

## **06 Prayer First-Power Second**

We are all believing Jesus to a certain level. But there is a level of believing that Jesus describes that we are still striving toward.

**John 14:12 KJV Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.**

We must attain to that level of believing because that is exactly what the world needs to see in order to believe that Christ is risen from the dead, is Lord of all, that He now dwells in us believers, and that He is still doing the same things today that He did in the four gospels. Jesus did not expect people to believe Him just because He said things. He said they also could believe Him "for the works' sake."

**John 14:11 KJV Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.**

Jesus "demonstrated" the Father to the world. We must demonstrate the "living Christ" in our generation ... that He is risen from the dead and is Lord of all. He is still saving, delivering, and healing. He is simply doing it through our bodies now instead of through His own body. On earth, we are the body of Christ.

**Mark 11:24 KJV Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.**

In review, our natural tendency is to pray our petition asking for something, and then "looking to see" in the natural realm to see if our prayer was answered or not. That is not what the king taught. That method is called "living by sight" instead of "living by faith." The king said when it comes to the prayer of petition, you must BELIEVE YOU RECEIVE WHEN YOU PRAY! That is a kingdom law, and you are never going to change it.

**2 Corinthians 1:20 KJV For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.**

**2 Corinthians 1:20 AMP For as many as are the promises of God, in Christ they are [all answered] “Yes.” So through Him we say our “Amen” to the glory of God.**

God the Father made a covenant with God the Son. All the promises of God are yes to the Son ... and to you ... if you are in Christ. We get in on that covenant when we are born again. We are literally baptized into Christ by the Holy Spirit. You can't break the covenant because it is between God the Father and God the Son. Jesus is never going to sin and break the covenant. As long as you are in fellowship with Jesus, you are in the covenant and all the promises in Him are YES!

Answered prayer has a lot to do with you knowing the character of your Father. He cannot lie. He has your best interests at heart. And He will not break His covenant. He has said YES to your petition. When do you believe that? WHEN YOU PRAY! You trust His character. You know He said YES because all the promises of God in Christ are YES! Don't go looking in the natural for evidence He answered your prayer. YOUR FAITH IN HIS YES IS ALL THE EVIDENCE YOU NEED!

**Hebrews 11:1 KJV Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**

We have been instructed through prophecy to "expect instant manifestations." We all love instant manifestations when we pray, but sometimes there is an interval of time from the moment you pray until the manifestation comes. During that time is when your faith is your evidence. Remember, from the time Daniel prayed it was twenty-one days later when the angel brought the answer. Some might say, it took twenty-one days for God to answer Daniel's prayer. But that is not true. God answered Daniel's prayer the same day Daniel prayed.

**Daniel 10:12-13 KJV Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. [13] But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.**

When did God hear the words of Daniel's prayer? The very first day, his words were heard by God. When was the prayer answered? God dispatched the angel with the answer that same day. It was resistance from the kingdom of darkness that delayed the answer for twenty-one days. Thank God, Daniel did not give up and walk away, thinking God had not answered. How often do we do that?

**Hebrews 11:6 KJV 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.**

Knowing the character of God well enough to understand that His answer is YES the moment we pray, that's why we can give thanks immediately when we pray, even though we have not seen the manifestation of it yet.

**Philippians 4:6 AMP Do not be anxious or worried about anything, but in everything [every circumstance and situation] by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your [specific] requests known to God.**

Over time, this verse has become a trigger in me now so that whenever I sense the opportunity to worry about anything ... that triggers me to pray instead of worry. This is the Gary paraphrase, "Oh, here is an opportunity to worry. No, instead of worrying, I am going to pray instead. When I pray about this, and give all my care to God, then I know God is on the case and the answer is yes. He may have instructions for me along the way, but I am not going to worry any more. I am going to thank Him from the moment that I pray because I know He heard me, and the answer is yes. I am at peace now." The very next verse talks about having the peace of God.

**Philippians 4:7 KJV And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**

Let worry become your trigger to pray. "Worry? No, I'm going to pray instead." The circumstances don't always change instantly, but start giving Him thanks from the moment you pray because you know He heard you and the answer is YES!

