

Speaker: Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

Title: Pray, Believing (Part II)

Text: Mark 11:24

(Mark 11:24)

Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

(Mark 11:20-26)

20 Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. 21 And Peter, remembering, said to Him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away.” 22 So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God. 23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. 24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. 25 “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. 26 But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.”

INTRODUCTION: THE CONDITIONS OF PRAYER

- Jesus teaches the power of prayer through faith.
- The dead fig tree caused Peter to remember and be amazed (Mark 11:12-14)

(Mark 11:21)

“And Peter, remembering, said to Him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away.”

(Mark 11:14)

Jesus responded ...”Let no one eat fruit from you ever again.” And His disciples heard

THREE CONDITIONS FOR PRAYERS TO BE ANSWERED:

- FIRST - HAVE FAITH IN GOD WHEN YOU PRAY

(Mark 11:22)

22 So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God.”

- *God is the object of your faith*
- *Faith has no power in itself* – the power comes from God. Faith does not move mountains, God’s power does and when it is manifested, God is worshipped.
 - Disciples in the boat
(Matthew 14:33)
“Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.”
 - Lame man healed
(Acts 3:8-9)
“8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God”
- *The better you know the object of your faith, the stronger is your faith.*

(Matthew 14:28)

“And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.”

○ *Faith must always have a purpose*

- Faith can move mountains
- Prayer based on the knowledge of the Word of God gives you the faith to believe God. It is not the size of your faith, it is knowing God

(Matthew 17:20)

“So Jesus said to them,” ... 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.”

(Matthew 13:31-32) Jesus teaching on the mustard seed

31 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, 32 which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.”

○ *Faith has power for growth and for victory*

- The way to manifest faith is to pray

(Matthew 7:7-8)

“7 Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened”

(Matthew 21:22)

“And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”

- Pray believing:
 - Living diligently before God – abide in Him.
 - Learning and obeying to do, what pleases God – being fruitful.
 - Persevere in prayer.
 - God honors righteous living – God is glorified.

• SECOND - PRAY EXPECTING WHAT YOU HAVE ASKED

(Mark 11:24)

“Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.”

- Expectancy involves all of our being
 - Emotions – to desire
 - Will - to ask
 - Spirit – to believe

(Hebrews 11:1)

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”.

- Faith is not complete without hope. God rewards faith and hope
- God’s response

(Isaiah 65:24)

“It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear

Illustration: Elijah prayed for rain

(1 Kings 18:41-46)

41 Then Elijah said to Ahab, “Go up, eat and drink; for *there is* the sound of abundance of rain.” 42 So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees, 43 and said to his servant, “Go up now, look toward the sea.” So he went up and looked, and said, “*There is* nothing.” And seven times he said, “Go again.” 44 Then it came to pass the seventh *time*, that he said, “There is a cloud, as small as a man’s hand, rising out of the sea!” So he said, “Go up, say to Ahab, ‘Prepare *your chariot*, and go down before the rain stops you.’” 45 Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain. So Ahab rode away and went to Jezreel. 46 Then the hand of the LORD came upon Elijah; and he girded up his loins and ran ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

- THE THIRD: FORGIVE, WHEN YOU PRAY

(Mark 11:25-26)

25 “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. 26 But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.”

Jesus says:

(Matthew 6:14-15)

14 “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

(Luke 6:36-37)

36 Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful. 37 “Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

CONCLUSION

The conditions to “pray, believing”

- Have faith in God
- Expect the answers to your prayers
- Forgive to receive answers to your prayers