

## PRAYER THAT GETS RESULTS: The Prayer Of Faith

"Therefore I say unto you, whatever things you desire, when ye pray, believe that you receive them, and ye shall have them."  
[Mark 11:24]

### WHEN YOUR PRAYERS DON'T WORK:

I hate wasted time! I do not enjoy spending time on anything that does NOT produce results! And one thing I have learned from past experience is that INEFFECTIVE PRAYER is not only a waste of time - but it also can cause one to become discouraged, disheartened, and even to walk away from God.

Like me, many Christians have already come to discover personally - there is such a thing as INEFFECTIVE prayer! They have already discovered that more often than not - their prayers seem to have gone unanswered - and most do not have a clue as to why this is so, and so they come to the conclusion that it must not have been God's *will* for them - yet no one can explain why this is so *Biblically* even though too many people are willing to offer any number of explanations that are NOT scriptural.

Biblically, these well-intentioned *explanations*, though offered by well-meaning individuals who love God - are nothing more than doctrines of men - and contain little or no scriptural truth in them. The truth is that unless one is trying to pray a curse down on someone - the belief that your prayer went unanswered because "it must not have been God's will" is not only *unscriptural*, but it is a faith-destroying doctrine of demons designed to keep the children of God from obtaining those things which are rightfully theirs through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

In other words - no matter what we are talking about - if Jesus paid for it - then it's ours! It was bought and paid for by His blood and therefore it rightfully belongs to us. However, just like salvation - there are *conditions* that must be met to receive it, and this study is designed to help you to understand and apply those things necessary to bring you to a place where your prayers get results - every time!

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### I'VE BEEN THERE TOO!

I understand what it is like to have prayers go unanswered! And if you are anything like me - it stinks! In the past - when I needed help - I needed it right then - not later! And, I didn't want excuses, explanations or anything else *except* the help I asked for. What about you?

Now some might think this attitude is selfish - but the truth is that if the Bible says that God is faithful, and He can always be counted on - then there is nothing selfish about expecting God to do what he says He will do. To the contrary, the Word of God (our Father's promise) tells us to RUN TO HIM when we are in trouble! [Proverbs: 18:10]

So, when we run to Him for help, we should be able to expect help! Right?

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### HOW COME?

So why do the prayers of so many of God's children seem like they are falling on deaf ears? What is the problem?

There can be a number of reasons why this is so - but I have found that the *majority* of the time it is because most Christians do NOT understand that there are *different* kinds of prayer - and each type is governed by *different* spiritual LAWS. (For more information on this subject read our online study about different kinds of prayer: <http://www.biblecities.com/All-Kinds-of-Prayer.htm>).

One of the most misunderstood types of prayer is what the Bible calls "The Prayer of Faith" [James 1:6-7 • James: 5:15 • Mark 11:24]

Simply put - the prayer of faith: is a prayer seeking help from God on a given subject. And, more often than not, folks are attempting to pray what the Bible calls the 'Prayer of Faith' - when there is NO faith in operation - and this is the reason that they get no results.

In order to understand exactly HOW the Spiritual laws work that govern the "Prayer of Faith", one must first have a basic understanding of how *faith* works. I understand that there are many different lines of thought on this subject, however →

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## THE PRAYER OF FAITH *continued...*

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I have always found that the best way to get clarity on anything *scriptural* - is to go to the *scriptures* - and ignore everything else – no matter how reasonable or logical it may sound.

Everything we need for understanding the Word of God - is found in the Word of God. We do not need to rely on opinion, experience, philosophy, logic, or anything else – now matter how distinguished the man, and no matter how big the ministry - because history has proven that men can be wrong. So, if we want understanding of the Word of God, all we need to do is study the Word of God, pray for wisdom and understanding, and trust God to give it.

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### WORD STUDY: FAITH

The Greek word for faith is 'pistis' - and literally means 'fully confident and trusting'.

