

# Dealing With Doubts

*But without faith it is impossible to please him:  
for he that cometh to God must believe that he is,  
and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. – Hebrews 11:6*

*11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace,  
and not of evil, to give you an expected end. 12 Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall  
go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. 13 And ye shall seek me, and find me,  
when ye shall search for me with all your heart. – Jer 29:11-13*

<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Walking With Jesus</i></u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should <u>follow in his steps</u>. – I Peter 2:21</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The Walk - True Discipleship</li><li>2. How to be Born Again</li><li>3. How to Have Assurance</li><li>4. How to Be Happy</li><li>5. How to Pray</li><li>6. How to Read the Bible</li><li>7. How to Deal with Sin</li><li>8. How to Deal w/Temptation</li><li>9. <u>How to Deal w/Doubts</u></li><li>10. How to Make Jesus Lord</li><li>11. How to Obey God</li><li>12. How to Serve God</li></ol>
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There are several Christian Classics that are very helpful in maturing as a Christian.

*The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life* by Hannah Whitehall Smith  
*Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan

*Doubt is the belief, suspicion, or fear  
that God does not hear, care, or answer prayer.*

## **I. Doubts About The Savior** (*Prayer Doubts*)

*Corporate Doubt - God's Good Purposes*

Jeremiah 29:11 Future and Bright Hope

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Hebrews 11:6 - Believe that God is... He rewards those who diligently seek him.

Doubt is = Belief or suspicion that prayer is useless, unproductive, and unimportant

Matt 16:18 Gates of hell will not prevail against

Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Isaiah 54:2 Strengthen Cords, lengthen stakes

Isaiah 54:2 Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; 3 For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited.

## **II. Doubts About Self** (*Personal Doubts*)

These are really doubts about personal worth / Self-worth and personal value.

*"Are you not much better than they?" – Matthew 6:26*

1. Inferiority - I am not worthy, worth-less
2. Inadequacy - I can't
3. Impossibility - It's impossible

(ie) Elder: I have no trouble believing God can. I struggle with "Will God do it for me?"

Philippians 4:13, 19 *"I can do... God can supply."*

## **III. Doubts About Success** (*Promise Doubts*)

*These are really doubts about God, and God's faithfulness.*

It is questions about God's promises.

(ie) Edison - light bulb experiments and failures

(ie) Lincoln - attempts at success

Jeremiah 29:11 His Purposes

Deut 28:1-14 My Blessings and Curses

Joshua 1:8 Make your way prosperous, have good success

Psalms 1:2 Whatever he does will prosper.

## How to Experience Faith

### *Believing Prayer*

Trust Him As Your Savior - be restored to a right relationship

Trust Him As Your Friend -

Trust Him As Your Provider -

### **1. Be Very Specific**

Matthew 20:30-34 Two blind men approach Jesus with shouts. Jesus asks, "What do you want me to do for you."

Matthew 18:19 Teaches us to agree together with 2-3 people "as touching any thing" then ask and it will be done.

### **2. Be Persistent Daily**

James 1:7-8 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavers is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.

Luke 11:8-13 Jesus teaches us to be persistent before God with our needs. That is, we are to be urgent about it.

Prayer is "dominant desire." What do you really want God to do? What do you long for?

### **3. Be Absolutely Convinced (Believe)**

Mark 5:36 When a ruler of the synagogue came to Jesus for his daughter the news was that she was already dead. But Jesus said, "*Be not afraid. Only believe.*" Can you believe God when it appears all is lost?

Mark 9:23-24 A man with a demonized epileptic son came to Jesus crying for help. Jesus said, "*If you believe, all things are possible to him that believes.*" The man responded in desperation. "Lord, I believe - help my unbelief!"

