



HAVE THE FAITH
OF GOD
When You Pray!

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Have the Faith of God: When You Pray!

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Have the Faith of God: When You Pray!

I. Introduction – Session I – Part 1

In September 2013, after years of waiting for something I “believed” would happen, fell through – again! I am not going to lie to you, I was shaken or should I say very shaken☺! I could not understand “Why?” but I thank God for just wrapping me in His arms, regardless of the fact that I was upset, and let me know He loved me! It amazed me that God still loved me in spite of me being upset; when I thought of how much He loved me, I broke down and begin to cry!! What a loving God!! This incident of God wrapping me in His love reminds me of another incident that happened to me years ago; I was at my lowest point and God reassured me of His love for me!! I felt God’s heart for me as I was going through one of the many abusive moments I have been through. God used my friend to tell me, in such a very compassionate way, that He knew what I was going through but I had to go through it at that time! I did not have a clue at the time why I had to go through it; God just told me I had to go through it! God did not tell me why I had to go through what I went through until 15 years later; He told me I went through the abuse not for myself but to help other abused women – God told me “Heal my women!” Oh, what a loving God we serve!

I repented to God for my behavior; my reaction to the disappointing news. The devil tried to get me to ask God “Why You allowed this when I have been waiting so long?” but thank God the Holy Spirit griped me and caused me to bring that thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ (the Word)! I ask the Holy Spirit to filter my thoughts a lot; not to allow negative thoughts to get through Him no matter what! Yes, I asked “Why” but I asked God in a way to understand not in an accusatory way and because of this, God gave me the answer to my “Why?” and His answer is the reason I am writing this message.

II. What Does It Mean to “Have the Faith of God?”- Session II – Part 2

My friend Ced called me and I begin to tell him about what happen (very emotionally), he shared with me what the Word says about believing! In that instant, the Holy Spirit quicken me with the revelation about the way I had been believing all my life! I was speechless – the only thing I could say was “Oh my God” – that was the only thing that would come out my mouth; I said it over and over☺! God let me knew I had been believing wrong: I had been using **MY** faith (the thought that everything I prayed for would happen regardless of what God wanted) to believe and **NOT** God’s faith – there is a **BIG** difference! Having God’s faith means you believe the way God believe in and for that circumstance and agree with His outcome! When you believe using your faith, you believe for the outcome you want, regardless of what God want or the consequences that can come with that thing; you don’t even consider what God want!

I immediately begin to search out “What does having God’s faith mean?” This teaching is a result of what I found, being led by the Holy Spirit, along with what God gave me to write. The first information I found was in a blog by Troy J. Edwards titled **“The God-Kind of Faith”**; this is what Mr. Edwards said:

“Mental acknowledgment of God's promises have failed us every time. Yet when we meditate upon God's Word, God - the Holy Spirit imparts life in His Word and produces faith in us which causes us to have complete unwavering confidence in what we do not yet see in the physical - Heb. 11:1). God has complete and perfect confidence in His power and ability to bring to pass that which He decrees (not what we decree-we should believe as God believe and the ONLY way to do that is have His kind of faith imparted to us by the Holy Spirit as we get into His Word). The object of God's faith is confidence and certainty - God never doubts Himself and He wants us to have the same confidence and certainty.”

Having the faith of God means it is **NOT** because of who we are that we get what we get but it is because of who God is and His perfect will for our lives; God gives us what is **BEST** for us! The God kind of faith is produced in us by God Himself through the Person of the Holy Spirit! **Colossians 2:12** says:

“Having been buried with Him in your baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith produced within you by God who raised Him from among the dead” (Wesley New Testament via Troy J. Edwards article).

The God kind of faith is a supernatural faith and it comes only from God; we cannot muster this kind of faith up out of our flesh – it is **NOT** human faith! This is what Troy Edwards says the God kind of faith or the faith of God which is another name for the God kind of faith is:

“The faith that the Holy Spirit imparts as a result of His pure and perfect Word.”

In order for God’s faith to operate in us, we must allow it; we must make our minds up to allow God’s faith to operate in us and **NOT** our human faith! We must **STOP** expecting to get **EVERY** prayer answered “just because of who we are” – thinking we are entitled to get everything we pray for because we are naming the Name of Jesus; we are no one without Christ and cannot do **NOTHING** without Him!

God looks at the **BIG** picture when He answer our prayers but we look at the moment; what we want for the moment – not thinking about the long haul – we want instant gratification and it does not matter about the consequences!

I am not saying don’t expect God to answer in your favor when you answer, I am saying ask God for His will to be done in spite of what you want; yes, make your request known to Him but tell Him not your will but His be done. When you “declare and decree” a thing, remember, it is according to God’s will whether or not it comes to pass; He knows us and God knows what is best for us!!

Jesus lets us know in [Mark 11:22](#) that we are to “...**Have faith in God**” (1599 Geneva Bible – [biblegateway.com](#)). The faith of God is that assured faith (in God’s abilities) and trust which we have in Him (Footnotes to “**Have faith in God**” – 1599 Geneva Bible).

A. “Agreed” – Amos 3:3 – Part 2-1a: The Holy Spirit is the One who lets us know what the faith of God is in a matter; therefore, our faith should be in agreement with God’s faith since we have His faith – it should line up with God’s faith! This goes back to the question God asked Israel in [Amos 3:3](#): “**Can two walk together except they be agreed?**” (1599 Geneva Bible – [biblegateway.com](#)).

