

“PRAYING & BELIEVING TO RECEIVE (IN JESUS’ NAME)”

FCG Church 0331 21W S200R (S84R) Ref #229Rdg

An overcoming and victorious life of faith on God, results from obeying Scripture by going to God in prayer, and believing in faith on the plain teaching of God’s Word. The importance and value of praying with faith on God’s Promises, and receiving the benefits of those Promises that He gave us, cannot be over-emphasized, because we must believe that Jesus (the Son of God) is faithful to what He has promised. (Rev. 2:6) “To him who overcomes I will give the privilege of eating the fruit of the Tree of Life, which is in the Paradise of God.” (vs.11) “He who overcomes (meaning, by faith) shall be in no way hurt by the Second Death.”

One’s prayer life, in reality, is the most profitable subject that a Christian could ever want to comprehend, because it’s through praying with faith (on the power of the Atonement Blood of Jesus Christ) that we can receive all blessings from God. His blessings will include spiritual, physical, financial, peace in our home, and every other good thing within God’s will that we desire to have. That is why the Bible instructs us to pray about everything, because all things that concern us are received through prayers made in real faith on God’s Word.

Receiving in Jesus’ Name is a most important matter for everyone to consider, and, when rightly understood, it can open the way for God’s power to be manifested in our personal life, (with our family, and in all other ways). There are only two sources of information regarding this ‘life-giving’ subject of ‘prayer’ in Jesus’ Name, and, of course God’s written Word tells us the real Truth of the matter. The devil, however, has always worked hard to convince people that God has changed, and, that we can no longer receive answers to prayer from God.

We know from Scriptures that God and His Word has not changed, and the Atonement Blood of Jesus Christ is just as efficacious today (as in the first century). Scripture also clearly reveals that God loves us as much as He loves His only Son, whom He gave up for us when we were without strength and ungodly. That was the greatest expression of God’s love for us, which is pure, unselfish, and perfect love,.. and we all have the privilege to prove for ourselves the extent of God’s love for us.

The Bible reveals (by teaching and by examples of ‘faith and trust’), that God is always willing to answer our every prayer, concerning every Scriptural need or desire that we may have in this present life. It is our responsibility (and our choice) to turn to God in faith,... (or, to turn to some other source of supply or deliverance). We should understand (and truly believe) that we have a God who never changes, and a ‘living Christ’ who is the same yesterday, today, and forever, because the Bible tells us so. (Heb. 13:8). That is “Why We Pray”! to God through a ‘living Christ’.

The prayer life is exactly opposite to the way un-believers in the world meet the circumstances they face. The customs among most people in the world, are to always turn to someone else or some other plan, (instead of turning to God and going to Him in prayer). We are told, however, (Rom. 12:2) “And do ‘not’ follow the customs of the present age, but be transformed by the entire renewal of your minds”, (a changed ‘mind-set’ that prays in faith to God, instead of depending on human plans and efforts of a life of ‘self’),..“so that you may learn by experience what God's ‘will’ is --that ‘will’ which is good and beautiful and perfect.”

Most people in the world are so deceived they think that a true Christian is foolish to go to God in prayer (thus the ‘Cross of Christ’ is deprived of its power), (and the real serious part is that Scripture says they are on their way to the Lake of Fire, for they consider God’s Word as foolishness, and, because of their unbelief they are cut off)(Rom. 11:20), (and “thrown aside for burning”, Jesus said, Matt. 7:19). However, believers who pray to God are assured (1 Cor. 1:18), “For the Message of the Cross is foolishness to ‘those’ who are on the way to ‘perdition’, but it is the ‘power of God’ to those whom He is saving.”

Scripture tells believers that we should pray about every-thing in our life, not accept fear from the devil, nor be anxious about anything. (Phil. 4:6-7) “Do not be over-anxious (NKJ says, ‘careful’) about anything,” (that means not worry about anything because worry hinders real faith),... “but by prayer and earnest pleading, together with thanksgiving, let your request be unreservedly made known in the presence of God. And then the peace of God, which transcends all our powers of thought”(passes all human understanding), “will be a garrison to guard (or keep) your hearts and minds in union with Christ Jesus.”

God’s Word not only tells us that we should pray, but it tells us when and how to pray. (Matt. 11:28-29) “Come to me, all you toiling and burdened ones,” (if we are burdened, that is when we should pray, the Lord said), “and *I* will give you rest.” “Take my yoke upon you and ‘learn’ from me”; (if we are yoked to Christ we will then have to turn when He turns, therefore, we will be learning from Him as He said),... “for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” Only God can promise us Rest for our soul.

