



“YOU GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT.”

– LUKE 9:13

Cooperating with God

3RD SUNDAY OF EPEP

Introduction

“So they departed and went through the towns, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.”
(Lk. 9:6)

There is a correlation between teaching and experience

God creates us with freedom to believe and to act

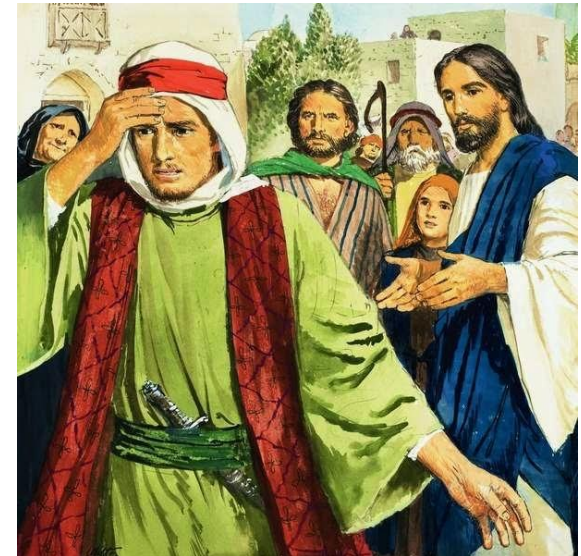
Our cooperation with God is necessary for:

- Healing
- Nourishment
- Resurrection

Things that God does without our cooperation

1. Loves us unconditionally

- **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...”** (Jn. 3:16)
- **“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”** (Rom. 5:8)
- EX: Rich Young Ruler
- **Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.”** (Mk. 10:21)



Things that God does without our cooperation

2. Shows us mercy

- EX: Abraham
- EX: Woman caught in adultery
 - **He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?” (Jn. 8:10)**



Things that God does without our cooperation

3. Warns us

EX: Pharaoh

4. Knocks on the door of our hearts

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”
(Rev. 3:20)



What does God want to give us, but requires our cooperation?

1. Forgiveness of sins

- **“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” (Matt. 6:14-15)**

2. Righteousness/virtue

- **“...but whoever does and teaches them [the commandments of God], he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt. 5:19-20)**

What does God want to give us, but requires our cooperation?

3. Change in your life

“Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt. 18:3)

4. Privilege and crown of service

**“The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: 2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly...and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.”
(1 Pet. 5:1-2,4)**

What does God want to give us,
but requires our cooperation?

5. Salvation

“...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.” (Phil. 2:12)