The word “**agreed**” here means the agreement between God and His Prophet – the one who God used to speak to the people. The Prophet was letting the people know he was not speaking of himself but as God guided and moved him (Footnotes from 1599 Geneva Bible – [biblegateway.com](#)). Therefore, if the Prophets of old was in agreement with God (they went in the same direction as He did – they thought like God, otherwise, God could not have been able to use them – they had God’s faith), we also art to be in agreement (have God’s faith) with God – God is the same yesterday, today, and forever! There is **NO WAY** we can be in agreement with someone (God or anyone else) and don’t believe like he or she believes! That is why it is very important to know who you are agreeing with or who is agreeing with you!

B. “Agreement” – Dictionary.com – Part 2-1b: According to dictionary.com, the word “agreement” means:

1. **“The act of agreeing or of coming to a mutual arrangement.”**
2. **“The state of being in accord.”**
3. **“An arrangement that is accepted by all parties to a transaction.”**
4. **“Unanimity of opinion; harmony in feeling.”**

WOW! WOW! Having the faith of God means WE have entered into a contract with Him! It means we believe what God believes and our decision is unanimously synced with His whether what we prayed for work out in our favor or not! Since God knows the past, present, and the future of our lives, we agree with His faith (His will) on our matters without grumbling or disagreeing with His decision – we have peace about the outcome of our issue!

Remember, we used God’s faith to believe the outcome, not our human faith – we told God “God I trust You to work this out according to **YOUR** will for my life, **NOT** my will!” and that is exactly what He is going to do! God knows what He is doing; His ways are better than ours!! God knows what we need and when we need it – again, He knows what’s best for us!!

Let’s look at the word **“agreement”** a little closer. The words **“agree,” “agreed,” and “agreeing”** are all forms of the word **“agreement;”** the meaning of these words are (dictionary.reference.com):

1. **“To have the same views, emotions, etc.; harmonize in opinion or feeling” – when we have God’s faith (agree with Him) we will be at peace with His end results of our prayers!**
2. **“To give consent; concurrence” – when we have God’s faith, we are giving Him consent to do what He knows is best in our situation; we concur with His decision. Also, we are consenting for God’s will to be done **NOT OURS** – no matter how bad we want “it.”**
3. **“To live in concord or without contention; get along together” – once our answer comes (God will answer one way or the other – His answer will **ALWAYS** be for our good – it might not be the expected answer we want but it is for our good) concerning what we prayed and asked God for, we will **NOT** get upset with God if things does not go our way! We will love God, worship God, praise Him, and have no unforgiveness against Him! Yes, let’s keep it real – there are people who get upset with God because what they prayed for did not come to pass! I can tell you this because I was one of them long years ago; when I did not get what I prayed for, I would get upset with God but now I thank God I have learned better!! I thank God His mercy, grace, and love saved me!!**

4. **"To come to one opinion or mind; come to an arrangement or understanding; arrive at a settlement"- once the answer to our prayer comes, we settle it in our minds! God's faith, which comes through the impartation of the Holy Spirit, causes us to settle His answer in our minds; IF we are in agreement with God when we pray!!**

C. **"Agree," "Agreed," and "Agreeing" – Definition – Part 2-1c:** When our petitions to God does not happen in our favor, God is not trying to hurt or punish us - He loves us and He knows what is best for us - that is why we ask God's heart on the matters we petition Him for! God is a wise God who knows why the answer we received was not in our favor (if it were not) - the way we wanted "it" to happen - sometimes God will reveal to us why what we prayed for did not happen and sometimes He will not. This is why it is important that we trust God and know He has our best interest at heart!

Remember, God's ways are **NOT** our ways nor His thoughts are our thoughts! God does not move or do things the way we would or the way we think they should be done. If you get upset or depressed once you receive an answer about what you have prayed for and it did not go according to the way you thought it should have, you did not use God's faith to believe but your human faith. If God's faith was used (remember, the God kind of faith is a supernatural faith and it comes only from God), you would have accepted what happened; no matter what! The human faith is the "Name it, claim it" or "Blab it, grab it" faith! The people who uses human faith to try and obtain what they want takes part of the Scriptures and twist them around for their good - they pray about something and without thinking of what God's will is, they start saying "Jesus said in the Word I can ask anything in His name and He will do it and I am laying my hands on this car and asking for it in the Name of Jesus!" **NOT!** This is a name it, claim it prayer and God is **NOT** in it - the person has taken the Word out of context! Yes, Jesus did say that you can ask anything in His name and He would do it; the key is the second part of what He said in **John 14:13-14**, "**...that the Father may be glorified in the Son**" but let's pause a moment and look closely at that Scripture; we will do this in **Session D. "Agree," "Agreed," and "Agreeing" – Definition – Part 2-1c-1.**

D. "Agree," "Agreed," and "Agreeing" – Definition – Part 2-1c-1: In **John Chapter 14**, Jesus is preparing His disciples for His departure. If you look at what Jesus said **BEFORE** He said "**And whatsoever ye ask in my Name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son**" (biblegateway.com - 1599 Geneva Bible - GNV) in verse 13 of **John Chapter 14**, you will get the **FULL** understanding of what Jesus was saying! Jesus was continuing with the answer to Philip's question in verse 8, "**...Lord show us the Father...**" Jesus begins His response in verse 9 and continued on until He began to answer Judas' question in verse 22.

Let's look at **verses 11-12** of **John Chapter 14**:

"¹¹ Believe me, that I *am* in the Father, and the Father *is* in me: at the least, believe me for the very works' sake.

¹² Verily, verily I say unto you, he that believeth in me, the works that I do, he shall do also, and greater than these shall he do: for I go unto my Father" (biblegateway.com - 1599 Geneva Bible - GNV).

Jesus is telling Philip, if you don't believe Me, believe the works I have done - I and the Father are one, I am not speaking of Myself but the Father in Me does the work because we are one. The ones who believe in Me will do the works I do, even greater works will they do; if they believe in Me. Why? Because Jesus is going to His Father (**paraphrasing verses 10-12**).

