

Seven Things That Limit God

Donald Mann

The only limitations are those we assign. God has said: Mark 9:23 “Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.” John 16:23 “And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. 24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.” No matter how you cut it, these two scriptures are open tickets with God. Note: the Greek word, aiteo, translated “ask” is better translated: demand or confident expectation as due by the covenant promises of God.

Christians who get into Law do not trust God; they trust their own actions and are driven by their senses and not by the unseen things of God in His word. This puts them out of the Spirit and into the mind of the flesh which produces condemnation where they do not trust God in the face of evil circumstances because they “know” they are guilty before Him—they forget their former purging (if they ever knew it). Rom 8:4 “That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh (*circumstances, feelings, vain thoughts, fears, worry, etc.*), but after the Spirit (*Word of God-New Testament realities*). 5 For they that are after the flesh (*circumstances, feelings, vain thoughts, fears, worry, etc.*) do mind the things of the flesh (*circumstances, feelings, vain thoughts, fears, worry, etc.*); but they that are after the Spirit (*Word of God-New Testament realities*) the things of the Spirit (*Word of God-New Testament realities*). 6 For to be carnally minded (*set on circumstances, feelings, vain thoughts, fears, worry, etc as Lord and not Jesus by the agape-love of God.*) is death; but to be spiritually minded (*Word of God-New Testament realities*) is zoe-life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind (*set on circumstances, feelings, vain thoughts, fears, worry, etc. so they are lord over your life*) is enmity-war against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8 So then they that are in the flesh (*circumstances, feelings, vain thoughts, fears, worry, etc.*) cannot please God. 9 But ye are not in the flesh (*circumstances, feelings, vain thoughts, fears, worry, etc.*), but in the Spirit (*Word of God-New Testament realities*), if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”

And again: Gal 5:16 “This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. 18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.”

The word of righteousness to them means works and not that we are made righteous by faith in the blood of Jesus. The end result is they limit God. Ps 78:40 “How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert! 41 Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel. 42 They remembered not his hand, nor the day when he delivered them from the enemy.”

This is the same message of 2 Peter 1 where verse 9 explains how we stop growing in Christ: 2 Peter 1:9 “But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.” This means you are more aware of your sins and circumstances than your redemption in Jesus and your salvation by grace in the agape-love of God, so you are left with what you can do to get yourself “saved.”

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In this condition we see the immediate problem before us as king and cannot see God for our answer. Instead we are filled with voices and “feeling” of separation, fear, loss and powerlessness. All these are tools of the tempter. To make it even worse we then assign our own attitudes to God and anyone else who represents Him. As an example, sickness tends to make people very self-centered and they cannot understand why everyone is not helping them. They often look for sympathy or some other form of confirmation in their misery. All of this is not giving and blessing but asking and taking. Thus the nature of sickness cannot be of God.

This is why the murmuring, complaining and faithless Israelites continually challenged Moses and Aaron. God calls all of this “drawing back.” Heb 10:38 “Now the just shall zao-live by faith: but if any man draw back (*from the life of faith in believing God for things you cannot see right now*), my soul shall have no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe (*have faith, confidence and courage in God to overcome in the face of evil circumstances by His promises*) to the sozo-saving of the soul.” The un-renewed mind of your soul will draw you to the physical sense world and the power of the evil circumstances in “the valley of the shadow of death.” Your born-again, right thinking, sound-minded spirit will go to the promises of God in His word and for you to encourage or delight yourself in His strength, “in His rod and His staff of comfort, encouragement and supernatural ability” and not at the terror of your evil circumstances.

Our answer is the word of God made flesh in us. We are told at least seven things limit the word of God in us. That is to fall from faith and the power of God thus making the word of God of no effect or benefit of bringing heaven to earth. These seven things are:

- (1) The gospel of works
- (2) Ignorance and lack of love for God’s word
- (3) The evil traditions of men
- (4) Not mixing the word with faith which God calls unbelief, a hard heart, and eyes that do not see and ears that do not hear
- (5) Getting our eyes off our former purging and looking at the world’s pleasures
- (6) Ever learning and not coming to the full knowledge of the truth
- (7) Being of two minds or double-minded

All of these make the word of God of no effect in obtaining the blessings of God He has provided in Jesus Christ either for this life, or for some, in eternity.

Master these seven and the word will become alive in you as it did in Jesus.

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