We all have a free-will choice to decide to yoke ourselves to Christ (commit our life to Him), and then we can learn from Him, as He promised we will learn in His school if we allow Him to teach us. One of the first lessons we learn in the school of Christ, is how to pray and get answers. We know nothing about this when we first come to God, and some people are very slow to allow God to teach them, after they accept the Truth. It is no sin to have other people pray for you (for we are told to pray for one another;)... but it does become a sin when we depend on other people’s prayers. There are many cases of that kind, and those souls (who are precious in God’s sight), are so deceived they do not realize what terrible loss they are tolerating.

In the early part of our Christian life, we are prone to get help from each other and to lean on other people’s prayers. This is not entirely according to God’s will, but He bears patiently with our ignorance and our

lack of understanding His divine 'principles of Truth'. Sooner or later, however (and sooner the better), we will have to measure up to the Bible teaching on prayer, which is to deal with God ourselves. [Our victory lies between us and God, not between us and the Church or other family members or friends.] M.P.

In God's school of learning, He wants us to go to Him personally, deal with Him alone, and get deliverance directly from Him. The spiritual result of this is more valuable than all the answers to prayer that we could get. The precise act of dealing with God personally, indicates the death of 'self' in our heart and life. What could be more valuable than that!? That is what opens the way for our spiritual growth and development (or our "holiness without which no one will see the Lord." (Hebr.12:14). It also means the supply of every need or Scriptural desire, which is success in the prayer life, and it is "Why We Pray" (as in this message title).

God wants us to be perfectly happy in Christ Jesus, and to have everything we need and every Scriptural desire. Also, to be fully protected, have the spiritual insight and guidance that we need, and be comforted physically, socially, financially (and every other blessing for our home and loved ones). We also want to realize that God is delighted to do all these things for us, if we will only go to Him in faith and ask Him in prayer, He promised that we are to receive through prayer.

Jesus told us about a wonderful privilege we have in the prayer-life. When He was here on earth, people went to Him and received any 'light' and 'deliverance' they wanted, but just before He went away He told them (and everyone else), that after He left they could go directly to God and receive any Scriptural desire. (John 16:23), "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My Name He will give you." (Meaning, they would no longer be able to come to Him in the flesh, but if they would pray to His Father in faith in Jesus' Name, they would be sure to receive the answer from Him. What that really means is, that through His Atonement Blood, and the power of His 'resurrection to life' (which defeated Satan forever), Jesus would open the way for us to get whatever we need and desire from God.

Satan makes every effort to hinder us from going to God in faith (in prayer), and, he tries to rob us of the valuable spiritual blessings connected with it. Satan doesn't mind if we get money, social standing, health, or anything else, (so long as we get it in some other way than from going personally to God). Our going to God is what Satan bitterly opposes.

Satan will tell us that we are not good enough to go to God in prayer, or that there is something wrong with us, and, that we can't receive from God. He wants us to think there is some vague or mysterious reason that we cannot understand, which leaves us in the dark. But we do not have to pay one bit of attention to anything that the devil says to us or tries to picture to our mind. However, if there is anything that we are really doing wrong, it should not only be confessed, but it should also be forsaken, so that we can expect to be successful in prayer.

The devil will always suggest past failures to our mind, and sins and mistakes, in order to make us think that God will not answer our prayers. Those thoughts are directly from Satan. He knows that if he can defile our conscience, he will be able to block or hinder our faith to receive. The receiving end is really the only place that he can hinder us, (because everything we need or desire is already knocking at our door and trying to get in), and God is very eager to do everything He possibly can to enable us to receive it.

There must be something mighty stubborn on our part that would hinder such love and power of God, as we refuse to take Him at His Word and let the victory be received. Limiting God and not allowing His power to work for us, is a condition we must get rid of (if we want to get eternal Life). The promise given (John 16:24) would include eternal Life, "Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your 'joy may be full'." (Receiving Eternal Life by faith on God's Word, would surely be that 'fullness of joy' that God promises for allowing His power to work for us).

True prayer is not just idle worship and merely going over some words without expecting to receive (the late Pastor said). That does not amount to anything at all. Most denominational churches, and the Catholics, only go through a form of prayer (which is just as senseless as it is ineffective). If anyone acted that way when dealing with other people, they would be considered as simple-minded and not having any sense. Would a person go into a grocery store, ask for the items needed, and then leave without taking the items with them? It is the same when we ask God for things in prayer, (with the exception that we must furnish the money to pay the grocer for things we asked for). When we ask God for something in prayer, the price has already been paid by the shed Blood of Christ, and the things were already promised to us. We do not have to pay again for what God has already given us in His 'Promises'. That means there is nothing in the way (on God's part), to hinder our receiving every blessing that Jesus Christ provided for us on the Cross. That is why we pray in Jesus' Name!

