

Fake News Series
“Fake News About Prayer”
October 1, 2017

INTRODUCTION:

Psalm 34:15 (NLT)

¹⁵ The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right;
his ears are open to their cries for help.

1 Peter 3:12a (NLT)

¹² The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right,
and his ears are open to their prayers.

Question:

In light of such promises regarding prayer, why do so few of our prayers answered?

FAKE NEWS ABOUT PRAYER:

“YOU CAN NEVER REALLY KNOW IF GOD WILL ANSWER YOUR PRAYER.”

- We have been taught that prayer is a “religious” duty or exercise.
- We have been taught that prayer is asking for things.
- We have had it said that prayer is difficult because, “ I run out of things to pray for in a short time.”

I. PRAYER IS NOT A MONOLOGUE, BUT AN INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE:

FAMILIAR VERSES ABOUT PRAYER:

Matthew 6:6 (NLT)

⁶ But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

Mark 11:24 (NLT)

²⁴ I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you’ve received it, it will be yours.

TWO INTRIGUING EXAMPLES OF PRAYER:

ACTS 9:40 Peter prays for Dorcas "...he knelt down and prayed..." then he turned to her..."

ACTS 28:8 Paul prays for Publius' father who was ill. "...he prayed for him...and laying hands on him, he healed him..."

- There is the implication that there was a SEPARATED TIME in Paul and Peter's prayer
- They PRAYED, then Peter turned; and Paul laid hands
- All these verses USE THE SAME WORD FOR PRAYER

A KEY DEFINITION TO UNDERSTAND PRAYER:

"PROSEUCHOMAI" (87 times in the New Testament)

TO INTERACT WITH GOD BY SWITCHING HUMAN WISHES (IDEAS) FOR GOD'S WISHES (IDEAS) UNTIL HE IMPARTS FAITH (DIVINE PERSUASION) FOR WHAT HE WANTS TO DO!

- Prayer is NOT a static, habitual, repetitive exercise or mechanical activity
- It is a fluid, dynamic ENGAGEMENT with God until we are persuaded of the DIVINE OUTCOME!

NOTE:

BIBLICAL FAITH IS NOT LIKE THE METAPHYSICAL "NEW AGE" FAITH COMMONLY MISTAKEN FOR IT. THERE IS NO POWER IN BELIEVING TO GET AN ANSWER TO PRAYER. THAT IS, YOU DON'T WORK YOURSELF UP TO BELIEVE ENOUGH FOR GOD TO ANSWER PRAYER. YOU RECEIVE FAITH FROM GOD FOR THE ANSWER!

FAITH = "PISTIS" is the believing that leads to/proceeds from God's inbirthing of faith. It is NEVER something generated by the one praying. It is ALWAYS something imparted by God; ie: the "gift" of faith.

NOTE:

IGNITE MEETING: TEACHING ABOUT MUSTARD SEED FAITH TO MOVE MOUNTAINS

NOTE:

2 Chronicles 16:9 (NKJV)

⁹ For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of *those* whose heart *is* loyal to Him.

- GOD EYES ARE LOOKING THROUGHOUT THE EARTH TO FIND A CONNECTION UPON WHICH TO BESTOW HIS “EXCEEINGLY, ABUNDANTLY ABOVE, ALL WE ASK OR THINK!
- GOD’S ARMS ARE FULL OF THE “AS IT IS IN HEAVEN” PART OF HIS WILL; LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO COMPLETE THE CONNECTION WITH THE “ON EARTH” PART OF HIS WILL!

II. A BIBLICAL MODEL ILLUSTRATING INTERACTIVE PRAYER - 1 SAM. 17:

FOUR STEPS IN THE PROCESS OF INTERACTING WITH GOD IN PRAYER:

1. DEVELOP A KINGDOM MINDSET:

1 Samuel 17:26b (NKJV)

²⁶ ... For who *is* this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?”

- Faith is a GIFT and a FRUIT
- David’s experience and relationship with God enabled him to DEVELOP A MINDSET AND FAITH THAT ROSE UP INSIDE HIM WHEN CONFRONTED WITH A “PROBLEM” **THIS IS THE FRUIT OF FAITH.**
- He came on the scene and assessed the situation and **DECLARED: THIS IS NOT THE WAY IT IS SUPPOSED TO BE FOR GOD’S PEOPLE!**

NOTE:

THIS IS DONE IN ADVANCE OF A CRISIS, AS A RESULT AND PRODUCT OF YOUR DAILY WALK IN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD!

QUESTION:

HAS THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD ENABLED YOU TO ESTABLISH A KINGDOM 'BASELINE' IN YOUR LIFE SO YOU CAN KNOW WHAT SHOULD AND SHOULD NOT BE IN ANY SITUATION?

