those things that hinder.

Yes, God is a God of love - but He is also a God of judgment. I read in the Word that He corrects His people. I read in the Word that He chastises His people. Why? Because He loves them.

Yes, He loves them - and He doesn't want them to end up in the devil's hell, so He corrects them when they go wrong.

Jeremiah 23:29

Is not My word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?

Think about that: the Word of God being like a fire. The Word of God will consume - if we let it go to work in our hearts. It will consume sin. It will consume all fleshy and worldly desires, all that is ungodly.

But, it will do this only if we let God work in our lives.

If we'll listen to the Word of God, the Holy Spirit is able to use it to consume all that is not godly and right. Yes, He will go to work in our lives when we are sincere with Him, when we want to clean our lives up for Him.

Psalm 119:17

Deal bountifully with Thy servant,
that I may live, and keep Thy word.

Hearing

Ezra 7:10

For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.

Ezra not only prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, but also to do it. Many will seek out the Word, studying and reading, but do they go on to do the Word?

After we have read the Word, after we have heard the Word, it's important that we go on to obey and do the Word.

We see here that Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Lord.

Maybe you need to prepare your heart to seek the Lord. Ask Him to deal with you that you can rid your life of all that is displeasing unto Him.

He will do just that, according to His Word - not according to what man has to say, not according to what you think - but according to His Word.

We want to be in a place like Ezra, preparing our hearts to seek the Word of God, and to do it.

Nehemiah 8:1

And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded to Israel.

There was a real desire to hear the Word of God (the law of Moses). They wanted to hear so much that they gathered in the street, wanting Ezra to read to them.

Nehemiah 8:2, 3

And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month.

And he read therein before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law.

Many who sit in church listening to the preaching of God's Word can hardly wait for it to end, so they can leave and go home! *Oh, it's so long. When will they stop?*

Yet for others, those who are really desirous to hear what God has to say from His Word, the time goes by so quickly.

How important it is that we have a hunger for the Word of God: a desire to hear the Word, a desire to read the Word, a desire to study the Word - and a desire to obey the Word.

Yes, a great desire for God's Word.

Back in Ezra's day, they stood from morning until midday listening to God's Word. They weren't even sitting. No, they were standing all that time - and the ears of all were attentive.

They weren't bored. No, they were attentive. They were listening. They weren't being distracted - because they were hungry to hear the words of the law, hungry to hear God's Word.

This is the way we should be when we come into the house of God. We should be so hungry for God, so desirous to hear God speak, that we are attentive, not missing a word.

Nehemiah 8:5, 6

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up: and Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

They were having a great time in the Lord.

Remember, now, they were the ones who initiated this. It wasn't Ezra - all the people gathered together as one and asked him to read the Word to them.

It makes such a difference when God's people can walk together in unity, all believing the same thing, all standing for the same thing, all desiring God to move in revival, and all willing to pay the price to get what they desire.

Nehemiah 8:8

So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.

When some preach or teach the Word, they seem to go around *Robie's Barn*:

that's an expression my mother-in-law had, meaning that, instead of getting right to the point, they go all around it and lose the people's attention by the time they're finished.

Nehemiah 8:9

And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day is holy unto the Lord your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law.

God was doing something, and it was causing the people to weep as they listened to His Word.

Amos 8:11

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord

Many are not hearing the Word of God today. They're not being taught the Word of God. [Everything has priority above the Word of God.](#)

There are all kinds of things preached and taught about, except for the Word of God.

Many ministers open their message with a Scripture verse, and end with a Scripture verse -

but in between there is nothing about the Scriptures. It's all foolishness, or current events, or some other topic.

Paul told Timothy to preach the Word, being instant in season and out of season: always ready to preach the Word of God - II Timothy 4:2.

Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

As people hear the Word of God preached, faith begins to grow in their hearts. They hear what *thus saith the Lord*. And they begin to see God's Word coming to pass in their own lives.

Back here in Nehemiah we see that the people wept when they heard the words of the law.

Nehemiah 9:1

Now in the twenty and fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, and with sackclothes, and earth upon them.

This is the way they fasted in those days. Sackcloth was something like burlap - like those bags they used to put potatoes in. They sat in sackcloth, and put ashes or dirt on their flesh.

Nehemiah 9:2

And the seed of Israel separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers.

Now, if you remember right, they had intermingled with the ungodly of the land, going against what God had told them.

These heathen were called strangers, and many of God's people had married these strangers. And here we see the hearing of the Word of God had an affect upon them. It brought revival here.

Till death do us part!

Here we see that they separated themselves. But this is where many don't adhere to the Word of God. If a person who professes to be saved - knowing what the Word says about getting married again - still goes ahead and get a divorce and remarry - he is now living in adultery,

because this is against God's Word.

Oh, I know there are teachers and preachers out there who will tell them to go ahead and remarry, that it's ok. But what does the Word of God say?

The Bible says, Let no man deceive you. So it's up to you and me to know what the Word of God says, and not to allow anyone to deceive us in telling us differently.

We can go to the Word of God and study it to find out these things, to find out what God has to say about them.