Then Jesus says in **verses 13-14**:

"¹³ And whatsoever ye ask in my Name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

¹⁴ If ye shall ask anything in my Name, I will do it"(biblegateway.com - 1599 Geneva Bible - GNV - underline added by me).

Jesus is **NOT** saying here that **EVERYTHING** we ask for in His name we will receive! Jesus is talking about praying for things that will glorify God and He knows that God will be glorified once His will is done! God's will is accomplished through the works He give us to do; His plan for our lives! I am not talking about working for our salvation, I am talking about our calling, our assignment which God has told us to do and equipped us to do such as laying hands on the sick, casting out demons, raising the dead, etc. These are the "works" Jesus was talking about and He has given us His power in **Luke 10:19** to do just that - and that is what Jesus meant when He said in **verse 14** "**If ye shall ask anything in my Name, I will do it**" - Jesus will do whatever glorifies the Father!!

E. "Agree," "Agreed," "Agreeing" – Definition – Part 2-1c-2: The IVP New Testament Commentary says this about John 14:13:

"Jesus assures them that I will do whatever you ask in my name (v13), a theme that will be reported throughout the farewell discourse."

When we pray, we are not only to pray in the name of Jesus but pray that God gets the glory out of our lives because when you say those "Name it, claim it" or "Blab it, grab it" type prayers, you are **NOT** tapping into God's faith; you are telling God what you want, not asking Him what His will is for that situation you are praying for. God's faith is tied to His will - think about it - why would God have faith for something that was not His will?

When fleshy prayers are prayed, we are not asking God, "God, what is Your will in this matter? I want Your faith to arise in me for this matter." Then, we wait for the Holy Spirit, our Helper & Comforter who Jesus promised to send to us after He departs in **John 14:16-17**, to reveal to us God's faith in that matter; to have the faith of God when we pray means to come into agreement with God's faith so His will is done no matter how much we want what we are praying for. Most of the time, we want God to be in agreement with us and make **EVERYTHING** we pray for come to pass and as the **IVP New Testament Commentary on John 14:13** says, we use the name of Jesus in the wrong way and expect God to answer in our favor! God is **NOT** a genie in a bottle that you rub when you want your wishes granted!!! The **IVP New Testament Commentary** also states:

"Praying "in Jesus' name" does not refer to some magic formula added to the end of a prayer. It means to pray in keeping with his character and concerns and, indeed, in union with him. The disciples, through their union with Christ, are taken up into his agenda. This agenda, as throughout his ministry, is to *bring glory to the Father* (v. 13). This verse has been understood by some Christians to be a blanket promise that Jesus will give them whatever they want. Such idolatry of the self is the very opposite of eternal life. "Whatsoever we ask that is adverse to the interests of salvation, we do not ask in the name of the Savior" (Augustine in *John* 73.3). Rather, the promise is made to those who will pray in Jesus' name and for the glory of the Father. As such it is a great promise for the advance of God's purposes in oneself, in the church and in the world."

I totally agree!!! God is our everlasting God, our Creator, our Father, and much, much more - our life who loves us very much - so much that He sent His Son Jesus to die for us while we were yet sinners (**Romans 5:8**). God deserves to be revered, served, praised, and not treated like some kind of slot machine to give us what we want, when we want it, or how we want it!! **SHAME ON US!!!**

Father, I stop here and repent to You for the foolish things I have done in my ignorance while praying and ask You to forgive me! Thank You Holy Spirit for bringing these things to my remembrance so I can get them right with God, come into the knowledge of His truth, and help others! Thank You Jesus for giving me Your righteousness; I am righteous because of You and no matter what happens in my life, Your righteousness will **NEVER** depart from me - You are not in the habit of giving gifts and taking them back!! Thank You for loving me, caring for me, and having mercy on me Father, Amen!!

I felt I needed to repent to God for praying "Name it, claim it," "Blab it, grab it" prayers and twisting the Scriptures around for my selfish gain! I was taught in my earlier walk how to pray those wrong prayers to get what I wanted not what God wanted - this was and is wrong! I am not telling you to repent; be led by the Holy Spirit!

F. **"Agree," "Agreed," "Agreeing" – Definition – Part 2-1c-3:** Now let's continue with **"Agree," "Agreed," "Agreeing" – Definition:** God wants us to have the best and it is His good pleasure to give us the Kingdom (**Luke 12:32**)! However, God knows what is best for us - He knows what we need and when we need it! Think about this - it is extreme but I am making a point: if your natural child asked you for a gun at the age of 6 yrs. old, would you give it to him or her? I hope **NOT!** You know your child is not mature enough to have a gun at that age! Do that mean you don't love him/her because you don't give his/her a gun? **NO**, absolutely not! It means you know what is good for him/her and don't want them to get hurt - same thing with God concerning us - God knows we are not mature enough to handle some things (you know, those things we think we will **DIE** if we do not get or that person we think we cannot live without), so He does not give them to us!

As I used to hear my great grandmother and them say "Your eyes are bigger than your belly" when we would ask for something and then did not want it or ask for more food and could not eat it☺! That is the problem with being a human, we want, want, want, and then when we get it, we don't want it! I know I have been shopping and see something and I just have to have it (or so do I think☺) but when I get it home I either don't like it or put it away and not use it for months (I have many clothes hanging in my closet now I just had to have and have not worn them yet; they have been there for months☺)! Throughout my life, I have asked God for all kind of things but did I really, really, really want them? We as humans are fickle and don't know what we want or need; we do not know what is best for us!! That is why God answers our prayers at times not the way we think He should; He does not **ALWAYS** give us what we want when we want it! I have not gotten off my subject **"Have the Faith of God"** and am still explaining about being in agreement with God when you pray.

