

Kenneth E Hagin₃ on

Love



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Five Things God Wants to Do for You

Is there something you want God to do for you? According to His Word, there are several things God wants to do for you—good things that we all desire. So what's the catch? The condition is that you must set your love upon Him.

PSALM 91:14–15

14 Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

In these two verses there are five things El Shaddai—the God Who is more than enough—said He will do for the person who sets his or her love upon Him.

God said, "Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore I WILL . . .":

Deliver him.

Set him on high.

Answer him.

Be with him and deliver him.

Honor him.

We need to understand the importance of the simple phrase "I will" or "I shall."

A very learned man once addressed a group of us young ministers. Recognized as the leading Hebrew and Greek scholar of his day, this man had an excellent working knowledge of many languages. In fact, when one of the young ministers asked him how many languages he was fluent in, he replied, "32."

When he visited with us, he explained that there are things in the Greek and Hebrew for which we have no idiom in the English language.

"For instance," he said, "in John 14:13, where Jesus said, 'whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do . . .' the King James Version says, in effect, 'I will.' " In other words, Jesus said, "I will do it."

This scholar went on to explain, "Now, the translators felt they ought to use either 'I will' or 'I shall,' because that is the strongest assertion you can make in the English language. You can't say anything stronger than 'I will do it,' or 'I shall do it.' The translators thought they should make it the strongest assertion that can be made in English."

The scholar read the verse to us in the original Greek (it was all Greek to me!). Then he said, "Now I'm going to translate that literally for you."

This is what that verse literally says: "If you will ask anything in My Name, if I don't have it, I'll make it for you"!

"I'll make it for you"! Thank God, He can, because He is El Shaddai—the God Who is more than enough!

I was reminded of this incident because in Psalm 91:14–15, God says He "will do" the following five things.

1. "I will deliver him."

Thank God, the God Who is more than enough is a delivering God!

God told Abraham that his descendants would be sojourners in a foreign land for 400 years, but He promised, "I will bring them out with a strong hand."

God doesn't forget His promises: 430 years after Israel's captivity began in Egypt, God raised up Moses and Aaron to lead Israel out of bondage—and He brought them out with a strong hand. He is still the same delivering God today! He is more than enough!

According to Acts 10:38, "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing ALL that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."

Satan is the oppressor. Jesus is the deliverer.

2. "I will set him on high, because he has known my name."

We will look at this when we consider the fifth point.

3. "He shall call upon me, and I will answer him."

God has always been a prayer-answering God. Throughout the Bible, God said, "I will answer."

Jeremiah 33:3 says, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

In Isaiah 43:25 God said, "I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins." Then He added, "Put me in remembrance" (v. 26).

Remind God of His promises! Remind Him of His Word! He is faithful to cause it to come to pass in your life.

The New Testament also proves that God hears and answers prayer.

MATTHEW 7:7-8

7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

MARK 11:24

24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

JOHN 16:23

23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

God will hear and answer your prayers! He doesn't want you to worry or be anxious about a thing. Philippians 4:6 says, "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Be careful for nothing! Or, a better translation is, "Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything" (Amplified).

Why shouldn't you fret or have anxiety? Because God is the One Who is more than enough! He is the All-Sufficient One, the One Who never changes and never fails (Heb. 13:8). He is just as able today as He ever was, and He's interested in you! He's concerned about you! That's why He said, "Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore . . . I will answer him."

4. "I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him."

God didn't say you weren't going to have trouble just because you've been born again and filled with the Spirit. In fact, He rather infers that you are going to have trouble because you're a Christian.

The world is going to persecute you. They're going to talk about you. They're going to speak evil of you. And the devil, who is the god of this world, will put pressure on you at every turn.

No, God didn't say we would never have any troubles. But He did say, "I will be with him in trouble."

Psalm 34:19 says, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." Does the Lord deliver us out of half of the afflictions or troubles? No, He delivers us out of all of them!

5. "I will honor him."