If you were to see an advertised item in a store, you would know that the merchant wanted to sell it to you. If you had the money to pay for it, you would feel sure that you could receive it from the merchant. You had the money, he wanted to sell the item, and you wanted to take it from him. Three conditions were met, and you would not consider the aspect of your faith in the transaction.

When we want to deal with God, the devil tries to tell us that we do not have enough faith to receive what we want from God (which is a lie in itself). Would we ever think that the person we were purchasing something from, would say that we don't have enough faith to receive the article from him? Satan, however, tries to tell us that we don't have enough faith to receive what God has promised. If we believed that lie of Satan, we would think that it is no use for us to pray to God, (and that it does not make any sense to pray to God in a meaningless form of worship).

So, it is just as much nonsense to think that we can't receive what God has already given us in His Word. God does not answer our prayers because of our faith, nor hold it back because we don't have faith. Our faith does not effect God's giving us what He promised, it effects our receiving answers to prayer from Him.

Jesus Christ (the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world), (through His death on Calvary's Cross) answers our prayers, and He said, that everything that we need for time and eternity is already ours for the asking. God could not withhold our deliverance and answers to prayer if we are willing to receive them. The only thing that could block them, is for us to believe the lies of Satan, and refuse to receive in God's way.

There are two reasons why God answers our prayers. First, because He loves us as much as He loves His only Son, and He is intensely eager to give us everything we need, and every Scriptural desire for our happiness. Second is closely allied with the first, that is the 'Blood of Christ', which has taken every obstacle out of the way of God's intense love, and has opened the way for Him to give us all that we need and desire within His will. The Blood of Christ is the merit price already paid for us. God's love is the incentive, and it is He who gives us the faith and confidence to believe and receive from Him, just as we would receive from another person on this earth (by believing that we are going to receive something from them).

We must believe that God and the Blood of Jesus Christ stands behind every 'promise' that He had given us in His Word. It is like believing the Government's word that paper money (promissory notes) we get from them, is the same as the gold that stands behind it. We just accept their promises, the same as we must accept the promises given us in God's Word when we deal personally with Him in prayer. He is faithful to His promises, and that is "Why We Believe".

We are given vital passages of Scripture(Hebr.10:), that should encourage us, and with God's help and blessing will make our praying to God more profitable and successful. God inspired these verses to be written for us, (vs. 19-20), "Since then, brethren, we have free access to the Holy place through the blood of Jesus", (meaning, come into God's presence with boldness and do not be fainthearted), for "by the new and ever-living way" (a way which never closes nor changes, even though many churches of the world teach that God will not answer prayer because He has changed); but it is a way "which He opened up for us through the rending of the veil--that is to say, of His earthly nature (or the rending of His fleshly-nature).. (Vs.21-22) "and since we have a great Priest who has authority over the 'house of God', let us draw near with sincerity and unfaltering faith (with a heart in assurance of faith') "having had our hearts sprinkled, once for all, from consciences oppressed with sin, and our bodies bathed in pure water."

We do not go to God in prayer just to ask for something without believing that we have received what was already provided for us. (Vs. 23) "Let us hold firmly to an unflinching avowal of our hope, [in other words, true sincerity of heart, and settling in our mind to meet God's easy condition for victory], [by believing what He

has told us in His Word, instead of believing the lies of Satan causing us to doubt] “for He is faithful who gave us the promises.” That is, “Why We Pray”, because we believe what ‘God’ has told us.

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MP 1... Nothing could be more profitable to a Christian than to fully understand the ‘prayer life’, because praying in faith on the power of the Atonement Blood of Christ is from where all blessings flow.

2.. When we refuse to take God at His Word, our stubbornness hinders God’s power from working for us so our victory can be received. (Luke 13;34) “how often have I desired to gather thy children (just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings), and you would not come!” (It is our unwillingness to believe, not because of a lack of power on God’s part that we do not receive).

3... God has promised to give us our every need or Scriptural desire, so lack of faith could not hinder God (the Giver), but lack of faith can hinder on the receiving end.

4... The ‘prayer life’ is considered foolishness to many people in the world, who deprive the ‘Cross of Christ’ of its power, (and are on the way to perdition “it was their unbelief that cut them off”).

5... The ‘Message of the Cross’ is however, “the power of God to those whom He is saving.” Sooner or later we will have to ‘measure up to’ Bible teaching on ‘prayer’,... which is to go personally to God in prayer (not depending on the faith nor prayers of others).