Jesus said in **Matt 6:31-34**:

³¹⁻³² **"So don't worry at all about having enough food and clothing. Why be like the heathen? For they take pride in all these things and are deeply concerned about them. But your heavenly Father already knows perfectly well that you need them, ³³ and he will give them to you if you give him first place in your life and live as he wants you to.**

³⁴ **"So don't be anxious about tomorrow. God will take care of your tomorrow too. Live one day at a time (www.biblegateway.com – Living Bible).**

Living one day at a time literally means, **"Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof"** (footnote from Living Bible for verse 34). Therefore, let's take this Word and do what Jesus say do!

5. Another meaning of the words “agree,” “agreed,” and “agreeing” is “to be consistent; harmonize (usually by with)” – we are to be so in harmony with God when we pray, until when the answer to our prayer come and it is not what we expected, it does not phase us! We should not be asking God “Why?” or ask God to allow you to die (as I have done many times when I felt I could not go on) or throw a temper tantrum (as I have done many times when I felt I could not go on – I am laughing at myself now as I write this message☺) because what you wanted did not happen! Remember, we have the faith of God that was imparted to us by the Holy Spirit who knows the will of the Father.

III. What Does It Mean to “Have the Faith of God?”- Section III – Part 3

When we go to God with a crisis, issue, or whatever, we are to do so according to [Mark 11:24](#) which is another Scripture that is taken out of context – twisted and used for the person’s own selfish gain. I thank God for giving us His wisdom, knowledge, and understanding to know the truth of His Word and not take it out of context! This is what Jesus said in [verse 22 of Mark 11](#): “**And Jesus answered, and said unto them, Have the faith of God**” ([biblegateway.com](#) – 1599 Geneva Bible). According to the Footnotes in the 1599 Geneva Bible for verse 22, “**Have the faith of God**” here mean “**The faith of God is that assured faith and trust which we have in him.**”

Let’s look at [verse 23 of Mark 11](#):

“For verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou taken away, and cast into the sea, and shall not waver in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith, shall come to pass, whatsoever he saith, shall be *done* to him” ([biblegateway.com](#)-1599 Geneva Bible).

Jesus is saying in [verse 23](#) that when we have the faith of God or God’s faith, we can move mountains! All we have to do is ask in prayer, believing with God’s faith! Praying in Jesus’ name mean God’s will be done; God will get the glory out of our lives when we allow His will to be done in it. Remember, God’s faith is tied to His will so we are agreeing with whatever God’s will is for our situation.

A. What to Do When We Have a Need? (Mark 11:22-24) – Part 3-1: Here is what we should do when we have an issue of any kind:

- 1. Pray – Part 3-1a: Petition God concerning the matter at hand.** There are different kinds of prayers (adoration, supplication, thanksgiving, etc.) also prayer can be an object of worship – [definitions.net](#) meaning of prayer but in this teaching, I am talking about petition prayers.
 - a. Definition of the word “Pray” – Part 3-1a-1:** According to [dictionary.com](#), the word “Pray” means:
 - i. To offer devout petition, praise, thanks, etc. to God or you can worship God through prayer as David did in the Psalms.**
 - ii. To offer (a prayer).**
 - iii. To ask earnestly a question; entreat.**

Definition “iii” is the main key to praying (asking God a question earnestly).

Definition “i and ii” gives us another definition of “pray” which is “to offer” – you might say “Offer what?”- offer your petition to God.

When you petition God, you are conveying your heart to God; although you petition Him for something you want, you would rather have His perfect will to be done in that situation. We cannot pray correctly until we know what prayer really mean.

- b. NIV Dictionary’s Definition of the word “Prayer” – Part 3-1a-2:** As God gave me different words to look up, I found this definition for the word “Prayer” in the **NIV Compact Dictionary of the Bible** by J.D. Douglas & Merrill C. Tenney, Zondervan Publishing House, ©1989.

According to the NIV Compact Dictionary of the Bible, the word “Prayer” means: “The spiritual response (spoken and unspoken) to God. Prayer covers a wide spectrum of addressing and hearing God, interceding with and waiting for the Lord, and contemplating and petitioning our Father in heaven.”

Let me stop here a minute and further explain **“the spiritual response to God”** from the **NIV Dictionary’s** definition of the word **“Prayer.”** This mean prayer is our response to God who is already speaking or better yet, revealing Himself to us. Remember, the Holy Spirit imparts the faith of God to us – tells us what God is saying about our issue. Therefore, prayer is not merely an exchange of words, but it engages the whole person in a relationship with God the Father, through the Son, and in the Holy Spirit. In essence, prayer raises one’s mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God (His good, perfect, and acceptable will); **Reference:** <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers/what-is-prayer.cfm>.

- c. When Jesus Prayed – Part 3-1a-3:** The **NIV Compact Dictionary of the Bible** says there are 17 references to Jesus praying; they divided them into four grouping of when He prayed:
- i. Prayers** – Jesus prayed at critical moments in His life. Some examples are, His baptism ([Luke 3:21](#)); before the cross in the Gethsemane ([Luke 22:39-40](#)); on the cross ([Luke 23:46](#)); and when Jesus chose the disciples ([Luke 6:12-13](#)).
 - ii. Prayers During His Ministry** – Jesus prayed before the conflict with the Jewish leaders ([Luke 5:16](#)); before the “Lord’s Prayer” ([Luke 11:1](#)); after feeding the 5,000 ([Mark 6:36-46](#)).

- iii. **Prayers at His Miracles** – healing the multitudes (**Luke 1:35**); before feeding the 5,000 (**Mark 6:36-46**); healing a deaf-mute (**Mark 7:34**); raising Lazarus from the dead (**John 11:41**).
- iv. **Prayers for Others** – Jesus prayed for the disciples (the Eleven – **John 17:6-19**); Jesus prayed for the whole church (**John 17:20-26**); Jesus prayed for those who nailed Him on the cross (**Luke 23:34**); Jesus prayed for Peter (**Luke 22:32**).

