

Title: Verily, God hath heard
Scripture: Psalm 66: 18-20
Date: October 4, 2009
Place: SGBC, Princeton, NJ

Psalm 66 is a song of rejoicing written after the clouds have rolled back and the Light has shined forth into the soul of the writer. It is a song of what God has done through much trial of affliction for the writer. He says in verse 16, "Come *and* hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul. 17: I cried unto him with my mouth, and he was extolled with my tongue." That is, I cried and extolled him when I was in trouble, in trial. But the faithful LORD of heaven and earth taught his dear child a most assuring word.

Psalm 66: 18: If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear *me*: 19: *But* verily God hath heard *me*; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer. 20: Blessed *be* God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me.

Every sinner born of the Spirit of God shall forever have the words of Christ abiding in us and shall abide in Christ Jesus forever.

1 John 2:27: But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

2 John 1:1: The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth; 2: For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever.

He has spoken into your heart and said:

John 15: 7: If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

To abide in Christ and to have his words abiding in us, is what every sinner, born of the Spirit of Christ truly wants. Paul, a full grown man, being a child of God said this:

2 Timothy 1:12...I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

In the inner man, we truly want nothing but for our God to keep us abiding in him and his words abiding in us.

John 15: 7: Ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Yet, how many times have we asked God what we will, and he refused to give us what we asked?

Now, let me ask every father and mother—and every son and daughter to give me your undivided attention for a moment.

Children, you owe everything to your father and mother.

Since before you were born, they provided everything for you. They gave you life. Fed you when you could not feed yourselves, clothed you when you could not clothe yourselves, protected you when you could not protect yourselves, given you everything you need and more.

Sometimes you begin setting your affection on their gifts rather than on them.

Your parents take away something they have given you and they correct you. They ground you—clip your wings--you want to be free from it. All you want is to have that gift back—a toy, video game, to meet your friends on Friday night, the car keys, the cell phone—whatever it is they have taken from you. So you begin to beg based on their promises to you. You attempt to bargain with them. And you are so sincere, so sure, of what you want.

But your father knows what you really want. You don't want for them to unground you; you don't want that temporary gift; you really want a faithful father; you really want a father and mother who loves you.

Because your father is faithful, when you beg, AS LONG AS YOU SET YOUR AFFECTION ON SOMETHING ELSE BUT HIM, he will not give you what you THINK you want. But by doing so, he is giving you what you REALLY want—a faithful father. So it is with God.

Psalm 18: If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me: 19: But verily God HATH heard me; he HATH attended to the voice of my prayer. 20: Blessed be God, which hath NOT turned away my prayer, nor HIS MERCY from me.

You, believing fathers and mothers

Brethren, we owe everything to our heavenly Father. Since before you were born, God provided everything for you. By his sovereign will the Father chose you and gave his Son to reconcile you to himself in full satisfaction. By his faithfulness the Son of God laid down his life for you, purged you of all sin and made you righteous in Christ. In the power of his grace he sought you and by his Spirit he gave you life, made you a new creature. Our story is found in Ezekiel 16: 1-13.

Psalm 110: 3: Thy people *shall be* willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth.

We died spiritually in the death of our first father Adam. By his corrupt seed, in natural generation, we were made partakers of his corrupt nature, defiled, polluted in our blood, left

unswaddled, dead in sins. But in Christ Jesus the Son of God, the second Adam, you who are the elect of God, died when he laid down his life. The second Adam is the “Everlasting Father.” Born of his word, in regeneration, you were born of Christ the Word, the incorruptible Seed, made partakers of his divine nature.

In the day of his power, in the time of love, like a newborn babe from the womb, he swaddled you in the beauty of his holiness. He made his will, your will. You are his “youth”—his child—made willing, more dependent upon Christ than your own children were when they first placed them in your arms.

Illustration: The day Emma was born. They washed her, rubbed oil over her body, swaddled her in white, and placed her in her father's arms.