God said, "I will honor him" (Ps. 91:15). This statement is similar in meaning to "I will set him on high," which according to Psalm 91:14 is the second thing God wants to do for us. These are two things God said He would do for the person who has set his love upon Him.

I would rather have God's honor than have the greatest honor this world can bestow. The world honors politicians, statesmen, generals, educators, superstars, athletes, and inventors. But if they ever honor a

preacher, they honor some humanistic preacher who doesn't believe in the Virgin Birth or the authenticity of the Word of God.

The world as a whole will never honor a real Bible-believing, tongue-talking, divine healing-practicing preacher of the Gospel any more than the world honored Jesus. No, you must compromise if you want to receive the honor of this world. But I would rather have God's honor. The world's honor will pass and fade away, but the honor God bestows will last forever.

Are there circumstances in your life from which you need to be delivered? Are you in a difficult situation and there seems to be no way out? God promises you deliverance!

Have you been crying out to God about problems in your life? Do you have prayers that need to be answered? Thank God, He will answer you when you call upon Him!

No matter what you are going through right now, no matter what the doctor reports or the news forecasts, God will be with you in trouble. And not only will He be with you in trouble, He will also deliver you!

When you set your love upon God and know His Name, He will honor you and set you on high. I don't know about you, but I want to be set on high where the devil and circumstances and problems of this world can't touch me!

If your love is set upon God, begin to thank Him today for these five promises that He's given you in His Word. Thank Him and praise Him for delivering you, for setting you on high, for answering you when you call, for being with you in trouble and delivering you, and for honoring you. Thank God for all He is doing in your life!

The Father's Care

John 17:23 says, “I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.” I want you to notice particularly the expression “. . .and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.” There’s no truth so far-reaching as the blessed fact that our Father God cares for us. John 17:23 says God loves us even as He loves Jesus!

In the Old Testament, God was Jehovah, Elohim, and El Shaddai to Israel. The children of Israel did not know Him as Father. They did not know Him as a Lover. Under the Old Covenant, He didn’t indwell men; He dwelled only in the Holy of Holies. He dealt with the lawbreakers and the disobedient in awful judgment. They were commanded to love and obey Him, or suffer the consequences.

Into that harsh atmosphere of justice, Jesus came. He talked about God as His Father. He told of the Father’s love and of the Father’s care for His own—and the people could not understand Him.

If He had come with a message like John the Baptist’s, commanding people to repent and calling them bitter names, then they would have understood Jesus’ message. But when He introduced a loving Father God, His words fell upon unresponsive ears.

I want to share a few scriptures in which Jesus talks about God as a loving Father.

JOHN 16:23,27

23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the FATHER in my name, he will give it you. . . .

27 For the FATHER himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.

MATTHEW 6:8–9a

8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your FATHER knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him [notice that even though God knows what we need, He still told us to ask Him].

9 (And so He said then) After this manner therefore pray ye: Our FATHER which art in heaven

MATTHEW 6:26

26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly FATHER feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

The way Jesus referred to God as Father was utterly new. The Jewish people had a hard time grasping it. To tell the truth, it's a new concept to many church members today. Most people have been taught to fear and to shrink from a God of justice. We've never seen the love side of God the way we ought to have seen it. Jesus came to show us that side of God. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son . . ." (John 3:16).

Almost everyone knows what John 3:16 says, but do you know what the next verse says? It says, "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." Thank God, He did love us, didn't He? And He does love us right now.

MATTHEW 6:30–33

30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.

Notice Jesus didn't say that all these material things would be taken away from you. He said they would be added unto you. That proves that the Father cares for His own.

Matthew 6:34 says, "Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." Another translation reads, "Be not therefore anxious for the morrow." You see, God doesn't want His children to be anxious or to worry. He says, "Have no worry, no fret, no anxiety. I am your Father. I know what things you need before you ask. But seek first My Kingdom and My righteousness, and all of these things shall be added unto you."

Your Heavenly Father knows what you need. So have no worry, fret, or anxiety. If God is your Father, you may be assured that He will take a father's place and will perform a father's part. You may be certain that if He is your Father, He loves you and will care for you.