These prayers of Jesus show He had a rich prayer life; these are not the only time Jesus prayed (**Hebrews 5:5-7**).

2. Ask – Part 3-1b: When we ask, we are asking that God's will be done in the matter **NOT OURS!** We are not to tell God what we want but ask what He wants for us. Yes, I know David said in **Psalms 37:4** that God will give us the desires of our hearts, another Scripture taken out of context but let's look at the **verses 3, 4, & 5** together:

³Trust thou in the Lord and do good: dwell in the land, and thou shalt be fed assuredly: ⁴And delight thyself in the Lord, and he shall give thee thine heart's desire. ⁵Commit thy way unto the Lord, and trust in him, and he shall bring it to pass.

Verse 5 sums it up, we are to commit our way unto the Lord, forgetting our will but asking what is His will for our lives; God's will becomes our will once we commit ourselves to Him, trusting He will bring to pass what is best for us!! If we commit everything we do to the Lord then our heart's desire will be for the things of God, not material things! We do not need to pray for material things (food, clothes, etc.) because God already know what we need so why ask? Jesus said in **Matt 6:8 – Complete Chapter** that God, our heavenly Father, knows what we need before we ask! Then in **verse 25 of Matt 6**, Jesus lets us know not to worry about food or clothes; all we have to do is seek first God's Kingdom and His righteousness and **EVERYTHING** else will be added to us (**Matt 6:33**).

When we go to God with our petitions and ask, we are asking that His Kingdom come in our lives and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven so He can get the glory out of the situation and our lives – this is the essence of our petitions; this is why we pray! Our hearts are supposed to be connected to God's heart and what He want we should want – we should not want anything God does not want us to have – we should not want to glorify the flesh but want God to get the glory out of our lives! When our heart's change, our desires for God will change!

The only way to change our heart and stop desiring to satisfy our flesh is to do what Paul said in **Rom 12:1-2**:

¹² I call upon you, therefore, brethren, through the compassions of God, to present your bodies a sacrifice -- living, sanctified, acceptable to God -- your intelligent service;

² and be not conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, for your proving what [is] the will of God -- the good, and acceptable, and perfect.

When our minds are transformed, we will be able to know the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God and we cannot be transformed until we give ourselves over to God, by accepting His Son Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior – we cannot go to the Father without going through the Son; Jesus is the **ONLY** way to the Father! **John 14:6** tells us that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life!

a. Definition of the Word “Ask” – Part 3-1b-1: Let’s look at the different between the words “Ask” and “Tell” so we will know what each mean before we pray. This is the definition of the word “Ask” according to **dictionary.com**:

i. To put a question to; inquire of (as you can see praying and asking are the same thing – the definition I gave you from dictionary.com for “prayer” was “to ask earnestly a question; entreat). Therefore, when you ask a question, don’t you expect a response? Not only do you expect a response, but you are willing to wait for that person to respond to you. It should be the same way when we pray to God – we should wait for God to respond to us before we move or if the prayer did not go the way we thought it should, we should respond back to God with thanksgiving – thanking Him for working that situation out for our good and according to His will!

ii. To request information about.

iii. To try to get by using words; request: to ask advice; to ask a favor. When we ask (pray to) God, we are saying “God what You think about this? When we ask of the Lord, we are inquiring of Him; we are communicating with God so we can hear His heart on the matter – He knows it all and don’t miss a thing!

b. NIV Dictionary’s Definition of the Word “Ask” – Part 3-1b-2: This is what the NIV Compact Dictionary of the Bible says about asking the Father anything in Jesus’ name and He will give it to us:

“Asking the Father in the name of Jesus is not a magic formula but it is a new method of prayer introduced by Jesus before His departure! Asking the Father in the name of Jesus is the new ground on which the worshipper stands, a new plea for the success of his petitions and a new mind (transformed mind so you want what God wants – our mindset when we pray plays a big part in our believing) within which the prayer is conceived.

When we pray with a renewed mind, what we want will change – we will not pray on an earthly level but a spiritual one – our fleshy, selfish desires will fade and we will desire what God desire! Therefore, the aim of prayer is not to make God change His mind but to enable us to be more discipline in conforming to the will or God and His disposition as we are molded by His Spirit!

This is what S. Michael Houdmann said in his blog when he answered the question **“What does it mean to pray in Jesus’ name?”**:

Prayer in Jesus’ name is taught in **John 14:13-14**, **“And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”** Some misapply this verse, thinking that saying “in Jesus’ name” at the end of a prayer results in God always granting what is asked for. This is essentially treating the words “in Jesus’ name” as a magic formula. This is absolutely unbiblical. Praying in Jesus’ name means praying with His authority and asking God the Father to act upon our prayers because we come in the name of His Son, Jesus.

Praying in Jesus' name means the same thing as praying according to the will of God, “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: 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 what we asked of him” (**1 John 5:14-15**). Praying in Jesus’ name is praying for things that will honor and glorify Jesus. Saying “in Jesus’ name” at the end of a prayer is not a magic formula. If what we ask for or say in prayer is not for God’s glory and according to His will, saying “in Jesus’ name” is meaningless. Genuinely praying in Jesus' name and for His glory is what is important, not attaching certain words to the end of a prayer. It is not the words in the prayer that matter, but the purpose behind the prayer. Praying for things that are in agreement with God’s will is the essence of praying in Jesus’ name.

c. **Definition of the Word “Tell” – Part 3-1b-3:** Here is the definition of “Tell” according to dictionary.com; I want you to get a clear understanding of the words “Ask” and “Tell:”

- i. To make known by speech or writing (a fact, news, information, etc.).
- ii. To announce or proclaim – when a situation comes up in our lives and we don’t go to God but start having people agreeing with us for the outcome we want, we are not asking God what His will is but we are telling Him what we want.