We ARE IN the arms of Christ Jesus our Everlasting Father and accepted by God the Father. He has given us unsearchable riches:

I Corinthians 1: 4-9: by the grace of God given you by Jesus Christ; in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and *in* all knowledge; Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed [established] in you: So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall ALSO confirm [ESTABLISH] you unto the end, *that ye may be* blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

That means he will reserve mercy for you. He will see to it that you abide in him and he abides in you. Because that is what he has made you really “will” and that is what he “wills”, and *God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.*

But sometimes we begin setting our affection on his earthly, temporal gifts rather than on him. Just like we do our children, so he does his children. He grounds us. And just our children, we want to be free from it. All we want is to have what he has taken away—ease in our work schedule, peace in our home, financial stability, maybe even our health or the health of a loved one.

So we begin to beg. We petition him based on his promise--*Ask what we will, and it shall be done unto you.* We sometimes try to bargain with him—but we really want unmerited favor—we really know there is no such thing a merited grace. But at the time we are so sincere, so sure, of what we THINK we want. Sometimes we even think he has shut the heavens against us. Yet, the LORD hath comforted you, and his temporary affliction *is* his mercy upon you

Isaiah 49: 14: But Zion said, The LORD hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me...15: Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. 16: Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of *my* hands; thy walls *are* continually before me. 17: Thy children shall make haste; thy destroyers and they that made thee waste shall go forth of thee.

Your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. You don't want for him to UNground you, you don't want that temporary gift, you REALLY want a faithful Father.

Because your heavenly Father is faithful, when we beg, when we cry, WHEN WE SET OUR AFFECTION ON SOMETHING ELSE BUT HIM, he will not give us what our flesh wants. But by doing so, he is giving you what you REALLY want—a faithful Father. We really want the true Bread from heaven—so he refuses to give us the stone which our flesh cries out for. He will not hear, but verily, by not doing what our flesh wants, he hears and he attends to us:

Psalm 66: 18: If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me: 19: But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer.

At the beginning I asked you, how many times have we asked God what we will, and he refused to give us what we asked?

Never! If he doesn't give the thing we ask, he is giving us what we will--a faithful Father. Grace always precedes grace. His grace always comes first in order to abase us, to turn us, to make us receive his grace that we might trust him alone. And in his time, as it has been from the first hour, he pours out the spirit of grace.

Zechariah 12: 10: And I will pour upon [my children], the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn.

Job 22:26:...then shalt thou have thy delight in the Almighty, and shalt lift up thy face unto God. 27 Thou shalt make thy prayer unto him, and he shall hear thee

Isaiah 30:21: And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This *is* the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

Isaiah 58:8: Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and [then by faith, and by his grace, you behold that Christ] thy Righteousness shall go before thee; [And Christ Jesus] the Glory of the LORD shall be thy rereward [rear ward]

All along, as you cried for something other than HIM. He had you hedged in, protected, on all sides. As he consumes your dross through the fiery trial and at last makes you to behold him:

Isaiah 58: 9: Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am.

Now read, Psalm 66: 8-20. As we beg him for that which will surely result in our death, he holds (puts) our soul in life, and will not suffer our feet to be moved. He is the one who sent the great trial of affliction. When we are in trouble we cry for that which we really do not want.

But he regards not that prayer, and verily by doing so he hears our prayer, and attends to us. By this his great work of mercy, he makes us to turn and enter with rejoicing into his presence in Christ our burnt offering, in the name of Christ, the Incense which God delights in.

Praying in Christ's name is much more than tacking his name on the end of a list of requests. It is praying in faith and content for him to perform only that which brings honor to the glory of God the Father and God the Son. This is where our faithful Father brings us and how he restores peace in our souls giving us Christ whom the believer really wants in the inner man.

You sons and daughters

Now, when your parents withhold something from you, when they correct you, I hope you get some idea of why. I hope someday by God's grace you will enter into this joy. And as your fathers and mothers reserve mercy for you they are beholding in their relationship with you and your relationship with them, how their heavenly Father reserves mercy for them. As they see themselves, their iniquity and his great mercy, when they say, "This hurts me more than it hurts you" then you can be sure they mean it.

Believing mothers and fathers.

Brethren, you who are born of his Spirit, kept by his power, as you eat this piece of bread and drink this cup of wine, may our Faithful Redeemer, once again draw you near and whisper sweetly into your soul, "*Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.*"

Psalm 66: 19:...verily God hath heard *me*; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer 20: Blessed *be* God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me.

AMEN!