In John 14, Jesus tells us what it means to love God and to be loved by Him.

JOHN 14:21–23

21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me SHALL BE LOVED OF MY FATHER, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?

23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and MY FATHER WILL LOVE HIM, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

In this passage, we have the revelation of the Father's attitude toward His children. There are two things in particular that are emphasized in these scriptures.

Number one, Jesus said, "He that has My commandments and keeps them . . ." (v. 21). What are Jesus' commands? That we "love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and love our neighbor as ourselves" (Mark 12:30–31). Jesus said, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another" (John 13:34). There's no use for you to worry about any other commandment. Walking in love sums up the whole business because the Word of God says that love is the fulfilling of the law (Rom 13:10). If you keep Jesus' command to love, you will have fulfilled the rest of the commandments.

Number two, Jesus said, "He that has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me and the one who shall be loved by My Father" (v. 21). If you walk in love, you walk in God's realm, for God is love (1 John 4:7). The great Father God is a love God. And if you walk in love, you walk in His realm. His very nature, because He is love, compels Him to care for you and protect you.

Even natural love cares for and protects. How much greater is divine love than natural love! Jesus said, “If ye then, being evil [or natural], know how to give good gifts unto your children, HOW MUCH MORE shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?” (Matt. 7:11). A thrill goes through my spirit when I get to that “how much more” part!

How many parents want their children to go through life poverty-stricken, nose to the grindstone, sick, afflicted, downtrodden, downcast, down-and-out? Not a single one! Many parents will sacrifice and work their fingers to the bone to help their children gain a better life than they had. Parents also want to shield and protect their children from hard times. Natural love does that. And if we, being natural, love that way, how much more does our Father God love and care for us!

In John 15:1, Jesus says, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.” The Greek word translated “husbandman” also implies caretaker, protector, shield, trainer, and educator. Our Father God is the Caretaker. He is the Protector and Shield. He is the Trainer and Educator. As the husbandman trained the branches of the vine, so our Heavenly Father trains the branches of the Body of Christ.

Now then, since God loves me as He loves Jesus, I’m not afraid to face life’s problems, because He is with me as He was with Jesus!

JOHN 16:32

32 Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I AM NOT ALONE, BECAUSE THE FATHER IS WITH ME.

Since the Father God loves us as He loved Jesus, then He is with us as He was with Jesus. Thank God, we’re not alone!

Nothing can be more comforting than the fact that the Father Himself knows you and loves you. When you study these statements that Jesus made relative to the Father, many scriptures in the Word take on new light. Many verses in the Bible become more real to us when we examine them in light of what Jesus said about the Father. Let's look at just a few such verses.

1 PETER 5:7

7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

This is the Father's message to us. He wants us to end worry, fear, and doubt. You might say, "Can I do it?" Sure you can. You do it by casting all your care upon Father God. He wants you to abandon yourself to His love and to His care. So He said to cast " . . .the whole of your care [all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully" (1 Peter 5:7 Amplified).

Philippians 4:6 almost becomes a new message to me when I read it as being from the very heart of the Father that Jesus came to introduce. "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." The Amplified Bible says, "Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God." This is a message from the very heart of my Father God.

God is sending you a message from His heart of love. He's telling you that you can do anything. You can rise to the place where you are unafraid in the most unpleasant circumstances because you know that your Father is on your side. The Father's love compels Him to care for

you. When you know His love and learn to swing free in that love then all doubts and fears will be destroyed.

When you remember that your Heavenly Father loves you even as He loved Jesus, then you can understand why you need not be afraid—even as Jesus was not afraid. Psalm 27:1 says, “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” God is your Light. He is your Salvation and Deliverance. He is the Strength of your life. There’s nothing to fear! Praise God! What can anyone do to the one whom God loves and protects?

Hebrews 13:5 says that God will never leave us or forsake us. “So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me” (Heb. 13:6). I’m glad the Lord is my Helper. Is He your Helper? He wants to be your Helper today.

