

**I. FAITH FOR SPIRITUAL PRACTICES**

**A. Opening Scripture**

**1. Malachi 3:13–18**

**NKJV** “‘Your words have been harsh against Me’, Says the Lord, ‘Yet you say, “What have we spoken against You?” You have said, “It is useless to serve God; What profit *is it* that we have kept His ordinance, And that we have walked as mourners Before the Lord of hosts? So now we call the proud blessed, For those who do wickedness are raised up; They even tempt God and go free.”’ Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, And the Lord listened and heard *them*; So a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the Lord And who meditate on His name. ‘They shall be Mine,’ says the Lord of hosts, ‘On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them As a man spares his own son who serves him. Then you shall again discern Between the righteous and the wicked, Between one who serves God And one who does not serve Him.’”

a. They believed that:

- Obedience was empty
- Worship was unproductive
- Giving was ineffective
- Faithfulness was unnoticed

b. But God responded by saying He was listening, recording, remembering, and distinguishing those who feared Him.

**B. No Spiritual Pursuit Escapes Notice**

**1. God recognizes every sincere pursuit of Him:**

- a. Prayer
- b. Praise
- c. Offering
- d. Obedience
- e. Service
- f. Worship
- g. Sacrifice

2. Cornelius: A man whose pursuits reached heaven.
  - a. **Acts 10:1-4**

NKJV “There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, a devout *man* and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, ‘Cornelius!’ And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, ‘What is it, lord?’ So he said to him, ‘Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God.’”
  - b. **Acts 10:4**

TPT “All your prayers and generosity... have ascended before God as an eternal offering.”
  - c. Heaven receives and holds prayer.

**C. Have Faith That Your Prayers Are Working**

1. Scriptures to consider:
  - a. **Proverbs 15:29**

NKJV “The Lord is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous.”
  - b. **Isaiah 65:24**

NKJV “It shall come to pass That before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear.”
  - c. **1 John 5:14-15**

NKJV “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”
  - d. **Mark 11:24**

NKJV “Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.”
  - e. **Psalms 17:6**

NKJV “I have called upon You, for You will hear me, O God; Incline Your ear to me, and hear my speech.”

- f. **Psalm 17:6**  
TPT “I call to you, God, for I know you will answer me. Turn your ear to me and listen to my words.”
  - g. **1 Peter 3:12**  
NKJV “For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”
2. Elijah’s prayer:
- a. **James 5:16-18**  
NKJV “Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. **The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.** Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.”  
  
TPT “For tremendous power is released through the passionate, heartfelt prayer of a godly believer.”
  - b. Energized Prayer / The Intensity of the Prayer
  - c. When Elijah prayed, he knew something was going to happen. He expected results. He had faith in the practice of prayer!
3. Our prayers are so important to God that they are stored in heaven.
- a. **Revelation 5:8**  
NKJV “Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and **golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.**”
  - b. **Revelation 8:3–4**  
NKJV “Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer *it* with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel’s hand.”

- c. Prayers are shown as **ascending before God and carried into His presence through heavenly activity.**

#### D. Other Spiritual Practices

##### 1. Meditation

###### a. **Joshua 1:8**

**NKJV** "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."

##### 2. Confession

###### a. **Proverbs 18:21**

**NKJV** "Death and life are in the power of the tongue..."

###### b. **2 Corinthians 4:13**

**NKJV** "And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, 'I believed and therefore I spoke,' we also believe and therefore speak."

###### c. **Revelation 12:11**

**NKJV** "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death."

##### 3. Praise

- a. No praise escapes Him.

##### 4. Church Attendance

###### a. **Psalms 92:13**

**NKJV** "Those who are planted in the house of the LORD Shall flourish in the courts of our God."

**CEV** "They will take root in your house, LORD God, and they will do well"

- b. The Hebrew word translated "flourish" here is **parach**, which means: To blossom; To bud forth; To sprout; To break out and grow; To thrive abundantly.

5. Giving:

a. **Luke 6:38**

**NKJV** “Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

II. **Closing Statement**

- No initiative that we take ever goes unnoticed.
- By faith, my prayer, praise, confession, and giving is all working for my good!