When we ask God, we are inquiring of Him; we want to know His will for us in that situation, therefore, we wait for Him to answer. When we wait for God to answer, we don’t make a move until He speak. However, when we tell God or don’t go to Him in prayer (start believing the way we want instead of using His faith), we announcing or proclaiming how we want it to happen – we are not interested in what God want! See the difference between “Ask” and “Tell?”

2. **Believe – Part 3-1c:** When we have an issue, we should also “**Believe;**” believe God **WILL** work it out according to His faith – His will! Don’t believe for the outcome you want but for what God want! What I mean is don’t be so bent and bound on having it your way regardless of the consequences – just believe God has your best interest at hand. If you are praying to God about a crisis situation, trust He will work according to the way He knows it should be worked out! Sometimes when we pray about something, God works that situation out differently than what we ask for – in these cases, rest in His decision, don’t get upset, and trust Him! God loves you and will **NEVER** do anything to hurt you!

Our actions demonstrates whether we **REALLY** trust God or not; this will be tested not only in a crisis situation but in our everyday lives! Our faith is being constantly tested to produce patience! Although we are not tested or tempted by God (people are tempted when they “**are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death**” ([James 1:13-18](#)), He knows what it takes for our faith to produce patience! **James** said in [James 1:3-4](#):

³because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

a. **Definition of the Word “Believe” – Part 3-1c-1:** Here is Vitali Zagorodnov’s definition of the word “Believe” from his article [“What does it mean to believe and how do you know when you do?”](#):

- 1) The verb “to believe” is closely related to the noun “faith”; basically “to believe”=“to have faith”

- 2) At the heart of the meaning is the idea of certainty. So, to believe means to be very certain about something. This is in contrast with modern English meaning, which can range from certainty to a guess, as in “I believe there will be good weather tomorrow”.

- 3) As a logical consequence of 2), having certainty about something often results in action, as you put your trust in it

- 4) The degree of certainty may vary, e.g. you can have little faith or faith to move mountains.

Vitali stated: “the Christians, in particular, are called to believe (have absolute certainty) in the gospel. For a Christian, every trace of unnatural behavior should be a sign that he does not believe the gospel nearly as much as he might think. How to change? Admitting this unpleasant truth should be the first step. In the words of boy’s father from [Mark 9:24](#), “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!” And He will help.” ([Click here to read Vitali’s complete article](#)).

b. **Definition of the Word “Believe” – Part 3-1c-2:** This is what [glimpsesofgrace.org](#) said in their article [“What Does It Mean to ‘Believe’?”](#) about “believe” from [Genesis 15:6](#):

“The Hebrew word “believe” is in the Hebrew hithpael stem. This means that it is causative. God *caused* Abram to believe. God gave Abraham the faith to believe. The faith that Abram exercised was not a work of his flesh. It was not produced by his humanness. In order to receive righteousness from God today, we are to trust Jesus Christ. We are to believe in Him exactly the same way that Abraham believed in Him. God will give you the faith to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, right now!”

B. Men Who Had & Did Not Have God’s Faith – Part 3-2: Let’s look at four people in the Bible who had and did not have the faith of God and their outcome:

1. **David – [1 Samuel 30:8 - Complete Chapter Link](#) – Part 3-2a:** The first person I will discuss is David. When David and his men came back to camp and found that the Amalekites had taken their women and children, David did not immediately run after them; David inquired of God to see whether or not He wanted him to pursue the men. David trusted God, he knew God would make the best decision for them!

[1 Samuel 30:8](#) tells us this is what David said, “**And David inquired of the Lord, saying, Shall I pursue this troop? Shall I overtake them? The Lord answered him, Pursue, for you shall surely overtake them and without fail recover all.**” You see David asked, sought God, and waited for God to answer – once God gave David the answer, David and his men followed God’s instructions and they got the victory as God said they would. If we do the same thing, seek God for His directions no matter what the situation, God will give us His victory **EVERYTIME!**

2. **Abraham – [Romans 4:18](#); [Genesis 15:6](#) – Complete Chapter Links – Part 3-2b:** The second person I will discuss is Abraham. [Romans 4:18](#) says, “**Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, ‘So shall your offspring be;’**” I love this Scripture. Again it says, “**Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed...**” Abraham believed God and in the end, what happened? He received what God said he would receive – he became the father of many nations! This happened because Abraham had faith in what God said He would do – faith involves hope! [Hebrews 11:1](#) tells us what faith is - I love both of these translations:

“**Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see *and* the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses]**” (AMP).

The Contemporary English Version’s (CEV) translation of [Hebrews 11:1](#) is:

“**Faith makes us sure of what we hope for and gives us proof of what we cannot see.**”

According to the [1599 Geneva Bible \(GNV\) Footnote, Hebrews 11:1](#) is "An excellent description of faith by the effects, because it representeth things which are but yet in hope, and setteth as it were before our eyes things that are invisible." In other words, faith brings the things we hope for from the invisible to the visible; from the supernatural realm into the natural realm! When we pray to God (ask) for something, God does it **BUT** it might not be the way we want it. God uses His faith (will) to bring what we need to pass! Why? Because He knows what is best for us at the moment **AND** in the future! When we ask God for something, most (99.5%) of the time we **ONLY** think about the moment - we are not looking at the long haul of the matter!

[Hebrews 11:6](#) lets us know that without faith we cannot please God and when we go to God, we must believe in God's abilities and that He will reward us when we searches for Him. When God gave Abraham that promise in [Genesis 15:5](#), his name was still "Abram" - [verse 6](#) says:

"And Abram believed the Lord, and he counted that to him for righteousness" (1599 Geneva Bible).

