

AS THOUGH HE NEEDED ANYTHING

Acts 17:22-25 [22] Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. [23] For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. [24] God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; [25] Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

- Verse 21 tells us that the Athenians spent all their time here at Mars' hill discussing the latest ideas. They felt like they had religion all figured out, until Paul tells them that God doesn't need their altars or devotions, because He has no needs!
- Have you ever heard this little poem? It's a beautiful thought, but it's bad theology!

Christ has no hands but our hands to do his work today;
He has no feet but our feet to lead men in His way.
He has no tongue but our tongues to tell men how He died;
He has no help but our help to bring them to His side.
- The plain fact is that God doesn't need anything from us! He didn't need anyone to create Him, for He always existed. Nor does He need anyone to sustain Him. He's self-existent and self-sufficient.
- **Psalm 50:12** If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof.
- God doesn't need anything or anyone. In fact, if God felt He had to create human beings for company because He was lonely, or for worship because He needed His ego stroked, that would mean God was incomplete by Himself. He wasn't, and He isn't. No, God doesn't need anything, including us. However, the good news is that though God doesn't need a relationship with us, He wants to have one!
- Our love for each other is partly based on need. We need to love and be loved, both by God and by others. Not so with God: He doesn't love out of need. He loves out of pure choice! He doesn't need us, but He has chosen to want a relationship with us. He doesn't need us to accomplish His purposes, but He has chosen to use us.

- God doesn't need our ears, but he can use them.

Psalm 116:2 Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.

Psalm 94:9 He that planted the ear, shall he not hear? he that formed the eye, shall he not see?

- God doesn't need our eyes, but he can use them.

Proverbs 15:3 The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

Psalm 34:15 The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.

- God doesn't need our hands, but he can use them.

Isaiah 40:12 Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?

Isaiah 48:13 Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together.

- God doesn't need our feet, but he can use them.

Psalm 99:5 Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship at his footstool; for he is holy.

Isaiah 66:1 Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?

(with feet that big, God still crushes Satan under our feet!)

Romans 16:20 And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

- God doesn't need our mouths, but he can use them.

Isaiah 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

- God is sovereign. He doesn't NEED our worship or our prayer, but He will USE it – if we will give it to Him!

James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Isaiah 45:11 Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me.

Ezekiel 22:30 And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

- GOD doesn't need to hear us pray – WE need to hear us pray! Your ears need to hear your mouth worship and pray to the Lord!

Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

2 Chronicles 5:13 It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the Lord, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the Lord;

- Have you ever had your kids remind you of something you promised because it was important to them? God WANTS to be reminded!

1. Remind God of His promises.

- Jacob was afraid when returning to Jabbok to meet Esau. He reminded God of His promise.

Genesis 32:12 And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good, and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.

- He prayed, "Lord, remember what You said?" This is one of the best ways to get your prayers answered. Get a Scripture in the Bible where God makes a promise, and take it to God. Say, "God, look at this! You promised!"

2 Samuel 7:25 And now, O LORD God, the word that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant, and concerning his house, establish it for ever, and do as thou hast said.

- God's promises are a cheque that you have a right to cash! Get a promise from the Bible, come to God in prayer and claim it.

2. Remind God of His reputation.

- On Mount Carmel, Elijah prayed, "God, Your reputation is at stake – show Yourself to us!"

1 Kings 18:36-37 And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.

- Because of Israel's rebellion, God was not going to go with them to the Promised Land. Moses said, "God, I am not going unless You go with me." Because He insisted, God finally relented and told Moses what to do so that Israel could repent. Moses didn't pray a big formal prayer, he simply told God what he wanted.

Exodus 33:11 And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.

- Moses reminded God of His reputation, and that won his case! "God, what will the heathen think if Israel dies out here in the wilderness? You led them out – You have to lead them in!"
- Hezekiah spread the threatening letter from Sennacherib before the Lord. "God, if these heathen win this battle, they will think You are not the true God. Your reputation is at stake!"

2 Kings 19:19 Now therefore, O LORD our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD God, even thou only.

3. Remind God of His record.

- Remind God of His record. "God, You started this – I'm just calling on You to finish what You started!"

Psalms 27:9 Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.

Numbers 14:13 And Moses said unto the LORD, Then the Egyptians shall hear it, (for thou broughtest up this people in thy might from among them;)

- Why did Israel always pray to "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?" They were reminding God of His record! Remind God of what He has done in the past!