



Life Changing Words From God Week #4 Pray

Jim Hoffman

So Far

- **Week #1** *Love*
- **Week #2** *Maranatha*
- **Week #3** *Persevere*

- "How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent word! What more can he say than to you he hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
- "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, for I am thy God and will still give thee aid; I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.
- "When through deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow; for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.
- "When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie, my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply; the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

Prayer

Hebrew and Greek Words

- **OT:8605 tephillah (tef-il-law')**; from **OT:6419**; **intercession, supplication**; by implication, **a hymn**:
- **NT:4335 proseuche, (pros-yoo-khay')**; from **NT:4336**; prayer (**worship**); by implication, **an oratory** (chapel): **KJV - pray earnestly, prayer.**
- **NT:4336 proseuchomai, (pros-yoo'-khom-ahee)**; from **NT:4314** and **NT:2172**; to pray to God, i.e. **supplicate, worship**: (Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, 2003 Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc.)

Pray

- I think it is fair to say that, at it's core, *prayer is communication with God.*
- Since it is communication we are free to *make requests, express needs and feelings, or just simply talk to God.*
- If prayer is communication, does it make sense then that we build some true 'quiet time' into our prayer time solely for the purpose of *listening to God?*

Pray

- **Jesus had some words of caution about prayer before he gave them instructions for praying.**
 - **Don't fake it! Math 6:5 (street corner)**
 - **Personalize it. Math 6:6 (closet)**
 - **Be more like Elijah and less like the prophets of Baal. Math 6:7 (Eccl 5:2b ... God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few.)**

Pray is simple, yet so complex.

Sometimes prayer is as simple as a transaction between a two year old and his father and at other times it as complex as anything known to man. I love it when it's simple, but I grow when it's complexities go beyond my understanding...Jim Hoffman

Pray is simple, yet so complex.

- **How is it that some of my weakest prayers get some of His strongest answers.**
- **Conversely, why is it that sometimes my strongest prayers, seem to get either a ‘no’, or a ‘not yet’ reply?**
- **Why is it that God is so unpredictable in this matter of answering ‘yes’ to our prayers?**

Pray is simple, yet so complex.

- **We read ‘if you ask anything in my name I will do it’, but what did Jesus mean?**
- **I know it’s His will to save and I know that I have asked (at times at least) with a pure heart and right motives, yet many of the lost are still lost.**
- **It seems that there are some things that He will not change even when it’s His will. I have never seen Him override the will of person in order to save their soul.**
- **I asked in His name, it was His will, but the lost are still lost.**

When God Says 'No'

- **Luke 11:9** "And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will be given what you ask for. Keep on looking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened. **10** For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And the door is opened to everyone who knocks. NLT
- **James 4:2b** And yet the reason you don't have what you want is that you don't ask God for it. **3** And even when you do ask, you don't get it because your whole motive is wrong — you want only what will give you pleasure. NLT

When God Says 'No'

- **Sometimes we do not ask.**
- **Sometimes we wouldn't want a 'yes' if we knew what it would cause.**
- **Sometimes it's our sin.**
- **Sometimes we ask for the wrong things.**

Praying in Jesus name.

- **John 14:13-14 You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, because the work of the Son brings glory to the Father. 14 Yes, ask anything in my name, and I will do it! NLT**
- **This of course, begs the question of “how do I pray in Jesus’ name?”**
- **I am certain of (2) things in this regard It is more than words I tack on to the end of a prayer and less than a lengthy prescription.**

Praying in Jesus name.

- To pray in Jesus' name is to pray for the things that He would pray for and for the same reason he would pray for them.
- **John 15:7-8** If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. NKJV
- **Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart. (Psalm 37:4)**

Praying in Jesus name.

- **Praying with a pure heart.**
- **Praying for the things that glorify God.**
- **Praying with confidence.**
- **Praying with a knowledge of what Jesus wants because we have been close to Him.**

Faith and Prayer

- **There is very definite link between faith and prayer (believing what you have not seen)**
- **Mark 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, All things whatsoever ye pray and ask for, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.**
- **There is ample scriptural evidence that God responds to faith. (Heb 11:6; Without faith it is impossible to please God.....)**
- **However, I do not believe that we have blank check that is cashed for anything that we want if we just have enough faith.**

Faith and Prayer

- Perhaps the most important thing about prayer and faith is the answer to this question *How much do I trust Him when the answer is no?*
- Job said ‘though He slay me, yet will I trust Him’ (Job 13:15)
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are also examples of trust in a God who knows best. (we are asking God to protect us, but if he doesn’t that’s OK too)

Faith In What?

