



New Testament Prayer

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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*

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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*

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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.*

We know that He can, but must we believe that He will?

- ◆ *This question has been considered for ages, but I wonder if it is relevant at all.*
- ◆ *If I believe that He can, and trust Him enough to give what is best, does it get any better than that?*
- ◆ *Is it not a great faith that says 'God I want to be healed, but if you choose not to, then I welcome that even more because that is your will'?*
- ◆ *I think the answer to the question is 'no' we don't have to believe that He will say 'yes' because sometimes yes would be bad for us.*

Summary

- ◆ Faith in what?
- ◆ How much faith is enough?
- ◆ Faith works whether it looks like it does or not.
- ◆ Help my unbelief.
- ◆ He can, but will He?

Questions / Comments?