Notice that the various translations of Hebrews 11:1:

- What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we expect is going to happen. It is the certain evidence of things we cannot yet see [NLT]
- Now faith is being sure we will get what we hope for. It is being absolutely sure of what we cannot see [CEV]
- Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being certain of what we do not see. [Wycliffe]
- 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].

Notice that the most important thought being brought forth is that there is NO DOUBT present when faith is in operation. Did you notice the phrases?

- Confident Assurance
  - Certain Evidence
  - Absolutely Sure
  - Conviction of their reality
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### A SURE FOUNDATION:

Notice also the King James Version of this verse: “Faith is the *substance* of things hoped for...” [Hebrews 11:]

The word, translated *substance* in the King James is the Greek word: ‘hupostasis’. It literally means “support under” or “foundation”.

In other words, according to the Bible - there must be a foundation from which our faith comes. If we are to have faith – then there must be something supporting it, a foundation on which we base our hope and expectation.

### And what exactly is this foundation?

There is only ONE place that Faith can come from. There is only ONE foundation on which you can fully trust and believe in. There is only ONE source for the truth. There is only ONE place from which one can learn God’s will – and that place is the Word of God.

“...faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” [Romans 10:17]

You may as well get this settled now – because it is never going to change. God’s Word is only sure foundation on which faith is built. In other words, no matter what some may have believed in the past:

- It is not what somebody told you *about* the Bible
- It is not what *someone else* believes about the Bible
- It is not what you might have heard somewhere from somebody
- It is not what someone heard somebody else say about something in the Bible!
- It is not even what you *think* about the Bible
- Etc

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## **THE PRAYER OF FAITH** *continued...*

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It is what the BIBLE says about itself – and any other subject! If you do not have first-hand knowledge of the Word of God regarding any given subject – then no matter what you might *think* - you cannot stand in faith on it. You can argue this - debate this – disagree with this – and even dislike the idea, but your problem is not with *me* – nor are you debating *me* – your problem is with God, so take it up with Him – He said it – not me.

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### **I DISAGREE:**

Someone said: "Yeah, well I don't agree - and I believe that the Bible can be interpreted many ways".

That's true - the Bible *can* be interpreted many ways - but that doesn't mean that they are *all* correct! And, the *only* person that will be affected by what *you* believe - is YOU. So if what you believe isn't producing the results you want, change what you believe!

All I know is that the Word of God DOES what it says it will DO - but ONLY when we FOLLOW the instructions!

And frankly, the only sure way to find out which interpretation is correct is by proving it with confirming *evidence*! If there isn't any proof - then it's just wishful thinking - speculation. And as far as I'm concerned, when I need help, I am not interested in speculation - I want results!

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### **WHAT DO YOU MEAN 'EVIDENCE'?**

Simple, if what you *think* is true, then God will confirm it with signs and wonders. In other words – it will work!

“...the Lord worked with them, and confirming the word with signs following” [Mark 16:20]

So then, if what you *think* is faith is NOT working – then you might consider that fact that perhaps what you believe – is not true – and that's why it doesn't work! Besides, why keep doing something over and over if it's not producing the results you want?

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### **FAITH AND DOUBT:**

Faith does not allow any doubt – therefore the prayer of faith does NOT allow for doubt – and that kind of certain expectation • confident assurance • and absolute certainty can only exist where the *revealed* will of God is clearly known and believed.

#### **Question:**

That being the case, how can a person stand in faith if they do not KNOW that what they have prayed for – **IS** – God's will for them?

#### **Answer:**

They can't! Faith requires that you BELIEVE without doubting [James 1:6] – and where there is doubt – faith does not exist – therefore one cannot pray a 'prayer of faith' without FIRST knowing the will of God regarding the thing that one is praying about.

