

Pray for the Opportunity? ASK GOD! Huh?

I have always enjoyed watching movies on adventure, mystery and classic love stories. Cartoons are my favourite even at this stage of my life. The movies such as the “Prince of Egypt” and “Evan Almighty” are usually shown during Good Friday. For me, it is like watching a new movie all the time. Of course, the Bible should always be the reference and key point for us to know God better and deepen our insights into God’s love and wisdom. ☺

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.” (James 1:5-7)

I have seen “Evan Almighty” several times and this particular scene only struck me when I had a chance to watch the movie again on Good Friday. You see, Evan’s wife could not understand why he had to build an Ark. She was not the only one who could not understand his so-called “absurd” behaviour, claiming that “God had asked him to do it”. Evan was mocked, teased and ridiculed by people all around him. The unusual happenings on his looks and attire, which he could not control, with animals attracted to him, did nothing to help his situation. He was holding an important and high-level position of influence with contacts to the Senate officials. What else could go wrong!



What can a wife do to comprehend such a situation? So, it was a particular scene when Evan’s wife left him with the kids and they stopped at a cafe to have food. It was then that God, acted by Morgan Freeman (MF), showed up as a waiter and had a brief, yet interesting, conversation with her.

He asked her if she was alright. She admitted that she was not doing fine after a second reply to the question asked. She avoided explaining her state of mind with an answer that we sometimes used, “It is a long story”. When we think that people will not probe further with such a reply, she was faced with a surprised answer by MF, indicating that he loves stories and he is a great story-teller himself.

The conversation continued where MF brought in the story of Noah and the Ark, found in the book of Genesis. Many people loved that story, but missed the point of thinking that it was God's wrath that we see illustrated through the story of the Ark. MF explained that it is a love story where it can be referred to couples believing in each other as the animals turned up in pairs. They stayed with each other through the circumstances.

"They had with them every wild animal according to its kind, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that moves along the ground according to its kind and every bird according to its kind, everything with wings. Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark. The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the Lord shut him in." (Genesis 7:14-16)



I am not promoting this movie, but just reflecting on the scene, linking it to interesting dialogues that we have through the people around us. The understanding about how God is and what God's love is all about, matters at this point. It is true that God does not give us the patience and love through magical powers instantly and overnight. He provides us the opportunity and situations to learn and grow in His Love to have patience and the kind of love that we should have for ourselves, others and God.

He does not run away from us, leaving us to face and feel the situations all on our own. His Love goes beyond the circumstances to guide us in the decisions that we need to make through the situations as opportunities for us to grow. He does not give us immediate answers all the time. We need to live and go through the circumstances, good or difficult times, to understand it. This means that only you will know what God has done for you and learn the patience and love that we always seek and wish to find through it all.

So, what do we do when we pray for patience and love to God? Has it ever occurred to you how God will do it besides being careful of what you pray for?

Never underestimate what will happen? Whoa... (Hold your breath here).
Read on.

Quote from MF: He said if someone prays for patience, do you think God gives them patience or does God give them the opportunity to be patient? If someone prays for courage, do you think that God gives them courage or the opportunity to be courageous? If someone prays for a family to be closer, does God zap them with warm and fuzzy feelings or does He give them the opportunity to love each other?

I am speechless as this scene continues with MF leaving the table with food appearing out of nowhere on the plate. Amazing! Whoa.

Wait a minute! Huh? We pray for the opportunity not knowing what will come? How do we handle such situations when they occur? We must be crazy to ask for patience in situations and then suffer through them when we can live life without such torment and not knowing the ending? These questions are very real and being asked frequently.

Would you pray for the opportunity that will lead us to grow in love through God and be matured in Christ, even though there are times when we do not receive any answers or a clear indication of what we need to do? With this opportunity to pray, only you would know what you have decided to do next!

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