## Scriptures

### Deut 28

- 1 ¶ And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe *and* to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:
- 2 And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.
- 3 Blessed *shalt* thou *be* in the city, and blessed *shalt* thou *be* in the field.
- 4 Blessed *shall be* the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.
- 5 Blessed *shall be* thy basket and thy store.
- 6 Blessed *shalt* thou *be* when thou comest in, and blessed *shalt* thou *be* when thou goest out.
- 7 The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.
- 8 The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.
- 9 The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways.
- 10 And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of thee.
- 11 And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers to give thee.
- 12 The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.
- 13 And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do *them*:
- 14 And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, *to* the right hand, or *to* the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

Psalms 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall [prosper](#).

# Believing Prayer

*"But without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that comes to God must believe that He is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Hebrews 11:6*

## **Believing prayer is never surprised.**

The church gathered in the home of John Mark in Acts 12:12 were involved in "believing prayer." Against all odds they prayed on. Even when they did not believe for a miracle they persisted, they prayed on, they prevailed knowing that God Was Able to do better and more than they could ask – He did!

## **The Only Impossibility Is Pleasing God Without Faith**

Prayer is, and always should be, the core of the church. It is the umbilical cord that ties us to the Lord Jesus. Jesus said, "Without me you can do (accomplish) nothing." Paul goes further expounds this truth in Hebrews 11 when he declares that it is virtually impossible to please God without being an on-fire prayer warrior. Listen...

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## **Conditions for Answered Prayer**

To put it another way, without being involved in believing prayer you cannot expect that you can approach God, nor receive any reward from Him. Let's look at the conditions of believing prayer:

### I. Believe that He is...

1. He is Able - Jeremiah 32:17,27
2. He is Sovereign - I Chronicles 29:11
3. He is Still on the Throne - Ephesians 1:18-21
4. He is Listening - Psalm 34:15

### II. Believe he rewards "diligent seekers"

1. He Answers - Isaiah 59:1-2
2. He Does More Than We Ask - Ephesians 3:20
3. He Rewards Us - Luke 11:9-13

## **Are You a “Believer?”**

Hope in the human sense is not faith. It is wishful thinking, or wishful praying, or wishful asking. God is not a wishing well that we should cast our prayer coins at His feet and hope for the best. Wishful praying is not praying in faith. It is not part of Jesus' promise that "when you pray, believe that you shall have..." Jesus meant "know assuredly" that you will have, not wish hard enough and maybe God will hear you.

# Believing Prayer

*“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” – James 5:18 KJV*

*“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective” – James 5:18 NIV*

**Faith is Essential** - Hebrews 11:6 1) Believe He is 2) Believe He rewards those who diligently seek Him.

**Faith is Demonstrable** - Show me your faith. Faith without works (or evidence) is dead. Show your faith and its work. James 2:17-26 How? Be specific, persistent, believe.

**Faith is Tangible** - Anchored on God’s Word believing for something. Faith is always related to the “promises” - the Word of God and the work of God.

## A GUIDE TO BELIEVING PRAYER

### 1. Be Specific

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Mark 11:23 Jesus again challenges his disciples when they saw him wither a fig tree with his words. “*Have faith in God. For I say to you that whoever shall say to this mountain, Be removed and cast into the sea, and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he says shall come to pass, he shall have whatever he says. Therefore whatever things you desire when you pray, believe that you will receive them, and you will have them.*”

## What Are You Asking and Believing God to Do?

Don't pretend you have faith when you really don't believe it is going to happen. That is praying a lie. Exercise real faith in God's goodness and promises. This kind of praying takes more time. One must come boldly to the throne of grace, but carefully and sincerely.

Be specific in the request that you long for, believe God wants, and are willing to persist for.

### **In Your Heart**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

### **In Your Life or Family**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

### **In Your Church and Community**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Take some time to consider your "faith requests." Be sure they are from the heart, not from the top of your head. You must long for them, believe for them, and plead for them. You must be willing to prevail for them, agonize over them, then search and claim God's promises for them. Are you praying according to the will of God? Are you praying for God's purpose, God's kingdom or your own?