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### **KNOWING GOD'S WORD – IS KNOWING GOD'S WILL:**

“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he hears us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we KNOW that we have the petitions that we desired of him.” [1 John 5: 14-15]

According to this scripture – if we ask ANYTHING that is in accordance with His will – then we KNOW that He hears us – and we KNOW that we HAVE what we asked for (because He gave it to us).

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#### **Question:**

Ok - HOW do we know what the will of God is?

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## THE PRAYER OF FAITH *continued...*

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### **Answer:**

Simple - We find it in His Word. Doesn't the Word say that Jesus is the 'expressed image of God'? [Heb: 1:3]

I am not going to go into a long study on this – but a careful study of the Greek in Hebrews 1:3 - brings out the fact that the Jesus is the perfect picture or representation of God's *character* and Jesus **IS** the revealed and will of God for man.

That's good news! And, since we already know that Jesus is the WORD of God (made flesh) [John 1: 1, 14] – then we know (or should anyway) that the will of God is clearly and definitely stated in His Word.

One should never be in doubt regarding the will of God regarding *anything* contained in the Word - because God has declared exactly what His will - **IS** - regarding most subjects in His Word - including:

- Salvation
- Deliverance
- Healing
- Prosperity
- Safety
- Soundness
- Etc.

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### **THE PRAYER OF FAITH:**

"Therefore I say unto you, whatever things you desire, when ye pray, believe that you receive them, and ye shall have them." [Mark 11:24]

"But let him ask in faith, not doubting. For he that doubts is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. And let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. [James 1:6-7]

According to the description of the 'Prayer of Faith' found in the BIBLE - one must BELIEVE when they are praying (not later) that they HAVE the things they desired. In other words: God heard them – He said YES – and then He gave them to them (even though they may not have seen them yet). By the way – believing without seeing is what the Bible calls faith (if you haven't gotten it yet).

Also notice that DOUBT will not only render the prayer *ineffective* – but that this person should NOT expect to receive *anything* from the Lord – including the thing they are praying for!

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### **Question:**

How can you believe that you have received anything from God if you don't KNOW that it is God's will for you to have it?

### **Answer:**

You can't! You MUST know and believe that it **IS** God's will BEFORE you can ask in faith (therefore it is vital that you be thoroughly knowledgeable of His Word regarding any subject!

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### **"IF IT BE THY WILL":**

I cannot tell you how often I hear Christians asking the Lord for something that they desperately need – and they insert the words "if it be thy will" – never understanding that this is NOT a prayer of faith – but rather a prayer of Consecration and Service'. [For more on this visit: <http://www.biblecities.com/all-kinds-of-prayer.htm>]

A prayer that contains the words spoken by Jesus in the Garden [Mt. 26:39]: "if it be thy will" is NOT a prayer of faith - but rather a prayer of 'Consecration and Service'. Many confuse the two - and *think* that they are praying 'in faith' - yet as we have already seen, faith REQUIRES that there be NO doubt present if one wants results - and if one is uncertain - **IF** - something is God's will or NOT- then doubts remain - hence faith is not present.

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## THE PRAYER OF FAITH *continued...*

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It is true that even a prayer of consecration such as Jesus prayed in the garden should be prayer 'in faith' - AND -we should *always* maintain the attitude of submitting to God's will (and not ours) - yet the Word of God promises that when we pray a prayer of faith - we can ask whatever **WE** WILL and it will be done: ["If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done for you." Jn: 15:7]

As we have already shown, a prayer of faith requires **FAITH** - whereas a prayer of 'Consecration and Service' may not necessarily be prayed with the individual KNOWING the will of God *at the time that they are praying*. Basically the individual is praying to FIND OUT God's will *before* they proceed. Therefore it is entirely possible that in a prayer of 'Consecration or Service' - uncertainty as to exactly *what* the will of God is may be present. This is not so with a prayer of faith!

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### THEN WHY DID JESUS PRAY THAT WAY?