God changed Abraham's name in [Genesis 17:5](#) but He told him why in [verse 4](#):

⁴Behold, I *make* my covenant with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations, ⁵Neither shall thy name anymore be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham: for a father of many nations have I made thee.

Abraham is a great example of God keeping His promise to us - God appeared unto Abraham and gave him these promises and Abraham "**Against ALL hope**" believed God and God did what He said He would do! There are some promises God has given me and I know He has given you some too, therefore, we cannot look at what things seem like, we must hold fast to what God has done and look forward to Him doing greater things at present and in the future. We cannot forgot what God said no matter how long it take to come to past - let's believe God - have faith in Him to do what He said He would and watch Him bring it to pass! When God makes a promise, He is making a covenant with us; God is making a contract with us as He did with Abraham. God will keep His Word because He is **NOT** a liar ([Numbers 23:19](#)).

Before we continue, let's see what the definition of the word "**Promise**" mean. According to biblefocus.net, the word "**Promise**" mean: "a promise is an undertaking of one person to carry out an action to another. The promises of Yahweh (God) are like prophecy, where, Yahweh states that a certain event will happen. However, there is a difference. The promises are personal undertakings, and can be seen as covenants or contracts. We may say we have given 'our word', or our promise, that we will do something, in Western society verbal contracts are morally binding. The God of the Bible, Yahweh, cannot lie (**Titus 1:2**). He will not mislead and will always *literally* deliver exactly what He says. When He said Tyre would be a place for fishing nets (**Ezekiel 26:5, 14**), it was not a euphemism, the ancient site of Tyre is now a place for casting nets (not poles, reels or lines!). This is prophecy, so when He makes a promise the action will likewise be literal.

The Bible says, "God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do *it*? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" (**Numbers 23:19**)

Just as God gave Abraham the faith to believe Him, He gives us the faith today to believe Him; believe He will work out things best for us! As I stated earlier, "the God kind of faith is a supernatural faith and it comes only from God; we cannot muster this kind of faith up out of our flesh – it is **NOT** human faith!"

Now let's continue with the other men in the Bible who had or did not have God's faith.

3. King Jehoshaphat – 2 Chronicles 20:15-18 – Part 3-2c: The next person in the Bible who operated in the faith of God was King Jehoshaphat. My Pastor, Bob Sparks, taught about King Jehoshaphat in his message titled, "The Battle Is the Lord's" Parts 1 & 2. Pastor Bob explained to us how King Jehoshaphat boasted not in his own ability but God's and obtained God's victory! God let King Jehoshaphat know that the battle belonged to Him and King Jehoshaphat did not have to fight in the battle he sought God about; God told him to stand still and see His salvation!

King Jehoshaphat believed God as Abraham did; he trusted God - where did he get that trust? The Holy Spirit revealed to King Jehoshaphat who God was so he could obtain God's faith in the matter!

Therefore, King Jehoshaphat had no doubt believing God would do what He said He would. King Jehoshaphat prayed, asked, and believed God would do what he asked Him to do according to His will - King Jehoshaphat believed God and He granted his petition. King Jehoshaphat worshipped God after God told him to stand still and see His salvation. We should do the same once God give us the answer to our petition - whether the answer is what we want to hear or not.

4. King Saul – 1 Samuel 13:5-14 – Part 3-2d: The last person we will talk about from the Bible in reference to faith is King Saul; King Saul did not have God's faith. The Prophet Samuel told Saul to wait for him at Gilgal so he (Samuel) could perform the sacrifice for the burnt offering (1 Samuel 13:5-14). God had given King Saul specific instructions through His Prophet but Saul did not wait for God's perfect timing! Isn't that how we do sometimes?

God gives us instructions and tell us He is going to do it but if he does not do it in the time frame we think it needs to be done, we go and do it ourselves by any means necessary; then we make a mess and go crying to God for help - and sometimes the cycle keeps repeating! We need to **STOP!** If we wait for God's perfect timing and allow Him to do what He wants to do about the situation, we will save ourselves a lot of stressed out moments. We should learn a lesson from Saul; Saul did not wait on God (disobeyed Him), lost his kingdom to David and later lost his life.

The example of King Saul shows us the dangers of **NOT** inquiring of the Lord (asking God for His will to be done in the situation - what He want). Saul thought Samuel was taking too long in coming (he was not willing to wait for God's timing) so he decided, after the people put pressure on him, to perform the sacrifice himself. Instead of Saul asking God what he should do, Saul caved in to the will of the people because that is what he wanted to do; people or no one else can make you do what you really don't want to do. Remember what James said about how we are tempted in **James 1:13-18** says (the devil cannot tempt us with something we have no interest in; God delivered me from alcohol and drugs and I know I am delivered because I have NO desire for them so the devil CAN NEVER tempt me with those things):

¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, I am tempted from God; for God is incapable of being tempted by [what is] evil and He Himself tempts no one.

¹⁴ But every person is tempted when he is drawn away, enticed *and* baited by his own evil desire (lust, passions).

¹⁵ Then the evil desire, when it has conceived, gives birth to sin, and sin, when it is fully matured, brings forth death.

¹⁶ Do not be misled, my beloved brethren.

¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect (free, large, full) gift is from above; it comes down from the Father of all [that gives] light, in [the shining of] Whom there can be no variation [rising or setting] or shadow cast by His turning [as in an eclipse].

¹⁸ And it was of His own [free] will that He gave us birth [as sons] by [His] Word of Truth, so that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures [a sample of what He created to be consecrated to Himself].

