

April 25, 2021

Ps. 24:9-10, “Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is He, this King of glory? The Lord Almighty—He is the King of glory.”

This passage is an invitation from the people to their God. They are saying, in essence, that they desire the presence of the LORD to be in their midst. I wonder if we truly desire the presence of the LORD to be in our midst. I wonder if He was, wouldn't it make a transforming difference in our lives; in our churches; in our nation? Or do we desire God's blessings and not His Lordship?

While I was attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, I picked up a book by **Chuck Swindoll** entitled "*Improving Your Serve*." This book made several statements about not only knowing Who God is, but also knowing Him in a personal way; as LORD. There was a story he shared in this section, about a man who just wanted a little bit of God, 3 dollars' worth: "*I would like to buy \$3 worth of God, please, not enough to explode my soul or disturb my sleep, but just enough to equal a warm cup of milk, or a snooze in the sunshine. I don't want enough of Him to make me love a black man or pick beets with a migrant. I want ecstasy, not transformation; I want the warmth of the womb, not a new birth. I want a pound of the Eternal in a paper sack. I would like to buy \$3 worth of God, please.*" He then goes on: "*That's it. Our inner 'self' doesn't want to dump God entirely, just keep Him at a comfortable distance. Three dollars of Him is sufficient. A sack full, nothing more. Just enough to keep my guilt level below the threshold of pain, just enough to guarantee escape from eternal flames. But certainly not enough to make me nervous...to start pushing around my prejudices or nit-picking at my lifestyle. Enough is enough!*" **Chuck Swindoll - "Improving Your Serve"**

I think this characterizes many who claim the name of Jesus, but don't follow Him as Lord. Is that possible? Unfortunately, yes it is. Many in that day will say, LORD, LORD, didn't we do these things in your name? Heed the words of the prophet **Isaiah 55:6-7**, "*Seek the Lord while He may be found; call on Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and He will have mercy on them, and to our God, for He will freely pardon.*"

Oh LORD, please forgive us for wanting part of You, but not all of You. We need Your presence in our lives. We need Your Lordship in our practice. We need Your power in our prayers. Oh LORD, please do Your work in us. In Jesus Name, Amen