

"I Never Knew You" Part 4

By Wayne Vasilenko

© 2018 Wayne J Vasilenko / Selah Life Ministries

In part three of the series, "I Never Knew You" we talked about how God answers prayer. God always answers prayer; however He only answers them in accordance with His Word. Previously I mentioned how many people might feel their prayers were not answered, but the reason was because they were simply asking for something contrary to God's Word. The last time we started out in Matthew 7: 7-8 but this time we will continue through verse 12.

Matthew 7:7-12 (NKJV)

⁷ "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ⁹ Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? ¹¹ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him! ¹² Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

It is obvious to me that Jesus was well aware that people sometimes feel their prayers go unanswered, so as He continues on in verse 9 He approaches the subject from a different perspective. There were many fathers in the audience as Jesus spoke on this occasion so for Jesus there could be no better way to make himself clearly understood than to appeal to earthly fatherly instincts. God gets a bad rap from time to time, as He gets blamed for a lot of bad things that happen to some people. The reason for this is that some of us here on earth may not have "Godly" fathers; some of us may have lost their father or perhaps never knew their father, so it can be hard for some to relate to our Heavenly Father when we are told of His goodness and perfect love for us. I can only empathize with people with that background; I knew my father although I, as many others, didn't always have the greatest relationship with my father at times. However, I do remember my father being protective of me especially when I was a youngster; he also went out of his way many times to give me things that made me happy. As I read the words of Jesus in these passages, the good memories I have of my father began to surface; Verse 9 especially struck a chord bringing to mind a joke my father played on me one Christmas. I was around 10 years old and the thing I wanted most of all that Christmas was called a "Pom-Pom Gun." It was a battery operated replica of a WW-2 dual 40 mm anti aircraft gun that I thought was so cool! The gun had two barrels that traversed from side to side and when triggered they would alternately recoil with a loud noise... Bam-Bam-Bam-Bam! I wanted it so bad... I talked about it just about every day for 2 months before Christmas. Finally Christmas came; we always opened our presents on Christmas Eve. After opening many presents my Dad said that he had one more for me! However the box was nowhere near the size I was expecting and my disappointment was confirmed when I opened it... there was only 4 flashlight batteries! Seeing that I was near tears my Dad went to the closet and retrieved another gift wrapped box... My very own Pom-Pom Gun! Oh yeah... it needed 4 flashlight batteries. I am sure that many people reading this have similar stories to tell but most would agree that their fathers not only want what's best for their children, but also what will make their children happy. So as we look at Verse 11, Jesus contrasts our Heavenly Father with our Earthly Fathers. Do you know any earthly father that would expose their child to a fatal disease? Do you know any father that would let their child play in the yard if he knew there was a Mountain Lion lurking nearby? Why then do many of us have no problem blaming our Heavenly Father for Cancer or for being injured in an accident? ALL GOOD THINGS ARE FROM GOD. **1 Peter 5:8 (NKJV)** ⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.