I am sure if Saul would have asked God what to do, God would have told him to wait for Samuel; God had already told Saul to wait so He was not going to change His mind. This is another lesson we should learn; once God give us an answer, let's do what He says - if He says "Wait" then let's wait!! We should not be anxious (**Philippians 4:6-7**) for an answer when we petition God and know that things happen in God's timing and according to His will not ours!! God knows best for us and He sees the BIG picture, not just for the moment and to satisfy what we need for the moment!! Trust Him and your life will never be the same!!

IV. Conclusion – Part 4A: If we want the results Jesus got when He prayed, we must do what he did - Jesus prayed the will of the Father; that is why Jesus said, "Father I know You always hear Me!" Yes, the Father heard Jesus because Jesus was believing for God's will to be done when He prayed; He knew God would do what was best in the situation! The Holy Spirit helps us to pray; He prays for us, through us, when we do not know what to pray!

Jesus gave us a model prayer to pray; He showed us how to pray in [John 6:5-15](#). The disciples saw the effectiveness of Jesus' prayers to the Father and wanted Him to teach them how to pray! The "Our Father" prayer is not a selfish prayer but one asking for God's will to be done in our lives here on earth as it is in heaven; where the spiritual meet the natural and do away with it - the Holy Spirit expels ALL darkness! The enemy will do any and everything he can to cause us to lose faith in God - to faint - he does not want us to trust God!

When things come to shake us and we go to our heavenly Father for help, for answers, we must keep focus on who He is and what His Word has already said about the issue! [Ecclesiastes 1:9](#) says "Everything that happens has happened before; nothing is new, nothing under the sun" (biblegateway.com - CEV).

This Scripture shows that we are not the only one going through; what we are going through it has happened before and God has gotten them out and people of old and will get us out now! We serve an ALL Powerful, ALL knowing, loving God who has a plan for us ([Jeremiah 29:11](#))! God will not let us perish! David said in [Psalms 37:25](#):

"I have been young and now am old, yet have I not seen the [uncompromisingly] righteous forsaken or their seed begging bread."

Yes, stuff will happen to us and will continue to happen as long as we are in this body on this earth! Why? Because we are housed in a body of sin as a result of Adam's disobedience in the Garden of Eden! We are born in sin and shaped in iniquity! Jesus lets us know that in this world we will have tribulations ([John 16:33](#)) but be of good cheer because he has already overcome the world for us! Yes, Jesus reversed the curse that came with Adam's sin and fulfilled ALL the requirements of the Law of Moses as a result of that sin but unless people in the world accept Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior, and transform their minds with the Word of God, they will continue to sin, be controlled by sin, and lost! We who are confessing Jesus should spread the Gospel, the Good News, around the world so people will have a choice to whom they will serve - God or continue to serve the devil. The Bible tells us to be persuaded in our own minds so we cannot force anyone to accept Jesus; it has to be their choice! If they want to live for the devil, that is their choice and if they want to live for God, that is their choice! I remember once when I was counseling more than with people (they came to me for help but did not listen to what God told me to tell them).

After they would not listen, I asked God why the people would not listen to me; I knew I was telling them what He told me to. God answered and I had to laugh, He said "They do not listen to me what makes you think they are going to listen to you?" That was too funny☺!! So you see, we can give the Word to people but cannot make them accept it! As my grandmother use to say "You can take a horse to water but cannot make him drink it!"

Once we fully understand that we will have tribulations in this world but Jesus has won the victory for us over this world, and settle it in our minds, we will know when bad things happen, they are **NOT** from God! God is **NOT** the Author of evil and destruction - He is the Author of goodness! **James 1:16-18** lets us know **EVERY** good and perfect gift comes from God above! **Proverbs 10:22** says it is the Lord who blesses us and His blessings adds **NO** sorrows to our lives! Therefore, let's be careful when we say "Oh, God blessed me with this or that!"

Let's make up in our minds to pray, petition, inquire of the Lord, seeking His will in the situation; it does not matter how much we need something or think we need it! We are to seek, ask God, in prayer and we believe like He believes for the outcome for that situation - no ifs, ands, or buts - what God say goes. God knows, He sees, and works **ALL** things out for our good because we love Him and are the called according to His purpose!

To encourage you more so you can see, everything we pray for does not happen the way we think it should or will, I want to end this teaching with a story of what happened to me some years ago; it shocked me when the outcome was not what I thought it was going to be.

I was in the hospital and my roommate was an old lady (looks like she was around 80 years old) who had cancer. God told me to lay hands on her stomach and pray for her. I got out of my bed and asked her could I pray for her and she said "Yes!" When I laid my hand on her stomach, I felt heat and I just knew she was healed. After I got out the hospital, I kept in contact with her - she reminded me of my great grandmother who raised me. I had to go out of town and told her I would see her when I got back. When I got back in town, I called her and her daughter answered and told me she had went back in the hospital and had died☹! I was devastated!! I could not understand it!! This shows that we don't know all God's plans and we never will! We just do what He says, when He says, and leave the rest up to God - don't question God in an accusing tone - it is not His fault these things happen! But God takes what the enemy meant for evil and turns it around for our good!!

As I said before, things happen because of the enemy, the fallen world (as a result of Adam's sin of disobedience), our disobedience, our unforgiveness, sin in people's lives, etc. Yes, Jesus did away with our sins but if that person has not accepted Him as his/her personal Lord and Savior, they have not tapped into His benefits - they have not received their adoption into the Royal family. Therefore, they continue to live in sin trying to use His Blood and have not given Him their lives!

I pray the Holy Spirit will open your eyes as you study this teaching, I know He has opened mine and I was truly blessed by this message. This teaching has taken months to complete (I stated it September 2013 and finished it now, January 11, 2014) - God is teaching us how to have effective prayer lives as Jesus did and I am glad!

May God continue to open your eyes to His truth! God bless you all!

Dr. Dorothy E. Hooks