

A Marketer's Dream

Psa 100:3 Acknowledge that the LORD is God! He made us, and we are His. We are His people, the sheep of His pasture.

Psa 100:4 Enter His gates with thanksgiving; go into His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and praise His name.

Psa 100:5 For the LORD is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and His faithfulness continues to each generation. (NLT)

I admit it! I am a marketer's dream. My wife has been telling me this for some time now. Why am I a marketer's dream? It is because I am addicted to **RESULTS**. I want results from waiters at restaurants. I want results from my business. I want results from the products I buy. I want results from the Christian books I read. I want results from the tapes I listen to. I basically want results from everything. I want **RESULTS** and I want them **NOW!** This is why I am prone to infomercials and all the new gadgets and programs that come out. They all promise what I want- **RESULTS!** Most often these gadgets and programs do not provide any results; instead they create greater frustration when they do not work!

I am finding that my desire for instant results is in opposition to the principles of the kingdom of God. God's principles are based upon the foundation of seed. The Kingdom of God is like a seed that is sown. It starts out small and it will grow over **TIME** and **PERSISTENCE**. When you sow a seed, if you are like me, you are tempted to pull out the sickle and start harvesting when you see the first sign of a green blade break through the dirt. **Getting a harvest is a PROCESS!** It takes time for things to grow including you! You did not reach adulthood overnight. You do not reach spiritual maturity overnight. I cannot believe how many books and tapes I have read and listened to that I thought was the ultimate **ANSWER** to success and victory in the Christian life, but they left me somewhat disappointed.

I have found that real spiritual maturity and depth does not come from outward results being as we like, but they come from the processes of God on the inside of us. The process of maturity often works the most and deepest in times when we see the least outward results that we are looking for. Sometimes we might even see negative results from things and people around us. For a result oriented person like me this can drive you nuts! We grow in patience and character in tough times, if we stay put and trust God through them. If we run from problems and tough times and refuse to take responsibility for change when we need to, then we will actually become worse. What tends to happen when we do not get the results that we want when we want it? We quit. We give up. We stop attending. We try something else. We make excuses. We put in our notice. We get offended. We stop praying. We stop reading the Word. We stop trying. We do anything and everything other than what we need to do. We need to stick it out!

I was seeking help from my wife about this problem I have with wanting instant results and the often frustration that comes along with it. I knew with her counseling background that she could rightly diagnose the roots of this disorder that I was experiencing. She quickly diagnosed it and did not even charge me. **She told me it was SELFISHNESS!!** She said I wanted to be in control and I wanted to be God. Wow! With friends like that who needs enemies right! Well I had to admit –later- that she was right. What is the answer for selfishness? It is true heart worship of God.

Psalm 100 shows us that the way we acknowledge that our Lord is the only God is by entering His presence with praise and thanksgiving. He made us and we are His. He alone is deserving of our praise. He is God alone. I think all our lives would be much happier if we realized that apart from God we can do squat! We need to truly turn over all our hearts desires, dreams, wants, and frustrations over to him and trust Him to bring them about in His time table. He will perfect that which concerns you. You really need to get to a point where you tell God that even if the results you are looking for never come that He is still God. That you will still love Him and that you will still serve Him. (This really sticks a knife in the back of selfishness!)

What about those results we so desire. Is God not interesting in the results that we are interested in? Yes He is! Verse 5 says **God is a GOOD God. He is a FAITHFUL God. However, He is more interested in you and the condition of your heart than results.** We can not experience His goodness or His faithfulness if we are sitting on the throne in His place in our life. **Maturity and stability occurs when instead of giving up when we do not have the results we want, we praise God through it no matter what the results are.**

The one thing that transcends results and even processes that we must go through is the love of God. He will never love you more than He loves you right now. He will never love you less. This is a bed rock constant that will hold you steady no matter what results you are experiencing are or what stage of a process you are in. **God's love is the eternal constant that you can run to no matter what.** So, are you addicted to results and have you been disappointed? Go to God, your God, the only God and pour your heart out to Him, right now. He is waiting for you. He is waiting to be good to you. He is waiting to be faithful to you. He is a waiting God!

1. Have you become frustrated over the lack of results?
2. Have you given up in any areas of your life because of the lack of results? If so you need to repent of selfishness and decide to start again.
3. Faith exercise: Ask God to reveal to you reasons why you have not seen the results you are seeking. **Don't get mad if He does not answer you right away!** (Be open for God to speak His answer through people or circumstances!)
4. Confession: Lord I confess that you alone are God. I am not God. Forgive me for selfishness. I choose to love you and serve you even if I never see any results that I am wanting. I believe you are a good God. I believe that you are a faithful God. I put all my dreams, hopes, desires, and longings in your hands. I trust you. I know you will perfect that which concerns me. I praise you and I worship you as my God! I love you!