When Jesus prayed the Words "if it be thy will" -or- as some translations say: "if it is possible" - It is important for us to understand that Jesus was *consecrating* himself to the task ahead. He was seeking guidance and strength in order to proceed and finish His task.

Pay close attention to the fact that He was NOT asking for something that had already been granted or assured to Him by God in His Word, or declared to be His by right of the covenant.

When Jesus said those mighty words "never the less, not my will – but yours", Jesus was NOT *asking* **IF** it was God's will – but rather He was declaring Himself to be submitted to Almighty God and that He was willing to do *whatever* God the Father had planned for Him no matter how difficult or fearsome it might be.

You see, like Israel, we also have a covenant called: the NEW TESTAMENT. This covenant *includes* certain rights and privileges that are guaranteed to us by LAW thru the sacrifice and death of Jesus. These rights and privileges **ARE** the declared will of God for His children! But what many do NOT realize is that - just like salvation (eternal life) - every one of these things are received thru FAITH in the Word of God as outlined in the covenant.

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### RECEIVING BY FAITH:

"But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak." [Heb: 6:9]

How did you receive salvation (eternal life)? Was it not thru the process of LEARNING from God's Word that Jesus had died for you - and that salvation was available BY FAITH because it **IS** God's WILL for you to have it?

#### So how were you saved?

Didn't you FIRST believe His Word that it **IS** God's will for you to be saved? Then, AFTER you believed, you ASKED - believing that God WOULD give it to you - RIGHT?

And did God give you salvation? If you answered yes, how do you know?

- Did you see it?
- Did you feel it?
- Did you smell it?
- Did you taste it?

No! You received it by faith because you understood that God said in His word that it was yours - and all you had to do was ask for it - in faith, believing that He WOULD give it to you - right?

This is the SAME way that we receive ALL the other things that are included in the salvation that God promises us thru FAITH in Jesus Christ His Word. Yet too many Christians are not even aware that the above verse even exists! [Hebrews 6:9]

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## THE PRAYER OF FAITH *continued...*

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Nor do most have even a hint that there are other things that ACCOMPANY salvation! And it is what God has already said about those things that clearly declare his WILL for us about those things!

- Eternal Life
  - Health & Healing
  - Prosperity
  - Deliverance
  - Safety
  - Soundness
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### SUMMARY:

The Lord Jesus KNEW what HE was talking about - and contrary to the thoughts and ideas offered by so many individuals - there is no secret about this subject - nor was Jesus confused! If He said it - He meant it!

Jesus said clearly: "When you pray - BELIEVE that you HAVE those things you seek and you SHALL have them." [Mark 11:24]

### This type of praying is what the Bible calls: The Prayer of Faith.

Understanding HOW the 'Prayer of Faith' operates is essential to getting results FROM a 'Prayer of Faith'! So if you have not had the results that the Bible *promises*, then maybe it is because what you *think* is faith - may in fact be something else.

The Bible teaches us that there are different *kinds* of prayer - and different kinds of prayer operate under *different* spiritual laws. Therefore it is important that we LEARN not only what the different kinds of prayer are - but also HOW to use them effectively.

- Fussing about this won't help you.
- Debating the subject won't help you.
- Arguing about it won't help you.
- Continuing with no results won't help you.

The ONLY thing that *will* help you - is to change your thinking where ever necessary, and bring your thoughts about this into alignment with the WORD of God on this subject. "Be transformed and changed by the RENEWING OF YOUR MIND!" [Romans 12:2]

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### PRAYER THAT GETS RESULTS:

So, as the Bible instructs us in James & Timothy: Study the Word of God on this subject - and ask God for wisdom. Once you have gained *knowledge* from the Word on praying *effectively* with ALL kinds of prayer - You will be amazed at how powerful your prayers will become!

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**About the Author:** Rev. W.C. Slyde Moran is an ordained Minister of the Gospel currently living in New York State. His current ministry includes teaching the Word of God and assisting other ministries in developing and maintaining an Internet presence.