**Psalms 107:8 KJV Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!**

His "goodness" is His character. Those "wonderful works" come because He is good! Here is another place where Jesus teaches us to have faith in God's YES when we pray,

**Matthew 7:7-11 KJV Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: [8] For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. [9] Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? [10] Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? [11] If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?**

Religion taught me I had to storm the gates of heaven and wrestle my blessing away from a reluctant God. But Jesus paints a completely different picture of God our Father. Jesus says, ask and you shall receive. Seek and you shall find. Knock, and it shall be opened unto you. We all know that Jesus stands at the door of our heart and knocks. There is a door to God's heart. Jesus is saying, "Gary-cakes (like I call my granddaughter Lily-cakes), if you knock on the door of your Father's heart, it is going to open." What a different picture Jesus portrays of our heavenly Father than religion. Let's believe what the king says about our Father.

[Once again, I recommend that you watch the series titled "Kingdom Law" that was taught by Jim Martin at the Family Prayer Center in Immokalee, Florida in February of 2025. Here is a link to the page containing that series:  
<https://broncflint.org/guest-speakers/> ]

A kingdom law given to us by the king Himself: Believe You Receive When You Pray! That is a law, not a suggestion. You may not like that law, but remember the Holy Spirit said to me, *"The kingdom functions the way the king says it does, and not the way you think it does."*

[I tell the story of my friend who practiced this by asking for a gold money clip. He got three of them for Christmas.]

Another law of the kingdom is that if you don't forgive, none of this is going to work for you. We will teach on that in future lessons. But today let's focus again on our foundational scripture for having faith in God.

**Mark 11:22-24 KJV And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. [23] For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. [24] Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.**

I always found it interesting that Jesus would use the occasion of cursing the fig tree to teach about prayer because ... Jesus did not pray during that event. He did not stop and pray first and then curse the fig tree. He saw the tree, walked toward the tree, saw there was no fruit, and then He cursed the fig tree. There is no prayer in that narrative.

Later in my meditations of the four gospels, I learned that Jesus never stopped and prayed first, right before ministering healing and miracles to the people. Most commonly, He would simply speak the command, and the results were amazing. "Take up thy bed and walk. Stretch forth thy hand. Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. Devil, come out." He would simply speak the command, not pray first each time. He would speak, and it would happen. Nicodemus was right when he said, "We know that no man can do these things unless God is with him."

**Acts 10:38 KJV How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.**

Since Jesus normally ministered healing and miracles to the people without praying first each time, why does He use the word "therefore," connecting the words that you speak (the command) with prayer? He did not pray before He spoke to that tree.

The kind of prayer He is referring to is intimate, fellowship type of prayer that He taught the disciples in Luke chapter eleven. In that time of intimate fellowship with

the Father, that is when you petition the father for the "bread" (the anointing of the Holy Spirit) to serve those in need. Unless the Holy Spirit moves WHEN YOU SPEAK ... no power is going to be manifested!

Again, here is Gary's paraphrase of what Jesus is teaching His disciples: "You saw what happened when I spoke to the tree? You saw that I did not touch it. I didn't lay hands on it. I didn't take an axe to the roots. All I did was speak words to the tree. I gave the command. That's all I did. Who touched the tree? It was God. God the Holy Ghost. Unless God the Holy Spirit works with your words, no power is going to be manifested." That is why He connected up the spoken words with "therefore" concerning prayer. The kind of prayer He is referring to is the prayer of petition during times of intimate fellowship with the Father. He describes that in Luke chapter eleven.

Jesus spent lots of time in prayer. Sometimes He would pray all night long. Those were times of intimate fellowship between Himself and the Father. The disciples noticed a pattern. Jesus would spend those long hours alone in prayer, and then he went to minister ... the POWER WOULD FLOW WHEN HE SPOKE! They saw this pattern ... first prayer ... then power. They asked Him to teach them to pray.

Gary's paraphrase again concerning the statement "Have faith in God." "You saw that when I spoke, God moved. I want you to have that same kind of faith so that when you speak to the mountain, you will have faith that it will move. God is going to work with your words the same way He is working with My words. That's the kind of faith in God I want you to have." The disciples might ask, "How would we get that?" Jesus would respond, "THEREFORE ... what things soever you desire when you pray, believe you receive them, and you shall have them."

