GET PRAYERS ANSWERED (series)

**3—THE TIMING OF FAITH**

**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.

**LET’S FOCUS ON THIS PART…**

**Mark 11:24 (NKJV)** Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask **when you pray, believe** **[present tense]** that you receive them, and you will **[future tense]** have them.

**(NASB 2020)** Therefore, I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, **believe that you have received them [aorist tense]**, and they will be granted to you.

**LET’S SEE HOW MATTHEW QUOTED THIS…**

**Matthew 21:22 (NKJV)** And whatever things you ask **in prayer, believing**, you will receive.”

**MATTHEW’S VERSION CONVEYS THE EXACT SAME MESSAGE… THAT THE KEY TO RECEIVING THE ANSWER TO YOUR PRAYER IS TO BELIEVE YOU RECEIVE IT WHEN YOU PRAY.**

**THAT MEANS YOU CAN’T WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE IT.**

**2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)** For we walk by faith, not by sight.

**JESUS TOLD THOMAS…**

**John 20:29 (NKJV)** Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

**SO WE NEED TO BELIEVE THAT WE RECEIVE THE ANSWER TO OUR PRAYER BEFORE WE SEE IT.**

**Mark 9:23 (NKJV)** Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”

**LET’S LOOK AT A FEW EXAMPLES OF THIS…**

**Romans 10:9 (NKJV)** that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe **[aorist tense]** in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be **[future tense]** saved.

**FAITH IS NOT MERELY A STATUS… IT’S ALSO A CHOICE.**

**Mark 1:14–15 (NKJV)** Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, **15** and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

**John 14:1 (NKJV)** “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, **believe** also in Me.

**1 Kings 18:21 (NKJV):** And Elijah came to all the people, and said, “How long will you falter between two opinions? **If the Lord is God, follow Him**; but if Baal, follow him.”

**Psalm 18:title–3 (NKJV)** To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David The Servant of the Lord, Who Spoke to the Lord The Words of This Song on the Day that the Lord Delivered Him from the Hand of All His Enemies and from the Hand of Saul. And He Said: **1** I will love You, O Lord, my strength. **2** The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. **3** I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies.

**Psalm 56:title–3 (NKJV)** To the Chief Musician. Set to “The Silent Dove in Distant Lands.” A Michtam of David When the Philistines Captured Him in Gath. **1** Be merciful to me, O God, for man would swallow me up; Fighting all day he oppresses me. **2** My enemies would hound me all day, For there are many who fight against me, O Most High. **3** Whenever I am afraid, **I will trust in You.**

**Psalm 91:1–3 (NKJV)** He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. **2** **I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.”** **3** Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler And from the perilous pestilence.

**2 Corinthians 4:13 (NKJV)** And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed and **therefore I spoke**,” we also believe and therefore speak,

**John 4:46–53 (NKJV)** So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum. **47** When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. **48** Then Jesus said to him, “Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe.” **49** The nobleman said to Him, “Sir, come down before my child dies!” **50** Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your son lives.” **So the man believed** the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way. **51** And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, “Your son lives!” **52** Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, “Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.” **53** So the father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, “Your son lives.” And he himself believed, and his whole household.

**DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT JESUS’ BROTHER JAMES SAID IN…**

**James 2:20 (NKJV)** Faith without works is dead?

**EX –** A number of years ago at the beginning of December, after experiencing supernatural growth, we had two consecutive months $100,000 short of our budgeted income… our finance pastor said, “If we have one more month like this, we’ll be in the red. Now this was the time for Christmas bonuses was drawing near. Our staff had been working so hard, and I really wanted to give them a Christmas bonus. After discussing this situation for a few minutes, I said to the Executive Team, let’s stop and pray… while praying, I had this thought, which I shared with the Eteam: “We have no evidence to suggest that God is not faithful to provide all of our needs. All of our bills are paid. We’re not behind on anything. So I suggest that we thank the Lord that He always provides for our needs and move forward with the Christmas bonuses. We did… and He did! After distributing the Christmas bonuses, and paying all of our bills, we ended December with an extra $50,000.

**Luke 17:11–19 (NKJV)** Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. **12** Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. **13** And they lifted up their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” **14** So when He saw them, He said to them, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And so it was that **as they went [in faith], they were cleansed**. **15** And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, **16** and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. **17** So Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? **18** Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?” **19** And He said to him, “Arise, go your way. **Your faith has made you well**.”

**WHAT IS JESUS TEACHING US? HE’S TEACHING US HOW TO GET PRAYERS ANSWERED.**

**YOU CAN’T GET PRAYERS ANSWERED WITHOUT BELIEVING THAT GOD WILL ANSWER YOUR PRAYERS.**

**James 1:5–8 (NKJV)** If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. **6** But let him **ask in faith, with no doubting**, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. **7** For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; **8** he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

**EVERY ONE OF US CAN HAVE THIS KIND OF FAITH.**

**HOW DO YOU GET FAITH?**

**Romans 10:17 (NKJV)** So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

**Mark 5:25–34 (NKJV)** Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, **26** and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. **27** **When she heard about Jesus**, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. **28** For she said, “**If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well**.” **29** Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. **30** And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, “Who touched My clothes?” **31** But His disciples said to Him, “You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, ‘Who touched Me?’ ” **32** And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. **33** But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. **34** And He said to her, “Daughter, **your faith has made you well**. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.”

**EX –** In early 1987, I was a 22-year-old, single youth pastor… I was working the graveyard shift at Stater Bros. Market… then driving to Los Angeles at 6:30am for Bible College… I was working many hours in ministry… eating too much fast food and junk food… and I got sick as a dog… normally I would never stay home sick, but this time, I had to … so I was laying on my little bachelor’s couch moaning and groaning, and quoting the healing scriptures… and then I heard something down in my spirit… “Healed people don’t lay around in the middle of the day” (I was being challenged to use my faith)…. So I stood up and continued quoting the scriptures and praising God... but in a pitiful way…. and I heard, “Healed people lift their hands and praise God” … I did not feel like raising my hands … but I did… and I continued praising God for His healing… and then I heard, “Healed people dance before the Lord” … and that was the LAST thing that I felt like doing… but I did it… I began dancing by faith and thanking God for my healing… and within a few minutes, every symptom of sickness was gone… my energy came back… and I felt ready to go to work… so I showered, got dressed and went to work and felt completely normal.

**EX –** When we first started The Rock, my brother David––who was our worship pastor––said, “Jerry, the sound system is SO BAD in here… we really need a new sound system.” He was right, but we didn’t have the money… but I said to him, “Don’t worry David, we’ll have everything we need”… and we did!

**EX –** I remember Scott Stark, Mike Stark’s brother, having some wrought iron frames welded to hold up so large, Walmart tube TVs for the West Auditorium… and now we have state of the Art LED screens. All by divine supply. At first we only had “State of the Start” ☺

**LET’S STAND AND DECLARE SOME THINGS IN FAITH.**

**Romans 3:4 (NKJV)** Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: “That You may be justified in Your words, And may overcome when You are judged.”