He also wants to meet all your needs. Philippians 4:19 says, “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” This is not religious jargon or mere preaching. This is a living truth from the heart of our wonderful Father.

Now when you read the Word, read it in light of God as your Father—the same kind of Father to you as He is to Jesus. The Word will come alive and so will your heart, as you realize and come to know experientially the great love your Father has for you.

I am so grateful for my Heavenly Father. His love for me is perfect. He may be Judge to the world. He may be God to the sinner. But to me—He is Father!

The God-Kind of Love Forgives

What is the God-kind of love like? The God-kind of love is full of kindness and is tenderhearted. Since God's love is kind and tenderhearted, it is always ready to forgive.

Ephesians 4:32 says, "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, **FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER**, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Sometimes I think people interpret this verse by saying that we are to forgive people only when they are kind to us. But that's not what the Bible says.

This scripture also doesn't say, "Forgive one another when the offense doesn't amount to much. But if people have done a lot against you, then

it's okay to not forgive them." The verse doesn't read that way, but too many times that is the way people practice it.

Too many Christians allow their flesh to rule them, and then wonder why they aren't receiving God's best in their lives. But it's impossible to walk in the God-kind of love while allowing the flesh to rule.

If we're going to obey the Bible, we have to let the inward man rule us so we can be "kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another." It's only as we "put on" Christ and make no provision for the flesh (Rom. 13:14) that we will be able to forgive one another, even as God for Christ's sake forgave us.

How can we forgive the way God forgives? Well, the Bible says that God is love. And the same kind of love that God is has been shed abroad in our heart, or spirit, by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5).

What kind of love is it? Is it natural, human love? No, it is divine love. It is the God-kind of love. And one characteristic of the God-kind of love is that it forgives. Another thing about divine love—when God forgives, He forgets!

Isaiah 43:25 says, "I, even I, am he that BLOTTETH OUT THY TRANSGRESSIONS for mine own sake, and WILL NOT REMEMBER thy sins." Hebrews 8:12 says, "For I will BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more."

These scriptures tell us that once we ask forgiveness, God doesn't remember our sins anymore. God doesn't say, "I'm going to hold against you everything you've ever done, and I'm going to remind you

of your sins every time I think of them.” Thank God, this verse says that when we ask forgiveness, God will remember our sins no more!

Sometimes husbands and wives can be prone to remind each other of past mistakes every time a disagreement arises. There’s no way they can develop a good relationship if they keep doing that. Also, if spouses constantly remind each other of past mistakes and failures, it will ruin their prayer lives and will make their faith inoperative.

1 PETER 3:7

7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; THAT YOUR PRAYERS BE NOT HINDERED.

If husbands and wives hold unforgiveness and ill will against each other, it can affect their health, and their prayers will be hindered. Their faith won’t work.

You want your prayers to be unhindered, don’t you? Then walk in love and forgiveness. Learn to forgive and forget like God does.

You see, if you really love people and forgive them, you will not keep reminding them of their past mistakes, sins, and failures. You will not keep reminding them about the way they hurt you, let you down, or offended you.

Now the devil may bring a picture to your mind of something that happened between you and another person. But you don’t have to entertain the devil’s thoughts. You can go on your way and walk in forgiveness, knowing that the Lord has forgiven you of your sin, failures, and shortcomings, and that you have forgiven the other person.

Some people say, “Well, I just can’t forgive.” But that doesn’t line up with the Scriptures, because if you are born again, the God-kind of love has been shed abroad in your heart.

Other people say, “Well, I can’t forgive the way God does because I’m not God.” Of course, you’re not God! But, you see, God forgives because He is love (1 John 4:8). And the same kind of love that God is dwells in you. Therefore, you can forgive with His love, just as God does.

Because the love of God has been shed abroad in our heart by the Holy Ghost, that means that God even furnishes the love for you and me to forgive with! But too many believers make the mistake of going by their head instead of their heart.

So divine love not only forgives, it forgets! That’s the way God wants us to forgive too. And we can forgive and forget because God has already furnished His love in our heart, enabling us to forgive. Therefore, there’s no excuse for failure in our ability to forgive.