Let's see what is being desired in Luke chapter eleven. First Jesus tells them the Lord's prayer. Included in that prayer is the phrase, "Give us day by day our daily bread." He is speaking of bread for somebody else. (In Matthew chapter six He expounds on receiving daily bread for you ... your provision.)

**Luke 11:5-13 KJV And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; [6] For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? [7] And he from within shall answer and say,**

**Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. [8] I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. [9] And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. [10] For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. [11] If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? [12] Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? [13] If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?**

I must not bypass that phrase, "I have nothing to set before him." I hate to say it, but most of our time spent ministering to the sick has been unfruitful because it lacked the anointing (the power flow) of the Holy Spirit. "Without Him, we can do nothing." King Jesus is teaching us how to correct that problem.

The subject is the bread, the anointing, for you to have in order to give to somebody else. This is true ministry. King Jesus says, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For everyone that asks receives; and he that seeks finds; and to him that knocks, it shall be opened."

The king is teaching us a great secret of the kingdom here. How do you know your words are going to come to pass when you speak? It is when you can say, "I only speak the Word of God, or in line with the Word of God at all times. When I see a problem, no matter how big it is, when I speak, I have faith that the Holy Spirit is going to cause those words to come to pass. That problem will never be seen again."

IMPORTUNITY: Strongs G355 says it means "impudence." Thayer's dictionary of New Testament Words defines it as "shamelessness." Coming to ask without shame.

We must know our Father's character well enough to understand He is not like the man behind the door in that parable at all. He is not reluctant to give us the bread

of the Holy Spirit. The Father is more eager for you to have the bread than you are. The Father is more eager that your friend be healed than you are. The character of God is so different than how religion has portrayed Him. We must believe what the king says about the Father.

Notice in the Lord's Prayer when Jesus mentions the bread, He says to ask for it "day by day." The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a one-time event, but there are many fillings. Jesus implies we need a fresh filling every day. That only comes by times spent in intimacy with the Father.

If you want the Holy Spirit to work with your words the same way He worked with Jesus' words, you are going to have spend time with the Father and ask to be filled with the Holy Spirit on a daily basis. We are not talking about legalism here. We are talking about a daily walk of intimacy with your heavenly Father. As we do this, the very nature of Christ comes more and more to fullness within us. He is taking over the way we think, the way we feel, how we see things in truth.

**Galatians 2:20 KJV I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.**

Jesus knew that it looked like the end of His ministry when He was dying on the cross. But what sustained Him was looking into the future and seeing all of us, millions of us, with His life planted within us. Jesus knew He was the SEED, that had to fall to the earth and die, in order to be multiplied millions of times over in believers down through time. He knew His ministry was not coming to an end. It was about to be multiplied millions of times over. Glory to God! His ministry continues through us.

**Mark 4:26-29 KJV And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; [27] And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. [28] For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. [29] But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.**



We are coming into the time of maturity, the full corn in the ear. It is time for the harvest of the earth to be accomplished. The heart cry of the Lord for many years has been, "Come away with Me, My beloved." In those times of intimacy through the Word, worship, prayer, and fasting we have been molded like clay in the Potter's hand to bear the very image of Christ. Paul said, "It's me, but not the old me, it is Christ in me, and now I am living by His faith." Glory to God!

Without shame, we know we received when we asked for the filling of the Holy Spirit. We know that when we speak to a problem, the Holy Spirit enforces those words and the mountain is removed, never to be seen again. That's what Jesus meant when He said, "Have faith in God."

**Hebrews 4:16 AMPC Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace (the throne of God's unmerited favor to us sinners), that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find grace to help in good time for every need [appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it].**

Let's take a macro look at the events for just a moment. The cursing of the fig tree and the cleansing of the temple all happened during what we today call Holy Week. It begins on Palm Sunday and ends with the crucifixion, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus is using visual demonstrations to show His disciples what is really about to happen. Through the events of that week, Jesus is going to end fruitless religion by moving the mountain of spiritual death out of the way so that it will no longer keep people from entering into the kingdom of God.

He is also showing them, by visual demonstration, God will no longer live in a temple made of stone, but humans will become the temple of God. Jesus will cleanse the temple (mortification) and take His rightful place as Lord in each believer (edification). When that process comes to maturity, the blind and the lame will come to "Him in the temple" (Christ in us) and He will heal them.