Ephesians 2:6 (NKJV)

⁶ and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,

1 John 4:4 (NKJV)

⁴ You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV)

⁹ But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

QUESTION:

ARE WE PERSUADED OF THE REALITY OF THESE ETERNAL TRUTHS ABOUT US?

2. GET GOD'S WORD ON THE SITUATION:

1 Samuel 17: 25 "...have you seen this giant?"

1 Samuel 17:26a "...what is the reward for killing this giant?"

- Faithless people filled with fear (Saul and his army) focus on the PROBLEM
- Kingdom people full of faith focus on the PROMISE
- **DAVID HAD A WORD FROM THE KING ABOUT IT.**

- **HE ASKED THIS QUESTION THREE TIMES IN THIS PASSAGE!**

NOTE:

KEEP ON GOING BACK TO THE KING'S WORD! WHAT HAS HE PROMISED? WHAT HAS HE SPOKEN TO YOU? KEEP DOING IT OVER AND OVER UNTIL YOU'RE PERSUADED OF HIS WILL FOR YOU IN THE SITUATION!

CAUTION:

DON'T EXPECT YOUR 'BROTHERS' TO AGREE WITH YOU! THEY CRITICISED DAVID! YOUR VICTORY WILL MAKE YOUR 'ELDER BROTHERS' LOOK BAD. THAT'S OK, THEY'LL THINK DIFFERENTLY WHEN THEY SEE A DEAD GIANT!

CAUTION:

THIS WAS ALL DONE WHILE THE GIANT KEPT YELLING PROFANITIES AND THREATS AGAINST GOD AND HIS PEOPLE! WIN THE PSYCHOLOGICAL BATTLE! YOU'LL HEAR OTHER "VOICES" JUST DON'T GIVE IN TO THEM!

3. REMEMBER WHAT GOD DID IN YOUR OWN LIFE: (v37)

- Previous victories over "lions" and "bears"
- These were battles only you and the Lord know about
- These were PRIVATE VICTORIES that PREPARED HIM FOR PUBLIC TRIUMPHS!
- DON'T DISCOUNT THE SMALLEST VICTORY WHEN CONFRONTED WITH A MAJOR PROBLEM!

TEST:

WHAT'S HEAVIER, A THOUSAND POUNDS OF FEATHERS OR A THOUSAND POUNDS OF IRON?

WHICH IS HARDER FOR GOD TO DEAL WITH?

THE SAME FAITH THAT BROUGHT YOU PREVIOUS VICTORY IS THE SAME FAITH THAT WILL HELP YOU OVERCOME THE PRESENT 'GIANT'!

GOD CAN PROVIDE FOR A POSTAGE STAMP OR A \$100,000 DOLLARS BY THE SAME STRENGTH AND POWER! DON'T LIMIT GOD!

NOTE:

THIS IS WHEN YOU CAN DECREE AND DECLARE WHAT GOD IS ABOUT TO DO! "TODAY, I WILL GIVE YOUR CARCASS AND THE ENTIRE ARMY OF THE PHILISTINES TO THE BIRDS OF THE AIR..."

DAVID POSSESSED THE VICTORY BEFORE HE ACTUALLY EXPERIENCED IT!

4. PERSUE A FAITH-FILLED ACTION PLAN:

1 Samuel 17:48 (NKJV)

⁴⁸ So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that ***David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.***

- Once you're persuaded of what God wants to do – be courageous and RUN AT YOUR PROBLEM!
 - Once you've received the King's word on your situation
 - Once you've received DIVINE PERSUASION for what He wants to do
 - Once you're become persuaded NOT TO LIMIT GOD who was with you in the past
 - FACE IT, CONFRONT IT, AND DEFEAT IT!

NOTE:

DAVID HAD AN "EXCEEDINGLY ABUNDANT MINDSET" REGARDING HIS VICTORY. HE TOOK FIVE SMOOTH STONES IN HIS BAG. THIS WASN'T IN CASE HE MISSED; IT WAS BECAUSE GOLIATH HAD FOUR BROTHERS. DAVID EXPECTED ONGOING VICTORY!

CLOSE:

- **IS THERE ANYONE FACING A GIANT TODAY?**
- **Have a KINGDOM MINDSET**
- **Get the KING'S WORD ON THE SITUATION**
- **Encourage yourself in the Lord UNTIL YOU'RE PERSUADED**

PRAYER: PROSEUCHOMAI

**TO INTERACT WITH GOD, EXCHANGING HUMAN THOUGHTS AND IDEAS
FOR GOD'S UNTIL HE IMPARTS FAITH FOR WHAT HE WANTS TO DO!**

Call all warriors forward!