Colossians 3:13 says, “Forbearing one another, and FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER, if any man have a quarrel against any: EVEN AS CHRIST FORGAVE YOU, SO ALSO DO YE.” You see, when we walk in the light of the Word, we can enjoy all the benefits thereof. But to walk in the light of the Word, we have to walk in love and forgiveness.

There is something else we need to see about how love and forgiveness work together regarding answered prayer. Unforgiveness—the lack of forgiveness—is one hindrance to prayer that Jesus Himself mentioned.

MARK 11:23–25

23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

25 And when ye stand PRAYING, FORGIVE, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

A lot of times, people take these verses out of context and make them say something they don't say. Then, they try to make them work, anyway. But, you see, there are some conditions involved in getting Mark 11:23 and 24 to work. Did you ever notice that many of the promises of God are conditional?

You see, the blessings of God don't just fall on us like ripe cherries off a tree. You have your part to play—you have some responsibility in the matter.

When Jesus tells us in Mark 11:23 and 24 that we can have what we say, we all rejoice and are thrilled with His words. And we should be. But that is not all Jesus said about answered prayer.

Mark 11:23 and 24 do not present the whole story on the subject of faith. For example, in Galatians 5:6, the Bible has something else to say about faith. It says that faith only works by love.

So you won't be able to get your faith to work for you if you're not walking in love and forgiveness. I don't care how many biblical confessions you make or how scriptural they are—your faith won't work without the God-kind of love.

You can make all the confessions you want, but they won't work for you unless you forgive. You can get up every morning and go through your list, take time out at noon to make faith confessions, and even get up in the middle of the night and repeat the same confessions—and your faith still won't work for you unless you're walking in love.

You could make your faith confessions like that for a hundred years, but your faith simply will not work in an atmosphere of unforgiveness.

You see, believing you have your petition and confessing your faith with your mouth is only part of effective faith and receiving answers to prayer. In fact, Mark 11:23 and 24 won't work without Mark 11:25: "And when ye stand praying, FORGIVE. . . ." Why won't verses 23 and 24 work without verse 25? Because faith won't work without love, and love forgives.

Notice that verse 25 begins with the word "and." The word "and" is a conjunction. It joins what Jesus just finished saying to what He's about to say. Notice what Jesus had just said in Mark 11:24: "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when YE PRAY. . . ." Jesus was talking about prayer. And He was still talking about how to make your faith effectual in verse 25 when He said, "When you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive." When you pray—forgive!

Why did Jesus say that? Because Jesus knew that if we have an air of unforgiveness about us, our prayers won't be effectual. Faith only works by love (Gal. 5:6).

Now if Jesus had just said, "When you stand praying, you'll have your petition," we'd all have it made. But He didn't stop there. He said that when we stand praying, we have to do something. What do we have to

do? Forgive! If we have aught (or anything) against anyone, we have to forgive.

This great truth bears repeating: Prayer and faith won't work when there is an air of unforgiveness about you! And unforgiveness is what has so many people stymied in their faith and prayer life.

Whether you realize it or not, a lack of compassion and an unwillingness to forgive others are the things that hinder us from receiving from God and from growing spiritually. Unforgiveness will hinder us from being what God wants us to be and from being who God wants us to be.

In Mark 11:25, Jesus said, "When you stand praying, forgive if ye have aught against anyone." The word "aught" means any kind of grudge or ill will or wrong feeling about anyone at all. That means a little grudge, a middle-sized grudge, or a big grudge—anything at all against another person.

God's Word works, but you have to be a doer of God's Word before it will work for you. Part of being a doer of God's Word is to forgive others and to forgive yourself too.

It's believing, acting on, and confessing God's Word that makes it work for you. You can't act on the Word and be a doer of God's Word if you aren't willing to forgive. It's absolutely impossible.

So learn to forgive so you can receive God's best in life. Practice what Paul did. Forget those things which are behind and "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:14).