



An Unusual Offer

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“From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.”

Numbers 21:4-9

1. Be totally SATISFIED in God . . . always.

Q. What causes impatience?

The Children of Israel had suffered...

- ⇒ _____
- ⇒ _____
- ⇒ _____
- ⇒ _____
- ⇒ _____

We are most likely to grumble against God, when we are impatient and/or dissatisfied.

So what’s the cure?

“God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him.” John Piper

A) To be satisfied in God.

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Matt. 22:37-39

B) Don’t get distracted with duty, but rather focus on “delight”.

1 Tim. 6:6-8 “A devout life does bring wealth, but it’s the rich simplicity of being yourself before God. Since we entered the world penniless and will leave it penniless, if we have bread on the table and shoes on our feet, that’s enough.” (The Message)

Neh. 8:10 “...the joy of the Lord is your strength”

Ps. 37:4 “Delight yourself in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.”

Ps. 100:2 “Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!”

Phil 4:4 “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.”

Ps. 63:3 “Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.”

Ps. 73:25-26 “Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”

Ps. 16:2 “I say to GOD, “Be my Lord!
Without you, nothing makes sense.” (The Message)

Ps. 42:1-2 “As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.
When shall I come and behold
the face of God?” (NRSV)

C) Look to Examples – David, Joseph, Job, Naomi & Ruth

Ps. 63:1-2 “God—you’re my God!
I can’t get enough of you!
I’ve worked up such hunger and thirst for God,
traveling across dry and weary deserts.

²So here I am in the place of worship, eyes open,
drinking in your strength and glory.” (The Message)

ONLY GOD will satisfy a heart. God created us to be in a love relationship with Him. The essence of what it means to love God is to be satisfied in Him. God is most glorified when we are most satisfied in Him.

AND, when we are most satisfied, we will not be impatient or grumbling!

2. God DISCIPLINES His children . . . because He loves you.

DISCIPLINE - Learning that molds character and enforces correct behavior—from a Latin word meaning “instruction” or “training.” To discipline a person or a group means to put them in a state of good order so that they function in the way intended. (Tyndale bible dictionary)

Heb. 12:5-6 “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,
nor be weary when reproved by him.
For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and chastises every son whom he receives.”

3. God desires for all people . . . to be SAVED.

What is their request? (v.7)

God doesn’t always answer our prayers as we ask. God answers their prayers, responds to their repentance, but not in the way they expected.

What an unusual offer? It sounds simple enough, but what is really involved?

- 1) If you are bitten.
- 2) You must look.
- 3) Who can be saved? Anyone and everyone who has been bitten. There are no restrictions!
- 4) They must believe it will heal them (they must have faith).

How do I know it requires faith? John 3:14-16

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Why did God have Moses put a fiery serpent on the end of a pole for healing?

Just as a symbol of death is transformed into a source of life, so Jesus Christ had to become the very thing that caused Him to come to earth and become a sacrifice for us.

It is sin, that separates us from God. (Rom. 3:23)

It is sin, that God’s justice demands payment. (Rom. 6:23)

Therefore, Jesus had to become sin (for us), in order to be the final and full payment for our sins. (2 Cor. 5:21; Rom 8:3; 1 Peter 2:22-24)

Christ became sin for us (like the serpent on the cross), so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.