

What God does; what we do

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I've been praying a lot recently with Psalms 37. It is an excellent Psalm to recognize the supreme power of God over violence. It also teaches us what God does and what man's responsibility is.

God is all-powerful and all-active good. Isn't it easy to get caught up in the heat of the moment and forget that God is present? In human affairs, it is imperative to remember that God is active and doing something. You are not alone. Right now you can stop battling mentally and physically and turn to God for help.

Struggling with problems as if God is not an active presence is like struggling against the water when we are learning to swim. The water will hold us up if we will relax. It's not just becoming still; we may be rigid with fear. It's relaxing, knowing that the water is supporting us. Then we can learn how to move through the water successfully.

God is actively supporting us, holding us up. This is what God does. We are to relax and yield to this Divine power. Then at God's direction we learn how to move forward. This is what we do. It is not simply letting go and letting God. Man has a responsibility. Man's responsibility is to turn trustingly to God and then express his God-given qualities.

Psalm 37:3-5 states specifically what man is to do and what God does. "Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass."

Man's responsibilities are: trust in the Lord, do good, delight in God, commit our way to God. What God does is to: cause man to live safely, feed man, give you the desires of your heart, bring good to pass.

It is helpful to remind ourselves of what God is doing at this very moment. The Bible is full of passages stating God's activity and power. God is not far away or removed from life. God is Life itself – vigorous, active, energetic, powerful. Part of prayer is affirming God's present action. This is what the Psalmist calls praising God. We are acknowledging or praising God's present deeds.

Then it is natural to acknowledge our responsibility to obey God's command's and express the spiritual qualities He has given us. We have been given intelligence to use it; joy, to express it; life, to live it. As God is Life, the source of action, so man expresses Life through wise and Godly actions. We are not waiting for God to live Life for us.

Jesus had a clear understanding of what God does and what his responsibilities were as God's son. For example in John 5:30 "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge; and my judgement is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me." Jesus acknowledged that his healing and saving activities were based on following God's guidance. What God was doing was speaking to Jesus, directing, imparting His will of health and salvation. What Jesus was doing was listening, obeying and doing God's will.

Let's remember to acknowledge what God is doing right now and then relax and let God hold us up. Then we can move forward by obeying His will and expressing our spiritual qualities.

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