

Episode 004

Faith in God

Introduction

Faith towards God is essential in intercession. When we pray with faith, we are basically trusting in God's ability to deliver according to His Word and character.

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek Him.

Faith Developed Through Delay

Faith lets God undertake for us. This is where we banish doubt and unbelief from our hearts and instead choose to believe that what we ask from God according to His Word will come to pass.

Nothing is impossible for God. Only God can move mountains, and faith and prayer move God's heart.

E.M. Bounds on Prayer wrote: "Faith is the currency of heaven."

Faith is enlarged through delay. Will we choose to trust God patiently and be prepared for God's seeming delays in answering prayer. Do not be disheartened because prayer is not immediately honored.

It takes God at His word and lets Him take what time He chooses in fulfilling His purposes and in carrying on His work. There is a possibility of delay and long days of waiting, but true faith accepts the conditions.



If God delays in answering our prayer, wait for Him. Waiting is not being lazy or going to sleep. It is not giving up. Rather, it is activity under command – being ready for when the command comes and doing nothing until it comes.

In His own good timing, God will give the command and break through all the obstacles. He will come and will not be late. “Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours” (Mark 11:22, 24). He is the God of the 11th hour.

Whatever obstacle you are facing, whatever impossibility you are praying through, don’t give up. God wants to enlarge your faith through the difficulty and the delay. Believe that one day He will break through in abundance. Thank Him now for what He will do even when you don’t see it. Remember, faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1)

"Delay is often the test and the strength of faith. How much patience is required when these times of testing come! Yet faith gathers strength by waiting and praying. Patience has its perfect work in the school of delay. In some instances, delay is of the very nature of the prayer. God has to do many things before He gives the final answer. There are things that are essential to the lasting good of the person who is requesting the favor from Him."

E.M. Bounds, E.M. Bounds of Prayer

Faith-Filled Obedience for the Impossible

Mark 4:37-41 on Jesus who calmed the storm!

A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “teacher, don’t you care if we drown?” He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet, be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, “why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?” They were terrified and asked each other, “who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”



God loves to answer impossible prayers because He, the Creator, lives in the realms of what seems impossible. He wants us to be obedient in prayer so that He can stretch our faith to the place where He dwells.

In this place of faith-filled obedience, He makes the impossible possible, by His might and power alone. And He wraps His strength around our weakness, bringing our faith to a new level.

God Desires Faith-filled Prayers. God breaks through if we don't give up in prayer.

We must realize that God is there and that He will catch us even though we can't see our way through. He will grant us victory step-by-step as we continue in prayer. Don't give up praying, because He will win the battle for you. Remember that His strength is made perfect in our weakness. Let us pray for one another that our faith may not fail. Faith honors God. He answers prayer according to our faith.

Matthew 9:29

Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith will it be done to you"

Nothing is Impossible for God. Prayer is the avenue to see all needs met. Prayer and faith go together. Ask God for increased faith in prayer for all believers.

Faith-Filled Obedience for the Impossible

We all want God to answer our prayers; we believe in the power of prayer. But when it comes down to our own individual lives and problems, we often don't have the faith to believe that God will answer. Unbelief and independence trap us.

Remember the prayer of Jabez in 1 Chronicles 4:10

Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain.' And God granted his request.



Jabez cried out to God to enlarge his territory and bless him. He cried out for God's hand to be with him. Jabez was greatly blessed by God because he didn't let obstacles become larger than his faith. He knew the character of God and knew that God loved to bless.

We too, are made for destiny. We have a God-inspired desire to impact our world.

We often won't try anything we can't see because we are locked in by our fears. Faith is the ability to trust God even when we cannot see.

Faith frees us to trust God who has all the resources of heaven. Why are we afraid to become dependent on a God who has unlimited resources?

I realize that I must demonstrate my dependence on God continually by stepping out by faith in whatever way He leads.

My willingness and weaknesses offered to God's will and supernatural power result in God's unlimited opportunity to bless. God is trying to teach each one of us dependence on His strong hand and supernatural power.

When we surrender our weakness into the mighty hand of God, our needs and problems turn into His unlimited opportunity.

Then He can entrust us with an enlarged territory and the fulfillment of His plan for us. God honors these seemingly small steps of faith and turns them into His unlimited opportunity because at that very point, we become dependent on Him.



Discussion Questions

How to grow in a life of faith.

It is time to evaluate your personal faith life. Answer the questions carefully and prayerfully.

1. How is God presently growing my faith?
2. In what way does God want to enlarge my territory?
3. What impossible assignment has God give me in prayer?
4. In what way am I trusting God for something bigger than myself? How am I stepping out of my comfort zone?
5. In what way am I waiting in faith during the delay?
6. How am I surrendering my weakness – needs and problems – into His mighty hand?
7. In what way is God teaching me to depend on His strength and supernatural power?



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