If you've been married before and are divorced, and you now belong unto God, you never can get married again - unless your mate dies.

That's according to the Word.

I Corinthians 7:39

The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.

Now, that's pretty strong, but it's true.

When we make our marriage vows unto God, we vow *until death do we part*: One wife, one husband. If our mate dies, we can marry whomsoever we will, in the Lord.

But make sure that one is truly in the Lord. Some say they're in the Lord, but are divorced and their former mate is still living. So we've got to make sure that we don't marry somebody that is still considered married in the eyes of God.

Don't play around. Be very careful that you don't let your heart go after someone while your mate is still alive - even if she has remarried.

The devil would like to pull a fast one. Don't think for one minute that you couldn't fall through something like this. Don't play around, or you'll open the door for Satan to bring temptation into your life.

This is true even if you're happily married. Satan is right there to try to destroy your marriage. He'll put someone before you to tempt you.

Maybe your mate doesn't give you enough attention, so Satan will send someone along who will give you the attention you want.

Married couples should give each other a lot of attention, lest Satan get in there to send someone along and destroy your marriage.

I Corinthians 10:12

Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

Let's look back at Nehemiah once again. We saw that the Lord was truly moving. First of all, the people wept before the Lord.

When the Spirit of God moves on people in such a manner as this, I believe it will move them to tears.

They'll weep and cry because they feel the presence and the power of the Almighty God.

This is what happened to me when God baptized me in the Holy Ghost. I had tears running down my face because I felt the closeness and the presence of Almighty God.

I felt the Spirit of God moving in my soul, and tears began to stream down my face.

This is the way God moves in the hearts of those who need to be revived. And today we truly need a revival. We need a personal revival, as well as a revival in the church amongst God's people.

When revival falls, God takes away that dryness, and we feel our souls being watered. As we feel the moving of the Spirit on our souls, we'll weep and we'll cry - and it won't be put on.

In Nehemiah's day, they separated themselves from the strangers - and stood and confessed their sins.

Nehemiah 9:2

And the seed of Israel separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers.

Revival!!

Do you think this could happen in your church? Yes, yes, yes. Yes, indeed, it can happen. There can be a revival just like this, where men and

women, young people, and even children will confess their sins.

If this message makes you feel uncomfortable, makes you feel like a sinner - appreciate that the Spirit of God is at work to get hold of you to get rid of the hindrances in your life.

Nehemiah 9:3

And they stood up in their place, and read in the book of the law of the Lord their God one fourth part of the day; and another fourth part they confessed, and worshipped the Lord their God.

You see what the Word did?

It brought revival. It got their lives straightened out. They separated from those whom they had married who were called strangers to the children of Israel.

Thank God we have this passage of Scripture to show us what can happen when the Word of God is being read and being ministered.

Realize, now, they not only heard the Word - but the Word was explained, causing them to understand what was being read.

Nehemiah 8:8

So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.

This was written for our learning.

We can see here the benefit of listening to the preaching of God's Word. This is an example to show us what the Word of God can do. It can bring forth a revival. It can cause people to get right with God, surrendering their wills to God, surrendering their all to God.

Ecclesiastes 5:1

Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil.

When we go to the house of the Lord, we should be very quick to hear. What do you go to church for?

You should be going to worship God, to hear what God would have to say from His Word.

You can also worship God at home. You can read the Word at home. You can shed tears before the Lord at home. You don't have to wait until you go to church. But church is important, too.

James 1:22-24

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

This is the way life is. We get ready for the day: washing up, brushing our teeth, combing our hair. We take a quick look in the mirror, and then forget what we looked like when we walk away.

This is the way it is with many: they hear, but walk away to forget what they heard. They have slippery ears, where it goes in one ear and slips right out the other.

When we don't take the Word and put it into practice, this is what happens.

It's not enough to hear it, we need to obey it, to apply it to our lives.

We forget too easily. We all forget now and then. But there is one thing we don't want to forget. We don't ever want to forget God and His Word.

Acts 17:10, 11

And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.

These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Paul had been preaching in Thessalonica, and trouble stirred up.

The unbelieving Jews set the city in an uproar, and Paul and Silas were sent to Berea by night.

The Bereans weren't gullible to receive what Paul preached without first searching the Scriptures to see if those things were so.

Don't close your mind to the Word of God.

Receive it, when it is being preached, and then go home and search the Scriptures to see if those things that were preached are true, see that they don't contradict God's Word.

When somebody is preaching, it's good when he points out the Scriptures that back up what he is saying.

Proverbs 13:13

Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded.

We are going to be rewarded when we will hear the Word of God, receive the Word of God, love the Word of God, and obey the Word of God.

Yes, we are going to be rewarded. We are not going to be at loss.



I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the Lord.

Psalm 122:1

Do Not Wait

Let us go to the house of the Lord
To pray, to sing, and to hear His Word.
Come appear before your God
Letting Him fill you with His love.

In His presence is fullness of joy,
A joy that nothing can destroy,
Happiness fills the heart,
Knowing He said He will ne'er depart.

His house is a spiritual place
Filled with His glory and grace.
Come now, do not wait -
Or for you it may be too late.

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