

# Eduardo Scheffer: Daring to Ask For More (14/7/18)

Book Recommendation: Daring to Ask for More by Melody Mason

## Introduction:

Do we believe that we serve a mighty God? Here are some promises to bolster our belief.

- Jeremiah 32:17 - Nothing is too hard for God
- Mark 10:27 - All things are possible for God
- Isaiah 55:8,9 - We might not understand what is best for ourselves, but God's thoughts are higher and He knows best!

Illustration - There is a story that says that Alexander the Great, a mighty warrior, was also a compassionate man. As the story goes, he would frequently allow his servants to ask for something, and, whatever the request, he would grant it. Most of the time the people would come asking for food, or money, or medicine - you know, the necessities. But one day a man came and asked for a fully furnished palace so that he could host his friends for get togethers. The King's spokesman thought it was ridiculous and was trying to convince the guy to ask for something more normal. Alexander heard the commotion and asked what it was about. The spokesman told him that the servant was daring to ask for something too great. The King was curious and asked what it was that he had asked for. When the spokesman told him the King thought about it for a moment, and then called out 'request granted!' The spokesman didn't understand, and, upon approaching the King to ask why Alexander told him that 'this man knows what only I can give to him, and because he recognising my power I will honour his courage.'

## Daring:

God is all powerful! He can do whatever we need. Why don't we dare to ask Him to do things that only He can do?

*"We have too little faith. We limit the Holy One of Israel."* Ellen White, Gospel Workers, pg 52

Story - When Josefina and Eduardo were pregnant with their first child Benji there was a problem shortly after they'd had a checkup where the Doctors had told them that everything looked good. When the paramedics arrived on the scene with Josefina bleeding heavily they seemed to indicate that it looked like they'd lost their child. Eduardo kept telling Josefina that 'everything is going to be ok' because he was in denial. When they arrived at the hospital the Doctors and Nurses seemed to confirm the verdict, but still Eduardo was in denial. When it finally hit home that they had lost their child Eduardo was hysterical. Nothing could stop him from crying like a baby! He called His brother Andrés to talk to him about the problem (because he is a paramedic) and Andrés asked if he was praying about it. Eduardo was shocked! He had been so emotional that he had completely forgotten to pray about the situation. Andrés began praying for him, and Eduardo also prayed. Then the strangest thing happened. Eduardo's native tongue is Spanish, and usually he thinks in Spanish. But, as he was praying, a thought came to him in English - 'the baby is ok, she just needs to go home and rest.' Because this thought came to him in English he realised that this was God's answer to his prayer. With that Eduardo was filled with confidence and continued encouraging Josefina. However, because he'd already been saying that she thought that he was just trying to be nice. When Eduardo told her the story they were both filled with so much confidence in God's answer that when the nurse asked if they could do more tests to be sure they were happy to do that. All of the tests seemed to indicate that the baby was fine, but all of the staff

seemed to indicate that there was no way that it would survive (even if things were testing ok at that time). The final test was to be the most conclusive of them all, and it was to be performed by a specialist. Upon testing her the Doctor took a long time to come back to them with the results. When she returned, with a puzzled look on her face, she asked if they would mind if she performed the test again. With confidence in the result they agreed to allow her to try it again. The second time she took even longer to come back to them, but when she did she said something so simple, and yet so profound to Eduardo and Josefina. Her exact words were 'the baby is ok, she just needs to go home and rest.' She then proceeded to tell them that she didn't understand what had happened. Medically, she said, there is no way that your baby should survive, however the test was conclusive - the baby was fine! The Doctors may not have understood, but Eduardo and Josefina certainly did - God had answered the prayer of His desperate Son.

We often ONLY pray like this when there is something extraordinary going on in our lives. We don't dare to ask like this most of the time - so we miss out!

Matthew 13:45,46 - The pearl of great price. The pearl was so valuable to the merchantman that he went and sold everything that he had in order to obtain it! We should seek spiritual blessings with the same degree of fervor.

*"Most professed Christians have no sense of the spiritual strength they might obtain... Many are satisfied to be spiritual dwarfs.... (Thus) many will be lost by hoping and desiring to be Christians."* Ellen White, Counsels to the Church, pg 186

Why are we satisfied with being dwarf's when we could easily be giants?

*"Why should the sons and daughters of God be reluctant to pray, when prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence?"* Ellen White, Steps to Christ, pg 94

## **4 Keys to Spiritual Growth:**

### **Key 1: Prioritise your daily time with God**

Good things can be the enemy of the Best Thing! We should seek to prioritise God back into our lives. Notice the promise that is made to those that dare to make God a priority:

*"Minor matters occupy the attention and the divine power which is necessary for the growth and prosperity of the church and which would bring all other blessings in its train is lacking, though offered in plenitude."* Ellen White, Testimonies to the Church, Volume 8, pg 21

It doesn't make sense to have such a rich resource at our disposal and not use it.

*"The darkness of the evil one encloses those who neglect to pray. The whispered temptations of the enemy entice them to sin; and it is all because they do not make use of the privilege God has given them in the divine appointment of prayer."* Ellen White, Steps to Christ, pg 94

### **Key 2: Remove Form/Faking/Breaches**

*"It is a solemn statement that I make to the church that no one in twenty whose names are registered upon the church books are prepared to close their earthly history, and would be as verily without God and without hope in the world as the common sinner."* Ellen White, Christian Service, pg 41

It is true that things are not as God would want them to be in the church. We often get caught up in forms, faking our way through life, rather than truly walking with God. Notice this startling commentary on what a fake religion looks like:

- 2 Timothy 3:1-5

We might fool others, but what does God see?

- Isaiah 64:6 - He sees us for the broken vessels that we really are!
- 1 Samuel 16:7 - He sees the heart!

A breach is a hole in the wall.

- 2 Corinthians 13:5 - We should examine ourselves for spiritual breaches in your experience.

### **Key 3: ASK, and keep asking**

We should also dare to keep on asking until the time is right for God to give!

- Matthew 15:21-28 - The faith of a Canaanite woman
- John 11:1-44 - Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead

*"There is no danger that the Lord will neglect the prayers of His people. The danger is that in temptation and trial they will become discouraged, and fail to persevere in prayer."* Ellen White, Christ Objective Lessons, pg 175

### **Key 4: Yield to faith in God's word**

Romans 10:17 "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

*"Talk and act as if your faith was invincible. The Lord is rich in resources; He owns the world. Look heavenward in faith."* Ellen White, Christ Object Lessons, pg 147

### **Conclusion:**

As we close let's remember a couple of the promises about God's willingness that we can hold onto.

- Ephesians 3:20,21 - God has promised to exceed our expectations.
- Jeremiah 33:3 - God says 'call to me - I will answer you!'

**Key 1: P** – PRIORITISE your daily time with God

**Key 2: R** – REMOVE Form/Faking/Breaches

**Key 3: A** – ASK and keep asking

**Key 4: Y** – YIELD in faith to God's word

Let's dare to ask for more in our Spiritual experience this week!