GET PRAYERS ANSWERED (series)

**2—ESSENTIALS FOR ANSWERS**

**Mark 11:22–24 (NKJV)** So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God. **23** For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. **24** Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. **25** And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. **26** But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.”

**WHAT IS JESUS TELLING US? GOD IS A PRAYER-ANSWERING GOD!**

**Matthew 7:7–8 (NKJV)** “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. **8** For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

**WHAT IS JESUS SAYING??? THAT GOD IS A PRAYER-ANSWERING GOD.**

**NOW… TO INVOKE THE POWER OF GOD… CERTAIN ESSENTIALS THAT NEED TO BE IN PLACE… LET’S TALK ABOUT FIVE ESSENTIALS.**

**ESSENTIAL #1 – FORGIVE EVERYONE**

**Mark 11:24–26** “Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. **25** **AND** whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. **26** But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.”

**ESSENTIAL #2 – BE FORGIVEN… TO BE IN FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD**

**1 John 1:6–9 (NKJV)** If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. **7** But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

**Proverbs 1:24–33 (NKJV)** Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, **25** Because you disdained all my counsel, And would have none of my rebuke, **26** I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes, **27** When your terror comes like a storm, And your destruction comes like a whirlwind, When distress and anguish come upon you. **28** “Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me. **29** Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the Lord, **30** They would have none of my counsel And despised my every rebuke. **31** Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, And be filled to the full with their own fancies. **32** For the turning away of the simple will slay them, And the complacency of fools will destroy them; **33** But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, And will be secure, without fear of evil.”

**EX –** If a teenage son persistently ignores his parent’s repeated demand that he stops drinking, doing drugs, and that he be home by a certain time… and he willfully disobeys them, what do you think they’re going to say if he says, “Can I borrow the car tonight… it’s really important?” They’re going to either say NO, or ignore his request.

**Zechariah 7:11–13 (NKJV)** But they refused to heed, shrugged their shoulders, and stopped their ears so that they could not hear. **12** Yes, they made their hearts like flint, refusing to hear the law and the words which the Lord of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets. Thus great wrath came from the Lord of hosts. **13** Therefore it happened, that just as He proclaimed and they would not hear, so they called out and I would not listen,” says the Lord of hosts.

**ESSENTIAL #3 – PRAY ACCORDING TO GOD’S WILL**

**1 John 5:14–15 (NKJV)** Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. **15** And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

**EX –** My dad always wanted to be a pastor. He asked God to use him and open a door for him to pastor a church… and someone offered him a church, so he and my mom moved to New Mexico to pastor a little church there… but it wasn’t what they were told, and once they moved there it didn’t seem right. So my dad fasted and prayed and God told him to go back to California… he got a job… served the Lord volunteer… and raised three full-time pastors. But… see… it wasn’t God’s will for my dad to pastor a church.

**EX –** In 1985, I had been at my new church—Valley Community Church in El Monte, CA, almost a year when the senior pastor, William Brafford, Jr, asked to meet with me. The youth pastor had just left, and he promoted the Jr. High pastor up to the position of youth pastor… and he wanted to know if I’d be willing to become the new Jr. High Pastor. I didn’t want to do it… I was convinced that I should stay in the College group where I was leading worship because Pat Benny, the College age pastor, was leaving to plant a church in Carmel, CA, and I felt that my staying could help bring stability during the transitionary period. So I explained this to my pastor and then said, but you’re the pastor, so I’ll do whatever you want. However, my pastor paid no attention to me. He said, “I want you to do Jr. High.” Little did I know that that was the beginning of a fifteen-year run of youth ministry… including being the National Youth Minister for The Foursquare Church in the US.

**ESSENTIAL #4 – WHATEVER THINGS YOU ASK**

**Matthew 7:7 (NKJV)** “Ask, and it will be given to you.”

**‭‭James‬ ‭4‬:‭2‬ ‭(NKJV‬‬)** “You do not have because you do not ask.”

**‭‭Mark‬ ‭10‬:‭46‬-‭52‬ ‭(NKJV‬‬)** “Now they came to Jericho. **As He went out of Jericho** with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying to him, “Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you.” And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus. So Jesus answered and said to him, “What do you want Me to do for you?” The blind man said to Him, “Rabboni, that I may receive my sight.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.”

**JESUS SAID…**

**Matthew‬ ‭6‬:‭8‬ ‭(NKJV)‬‬** “Your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.”

**BUT… YOU STILL NEED TO ASK.**

**ESSENTIAL #5 – BELIEVE THAT YOU RECEIVE THEM**

**Mark 11:24** “Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, **believe that you receive them**, and you will have them.

**LET’S WATCH PETER ASK JESUS SOMETHING…**

**Matthew 14:25–31 (NKJV)** Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. **26** And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out for fear. **27** But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.” **28** And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” **29** So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. **30** But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!” **31** And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

**PETER SAID, “COMMAND ME TO COME TO YOU ON THE WATER” … NOT JUST STEP OUT OF THE BOAT… BUT FAITH STARTS TAKING STEPS.**

**EX – Story of Aimee Semple McPherson…** When she had only enough cash to excavate the property, she told the contractor, “You dig the hole, and God will fill it!”

**EX –** When we put $500 down on the Amerige Heights town home