

“Jumping Through Hoops”



By Mrs. Sojourner

Do you know someone who is constantly on the run, always doing something but never seeming to finish or excel at anything? They may even say they are doing all they do for God. They are not quite sure what he wants but they will keep jumping through hoops hoping one of them is the right hoop that will get them into heaven.

If you ask them if good works gets a person into heaven they will tell you no, but Jesus tells us “**Ye shall know them by their fruits...**”^[a] Often the person who is desperately doing good works is trying to earn a spot in heaven. They have yet to understand the true meaning of grace.

Please hear me. I am not saying that we Believers should not do good works—we should! We just need to make sure that the good works we do are thank offerings to God for what he’s done for us.

Something else to always keep in mind: we do not need to stick out our necks and do extraordinary or extravagant things to impress God. The best way to “impress” God is to obey him.^[b]

Notes:

Mt. 7:16
KJV

John
14:15-
24,
John
15:10,
1 John
5:3

The more we stay in the Word and listen to the Holy Spirit’s voice we will find that he may ask us to do seemingly extraordinary things. It may even seem like he wants us to jump through those proverbial hoops. The difference is that when we do something extraordinary out of obedience we do it in God’s strength and his name is glorified, not ours. We will also have the grace and peace to do this without the pain and stress of doing it ourselves.

Over and over I have heard and experienced testimonies of how God worked mightily as we obeyed him and the outcome was beyond our wildest dreams. All we need to do is obey and allow his Spirit to work mightily through us. Please do not jump through hoops to earn salvation, just jump through hoops to obey.

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...with The Sojourner

“In The Flow” (Teaching Sketch)

Philippians 2:12-18 (NIV)



People continually ask me how they can have a consistent flow of God in their lives. This is perhaps a question you have pondered as well. As a matter of fact, I doubt if there is a spiritually sensitive person who has been or is currently on the planet who has not thought of this matter at some time.

The question might be better seen regarding the subject as — Does God have a consistent flow of you in his ways and will? Being in the flow with God requires that we are consistent, not that God be consistent. God is in fact consistent. God’s flow is always flowing. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.^[a] You see if we will come close to God, God will come close to us! If we will cleanse our hands in the blood of Christ and purify our hearts through Christ and give up our double-minded ways, then we will be in the flow of God!^[b] The Apostle James

Notes:

[a]
Hebrews
13:8

[b]
James 4:8

[c]
James 1:8

[d]
Matthew
6:8

9-32

tells us a double-minded person is unstable in all their ways.^[c]

Flowing With God

Flowing with God is exactly that, flowing with him! We have often spent so much thought on getting God to work with and for us, which is the reverse of the way it needs to be! God knows what we have need of even before we ask; Jesus makes this very clear.^[d] Yet we often come from a fear-based thought that we must help God out by reminding him of our perceived needs. I say perceived needs because I have found many times over the last 60 plus years that God had planned to meet needs I had which I had not perceived but were very real needs which needed to be met. Employees miss getting promoted because they are just there for the pay; looking out for themselves first. They murmur against their employers as if the employers’ purpose was to provide them a job rather than

Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

Scripture: Philippians 2:12-18 (NIV)

(NIV is employed here to allow English speakers around the world equal understanding of the words used)

¹²Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

¹⁴Do everything without complaining or arguing, ¹⁵so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and

Notes: depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe ¹⁶as you hold out^[a] the word of life—in order that I may boast on the day of

Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. ¹⁷But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. ¹⁸So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

“Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life...”

Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship** ([Offerings are placed in the basket at this time.](#))
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during “Praise & Worship” (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

“In The Flow” (Teaching Sketch)

Philippians 2:12-18 (NIV)



deliver a product or service to a customer. Many relate to God in the same fashion, “God flow with me and my plan.” God will flow with us within his way—his Kingdom’s flow.

Notes:

[e]
Philippians
2:20-21

[f]
Mark
16:17-18

God’s desire is to flow through us. We must come into his flow, his plan, to allow his work in and through us. Just as I stated earlier, “God’s flow is always flowing.” It we who must not be a “Dead Sea,” always taking in but never allowing what we have received to pass through us. This is due to the world having corrupted us with a fear of lack. We must stop holding on to the shore of the stream, but launch out into God’s flow and his flow will remain in us as it passes through us. Doesn’t make much sense to one who does not believe. Jesus told the eleven just before he was received up into heaven, “And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.”^[f] When a person is healed through the believer there is not less healing ability because there is no lack in Christ’s Kingdom because there is a continual flow from the Throne of God!

God Flowing With Us

Paul, speaks of Timothy as being sent to the the Philippians because there is “no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.”^[e] The key to the power of Christ flowing with a believer is like Paul sending Timothy! Timothy took a genuine interest in the things of God first before his own personal things. God flows with us as long as we are in his will—his flow! I notice, as a young lad growing up next to a large river, if a person wanted to go where the river was going, it was necessary to get out into the flow, not to stay near the river bank. If I wanted in the flow it was needful to commit to going out into the deepest part—the middle of the flow. There is a spiritual lesson here as well.

God Flowing Through Us