

7. Faith - the Key to Victorious Living

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Subtitle: How to pray the Prayer of Faith

We are still studying God's Word on the subject of faith & how we can build strong faith in our lives to live victorious in these challenging days.

- Our God-given faith is the substance & quality that helps us to stand strong and secure in Jesus Christ
- Faith is the master key that unlocks all of God's promises
- By faith we receive all that God has provided for us, and promised to us

1 John 5:4–5 (NIV) *For everyone born of God overcomes the world. **This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.** 5 **Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.***

- Only believers in Jesus overcome the world & live victorious over it

How to pray the Prayer of Faith

James 5:14-15 (NKJV) *Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and **let them pray** over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the **prayer of faith** will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.*

- What the prayer of faith is **not**:
 - It is not a prayer of hope (hope is future - faith is now)
 - It is not a prayer that begins with: "... if it be thy will ..."
 - It is not a prayer that we pray again and again for the same need
- The Prayer of Faith is the kind of prayer we pray:
 - to change things – circumstances, situations, symptoms etc.
 - to get something from God (faith receives)
 - something that He has promised in His written Word

1. Know the will of God

Before we can effectively pray the Prayer of Faith, we must:

- a. Know the will of God concerning the situation before we pray
- b. Know what we want from God (Matt. 20:32)
- c. Have a promise in God's Word that promises what we want

Ephesians 5:17 (AMP) *Therefore **do not be vague** and thoughtless and foolish, **but understanding** and firmly grasping **what the will of the Lord is**.*

- ... *do not be vague* ...
- ...*but understanding* ... *what the will of the Lord is*
- God's written Word is God's will concerning any situation

Quote by Rev. F.F. Bosworth, author of the book entitled "Christ the Healer": "Faith begins where the will of God is known."

- Faith has a starting point
- Once we know & are certain of God's will from His Word, faith begins
- We do not use the words "if it be your will, Lord" in the Prayer of Faith
- If we did, it wouldn't be a prayer of faith, but a prayer of doubt & uncertainty

Hebrews 11:1 (NirV) *Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being certain of what we do not (yet) see.*

2. Pray the Prayer of Faith only once concerning each specific need

- The Prayer of Faith should be prayed only once concerning each specific need
- If we prayed the Prayer of Faith ten times concerning the same need, at least nine out of the ten times would be prayed in doubt or unbelief
- To pray the Prayer of Faith for sick people to be healed, we need to:
 - Know that it is God's will for them to be healed
 - Have a specific promise in God's Word that states God's will

Romans 4:20-21 (NKJV) ... *(Abraham) did not waver at **the promise of God** through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being **fully convinced** that **what He had promised** He was also able to perform.*

- Having faith means to be “fully convinced” about God’s ability & willingness to make good His promises in our lives, & in the lives of others
- Abraham had God’s promise to make him a father of many nations, and give him a son through his wife Sarah. (Genesis 17:4 & 18:10)
- Question: Where did Abraham get the faith to believe for a son?
- Answer: He got faith from hearing the promises of God!
- Question: How did he become fully convinced that what God had promised He was also able (and willing) to perform?
- Answer: Through repeated confession.
ie. I am Abraham, I am Abraham (father of many nations)
(I am Sarah – queen or mother of princes)

3. We receive the answer to our specific need at the time when we pray

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

Grammatically, there are two tenses in the original text of this sentence:

- Present Tense – ... *whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them ...*
- Future Tense – ... *and you will have them*

Having the things that we ask for in prayer depends on us “believing that we receive them when we pray”.

- The “receiving” is done at the time when we pray.
- The “having” happens some time after we have prayed.

There is usually a time frame between the “receiving” and the “having”.

- We “receive” by faith
- We “have” once the answer to our prayer manifests in the natural realm

4. What to do between “the receiving” and “the having”:

Romans 4:20-21 (NKJV) ... *(Abraham) did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but **was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,** 21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.*

Abraham gave glory to God from the time that God promised him a son, to the time that Isaac was conceived and born.

Thanksgiving to God is the most appropriate expression of our faith, from the time that we have “prayed and received” to the time that we actually “have what we prayed for”.

- Abraham “received” his son when he believed God’s promise
- Abraham “had” his son when Isaac was conceived and born

5. How to pray the Prayer of Faith:

- a. Find a promise in God’s Word that covers your specific need
- b. Take that Scripture to God in prayer:

ie. “Father God, I thank You that You said in Your Word... (quote the verse). According to Your promise, I ask for, and receive my need (be specific) right now, and I thank You that have heard my prayer, in Jesus’ Name. Amen”

- c. Then continue to thank God that He has answered your prayer, and that He has met your need

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.