



Welcome to Unity's Interactive Worship Service

Today's Topic: The Hands of God

Power Point notes available at:

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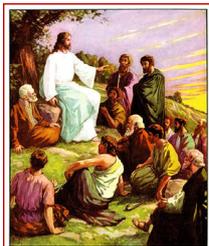
The Hands of God



Today's Daily Word declared in this affirmation that: "I move through life in comfort and peace."

I would ask then, "What would we need in order for us to do just that, move through life in comfort and peace?"

The Hands of God



How about less anxiety and more trust in the knowledge that God provides what we need when we need it.

And he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life,...it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

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I'm going to share a story I've shared before. It makes a perfect point about trusting in God.

There was once a king who ruled his small country with justice and love. Unknown to his subjects, the king would put on a disguise in the evenings and roam the streets of the towns in order to understand life from the perspective of the people. One night as he walked in disguise, the king was drawn to a simple cottage. The doors and windows of the house were thrown wide open.

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Inside a rather robust man was eating and singing with great volume. Knocking on the door, the king inquired, "Is a guest welcome here?"

"A guest is a gift from God," the man shouted. "Please, enter and eat with me."

The king sat down and began to eat the very simple but substantial food that rested on the table. The two men talked freely, immediately feeling a bond between them. Finally the king asked, "What is your trade, my friend?"

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"I am a cobbler," came the enthusiastic reply. "Each day I take my tool kit and wander about town fixing people's shoes. They give me some pennies, and I put them in my pocket. When the day is over, I spend it all to buy my evening meal."

"You spend all of your money each day?" the king asked unbelievably. "Don't you save for the future? What about tomorrow?" "Tomorrow is in the hands of God, my friend," laughed the cobbler. "He will provide, and I will praise him day by day."

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Before the king left that evening, he asked if he might return the next night. "You are always welcome, my friend," the cobbler replied warmly.

On the way home the king developed a plan to test the simple cobbler. The next morning he issued a proclamation prohibiting the repair of shoes without a permit. When he returned the next evening he found the cobbler eating and drinking and making merry. "What have you done today, dear friend?" the king asked, hiding his surprise.

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"When I heard that our gracious king had issued a proclamation prohibiting the repair of shoes without a permit, I went to the well, drew water, and carried it to the homes of people. They gave me some pennies, I put them in my pocket, and went out and spent it all on this food," the cobbler sang. "Come, eat, there is plenty for all."

"You spent it all?" the king asked. "What if you cannot draw water tomorrow? Then what will you do?"

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"Tomorrow is in the hands of God," the cobbler shouted with joy. "He will provide, and I, his simple servant, will praise him day by day."

The next morning the king decided to test his new friend again. He sent his heralds throughout the land announcing that it was illegal for one person to draw water for another. That evening when he returned to visit the cobbler, he found him eating, drinking, and singing. "I worried about you this morning when I heard the king's proclamation."

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"When I heard our good king's new edict, I went out to chop wood. When I had a bundle I brought it to town and sold it. People gave me some pennies, I put them in my pocket, and when the work day was over, I spent it all on this food. "Come and let us eat."

"You worry me," the king said. "What if you cannot chop wood tomorrow?" "Tomorrow, good friend, is in the hands of God. He will provide."

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Early the next morning the king's heralds announced that all wood-choppers should report immediately to the palace for service in the king's army. The cobbler-turned-woodcutter obediently reported and was trained all day. When evening came, he was given no wages, but he was allowed to take his sword home. On the way home, he stopped at a pawn shop where he sold the blade. Then he bought his food, as usual.

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Returning to his house, he took a piece of wood, carved a wooden blade, attached it to the sword's hilt, and placed it in his sheath.

When the king arrived that evening, the cobbler told him of the day's events. "What happens tomorrow if there is a sword inspection?" the king asked. "Tomorrow is in the hands of God," answered the cobbler calmly. "He will provide."

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In the morning the officer in charge of the palace guard took the cobbler by the arm. "You are to act as executioner today. This man has been sentenced to death. Cut off his head."

"I am a gentle man," the cobbler protested. "I have never hurt another man in my life." "You will do as you are commanded," the officer shouted. As they walked to the place of the execution, the cobbler's mind was exploding.

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As the prisoner knelt before him, the cobbler took the hilt of his sword in one hand, raised his other palm to the heavens, and prayed in a loud voice. "Almighty God, you alone can judge the innocent and the guilty. If this prisoner is guilty, let my sword be sharp and my arms be strong. If, however, he is innocent, let this sword be made of wood."

Dramatically, the cobbler pulled his sword from the sheath. The people were amazed to see that the sword was made of wood.

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The king, who had watched the events from a distance, ran to this friend and revealed his true identity. "From this day forward you will come and live with me. You will eat from my table. I will be the host and you will be the guest. What do you say about that?"

The cobbler smiled from ear to ear. "What I say is, the Lord has provided, and you and I together will praise him day by day."

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How many times have we looked to the outer world as our source of good and supply?

Many times have we heard people pray for God to pay the rent, phone bill, buy food, give them a car, win the lottery, or hundred other things.

To pray at the last minute only when there is a need is not the right use of the law of supply.

Yet, to get the maximum use of the law and we need to incorporate what Jesus told his disciples, "Seek God's kingdom and all things will be yours."

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We seek through praise and thanksgiving. The cobbler, through a habit of prayer and praise sought the kingdom of God every day. He kept his mind open to the inspiration from God and was able to handle anything that came against him. When he couldn't fix shoes anymore he didn't blame the king for making a law requiring a permit to fix shoes, and when he couldn't draw water, he went and chopped wood, and when he couldn't chop wood and was pressed into the king's service, he still did not blame anyone.

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He still held to the truth that God would supply him with what he needed. And when asked to do something that went against his moral code of behavior towards another human being, again God had provided what he needed and a man's life was spared.

Emily Cady in her book, Lessons in Truth, declared, "There is something about the mental act of thanksgiving that seems to carry the human mind far beyond the region of doubt into the clear atmosphere of faith and trust, where 'all things are possible'."

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Even if at first you are not conscious of having received anything from God, do not worry or cease from your thanksgiving"

Know dear friends that, "Praise neither affects nor increases God, but it enlarges our own consciousness so that we can receive all the good God has prepared for us. By building a habit of praise and thanksgiving we develop a consciousness that opens the doors of our minds and hearts so that all the good that God has for us can come in."

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So how do we start a habit of praise and thanksgiving? By using three simple steps:

1st We seek God by acknowledging that God is First Cause. Nothing here is by accident for the universe and everything in it is here by divine appointment.

2nd We give thanks and praise God for the things we do have and in doing this we build a conscious belief that all our needs will be fulfilled.

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3rd We pray asking for illumination and divine guidance so that we may use the gifts, talents, and inspiration to provide us with the things we need.

Ultimately, everything is in the hands of God. That presence and power far greater than our own. And when we are able to tap into its power we go forth with an abundance of renewed energy to do the things that are ours to do. So this during this holiday season try using the three simple steps of seeking, giving, and praying, affirming all is in the hands of God.