- **You meet all kinds of people who say that they have faith. In fact, they do have faith. (faith in themselves, their doctors, their president, etc)**
- **Some people have faith in their faith, but is that what the Bible instructs us to have?**
- **Faith, according to Hebrews is believing what you haven't seen, but it is not believing the unbelievable.**

Faith In What?

- **John 20:27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." NKJV**
- **Jesus did not ask Thomas to believe without a basis for his faith.**
- **Real faith rests in believing God for what He has promised to do, or for what He has demonstrated that He will do.**

Faith In What?

- **God has promised to never leave or forsake us, He has promised to walk with us through the valley of the shadow of death, and he has promised to forgive us.**
 - **When I trust God for these I am on the solidest of all ground. These are ‘take it to the bank’ locks for us.**
- **God is able to feed us, clothe us, heal us, and keep us from harm.**
 - **When I trust God for these I am on very solid ground because He has demonstrated a willingness to do such things for His children.**

When in doubt, ask.

- **My concern at this point is that I have put enough restrictions on what God may answer that you may be inclined to throw up your hands and say ‘I am not sure if this fits either category’.**
- **Ask anyway.**

How Much Faith Is Enough?

- **We live in a day where some believe that you can have anything you want if you just have enough faith.**
- **It's almost as though faith were currency that if built up enough can be traded for anything you want or need.**
- **Is God really a commodities broker?**

How Much Faith Is Enough?

- **Matt 17:20** So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.
NKJV
- **According to Jesus, a little faith in the right person is all that we need to accomplish great things.**
- **Faith cannot be measured by itself, it must be measured by it's object.**

How Much Faith Is Enough?

- **I can have great faith in myself, but if I am the object of my faith then God help me!**
- **It's when I have faith in a great God that I am in a position to receive.**
- **God responds to our faith At least 5 times in the gospels Jesus says words like 'your faith has made you well', but I have to believe that He was referring to their faith in Him and not just faith for faith's sake.**

Ask big, take risks ...

Mark 2:4 And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. 5) When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." NKJV

Faith Does Work!

- *Heb 11:32 Well, how much more do I need to say? It would take too long to recount the stories of the faith of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and all the prophets. 33 By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword. Their weakness was turned to strength. They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight. 35 Women received their loved ones back again from death. NLT*

And it works even when it
doesn't look like it works!

- *Heb 11:35 But others trusted God and were tortured, preferring to die rather than turn from God and be free. They placed their hope in the resurrection to a better life. 36 Some were mocked, and their backs were cut open with whips. Others were chained in dungeons. 37 Some died by stoning, and some were sawed in half; others were killed with the sword. Some went about in skins of sheep and goats, hungry and oppressed and mistreated. 38 They were too good for this world. They wandered over deserts and mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground.*

NLT

Faith always prevails

- **Heb 11:39 All of these people we have mentioned received God's approval because of their faith, NLT**
- **Some triumphed in this life and others triumphed on their way out of this life, and the common thread is their faith.**
- **In the spiritual realm sometimes winners and losers cannot be identified by the natural eye. (Lazarus and the rich man of Luke 16)**

Can we identify with?

- **Mark 9:23-24** Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."
Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief !"
- **We should not try to hide our doubt from the Lord, but confess it and ask for His help.**
- **Believing prayer is not gritting our teeth and trying to suppress our doubts; Believing prayer comes when we compare the problem to the Problem Solver.**

Why Pray?

- **Jer 33:3' Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.' NKJV**
 - **We see the power of God.**
 - **We learn things we did not know.**
 - **We understand that He is the God who hears.**

Why Pray?

- **Matt 26:41 Watch and pray , lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."** NKJV
 - **We are easy prey for the enemy's traps.**
 - **We are weak, but He is strong.**

Why Pray?

- **Luke 10:2-3 Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.
NKJV**
 - **Somehow we help to move the hand of God in winning souls.**
 - **Clearly here we are assigned some sort of responsibility.**

Why Pray?

- **2 Cor 13:9 We are glad to seem weak if it helps show that you are actually strong. We pray that you will become mature.**
 - **It seems that we have responsibility to pray for the spiritual growth of others.**
 - **It is also good (and powerful) to let others know that we have expectations for them and that we are praying for them.**

Why Pray?

- **James 5:16 The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. NKJV**
 - **Prayer works.**
 - **Prayer enlists divine help.**

Questions

