

21-Day Fast and Pray -January 24, 2019

God is BIGGER than every problem. Read and pray this from Psalm 145: 3-13.

God is magnificent; He can never be praised enough. There are no boundaries to His greatness. Generation after generation stands in awe of Your work; each one tells stories of Your mighty acts. Your beauty and splendor have everyone talking; I compose songs on Your wonders. Your marvelous doings are headline news; I could write a book full of the details of Your greatness. The fame of Your goodness spreads across the country; Your righteousness is on everyone's lips. God is all mercy and grace— not quick to anger, is rich in love. God is good to one and all; everything He does is suffused with grace. Creation and creatures applaud You, God; Your holy people bless you. They talk about the glories of Your rule, they exclaim over Your splendor, Letting the world know of Your power for good, the lavish splendor of Your kingdom. Your kingdom is a kingdom eternal; You never get voted out of office. God always does what he says, and is gracious in everything he does...

James, the brother of Jesus, was known as a great man of prayer. He gave the church invaluable insight into this subject in James 5:15-18:

The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up...The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain... And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain...

To pray the “prayer of faith” is to be confident that the authority of Jesus is greater than the power of sin, sickness, and Satan.

To pray the “prayer of faith” is to be confident that the blood of Jesus qualifies weak people like us to be vessels that release His power. That we can enter God's presence and ask without fear, confident that He will hear and answer.

To pray the “prayer of faith” is to be confident that it is the Father's desire to heal, to set free from the chains and bondage of sin, to bless His people - now.

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Therefore the Lord longs to be gracious to you, and therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the Lord is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him. – Isaiah 30:18 NASB

Isaiah describes God as waiting. We think that we are waiting for God when in actuality, the Lord is waiting on us. He wants to be gracious to us and He will be very gracious as He hears a sustained cry from our hearts.

ASK. One foundational principle of answered prayer is this: **God requires us to ask.** Asking connects us to His heart and connection to the Father lays hold of the promise. James 4:2 says, *“Yet you do not have because you ask not.”*

Jesus tells us in Matthew 7:7, 8, *“Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; and he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks it shall be opened.”*

BELIEVE. Believing God is the next requirement in effective praying.

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

Matthew 21:22 says: “all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”

RECEIVE. If you abide in Christ, if you ask and you believe, then, all that remains is for you to receive the answer. John 16:24 says, *“Ask and you will receive, that your joy may be made full.”*

“I love the Lord because He hears my prayers and answers them. Because He bends down and listens, I will pray as long as I breathe!” Psalm 116:1, 2 (Living Bible).

His promises of blessing are invitations to prayer. Prayer does not earn us God’s favor – it connects us to God’s heart. It’s like God is saying, *“If I withhold blessing, you will talk to Me. If you talk to Me, you will be blessed beyond measure because of your relationship with Me.”* So, the Lord is waiting.

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Pray with words – not just thoughts.

“Take words with you, and return to the LORD. Say to Him, ‘Take away all iniquity; Receive us graciously, for we will offer the sacrifices of our lips.’ - Hosea 14:2.

You must learn to speak in His presence to Him. When you verbalize your request, even if you even whisper, your mind cannot go one direction while your words go another.

Abiding is the first key to successful praying.

John 15:7 says: *“If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will and it shall be done for you.”*

Colossians 3:16 says, *“Let the Word of Christ richly dwell within you.”*