

Prayer and Faith

When Faith Meets God's Generosity

James 1:5-8 (NASB95) But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

The keys to answered prayer

I. Faith must be involved

James 1:5-8 (NASB95) ...let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting...

****Mark 9:23 (NLT)** "What do you mean, 'If I can'?" Jesus asked. "Anything is possible if a person believes."

Mark 11:23 (NASB95) "Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him. "Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you."

Matthew 7:7 (NASB95) "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV) But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Determination indicates belief!

***Luke 18:1 (NLT)** One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up.

II. Believe in and know the loving Character of God

James 1:5-8 (NASB95) ... let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and **without reproach**

Reproach: express to (someone) one's disapproval of or disappointment in their actions; expecting the answer, "no."

Jeremiah 9:23-24 (TLB) Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches; **Let them boast in this alone: That they truly know Me, and understand that I am the Lord** of justice and of righteousness whose love is steadfast; and that I love to be this way."

Matthew 7:11 (NASB95) "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!"

Isaiah 63:7 (NKJV) I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD And the praises of the LORD, According to all that the LORD has bestowed on us, And the great goodness toward the house of Israel, Which He has bestowed on them according to His mercies, According to the multitude of His lovingkindnesses.

Romans 8:32 (NKJV) He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

III. Humble Obedience

1 John 3:21 (NASB95) Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

Psalms 84:11 (NKJV) For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly.

Matthew 6:33 (NLT) Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

We can get caught up in the thought process, "I messed up today God is not going to hear my Prayer."

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James 5:16 (NLT) Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

Righteous: 1465 δίκαιος (*dikaios*); **righteous**, just, upright, *i.e.*, being in accordance with God's compelling standards

1 John 3:6 (NKJV) Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.

Hebrews 2:18 (NLT) Since He himself has gone through suffering and testing, He is able to help us when we are being tested.

Hebrews 4:14-16 (NKJV) Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Matthew 5:3 (NLT) "God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for Him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

Mark 11:25 (NKJV) "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."

Matthew 5:6 (NKJV) Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.