Mark 11:24: Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. I’ve encountered so much opposition over Mark 11:24 and other blessing verses, but I have always continued to share them enthusiastically with others, and still do today. One of the most remarkable incidents that I had with Mark 11:24 happened when I began ministering Sunday afternoons in a jail service, long before I went into the Ministry.

There was a certain Christian organization that had a weekly jail ministry in the town where I lived. I asked them if I could come and minister with them. They were very reluctant to allow me to go with them, because they had heard I spoke in tongues and believed in miracles and healing. They agreed to let me come in and pass out Bibles to the individuals who got saved in the services. Each week, one of the Christian men would give a testimony of how he got saved and then give an altar call for the inmates to receive salvation.

Several weeks went by, and one Sunday, when we were all singing some hymns, the leader that week said, "We’re going to sing this verse one more time, and then Brother Rich will give his testimony." I was so shocked because, number one, they told me that I couldn’t give my testimony because of the way I believed, and number two, I was so scared to talk to so many people; I felt unprepared.

When it was my time to share, I opened up my Bible and I quoted Mark 11:24. After I quoted that scripture, all I said was, "Isn’t it wonderful that God always hears and answers prayer!"

From the back of the jail came a booming voice from one of the inmates whose name was Ralph. He was demon-possessed and had been in jail for several months waiting for his sentencing. He yelled at me, "No, He doesn’t!"

Right then, it was as if the gift of faith rose up within me, and I shouted back, "Yes, He does!"
The inmate yelled back at me, "No, He doesn’t!" I yelled at him again, "Yes, He does!"

Ralph yelled back at me for a third time, "No, He doesn’t!"

That demon spirit that was in Ralph rose up and manifested through him, but God anointed me with His Spirit and the gift came forth to deal with it. When the Holy Ghost is in manifestation, those kinds of spirits are exposed, just as they were when Jesus ministered and they would cry out. (Matthew 8:29; Mark 1:23,24; Acts 16:17) I then yelled back at him, "You’re a liar!"

When I yelled that back, it seemed as though the whole jail parted, like the Red Sea. Men stood on both sides, leaving an aisle as Ralph and I faced each other. It was as though I were David facing Goliath! Apparently, this Christian organization had never witnessed any demon manifestations, and they were so afraid. God gave me the boldness to stand up for Him in the face of all opposition, as when Elijah called down fire from heaven (2 Kings ch. 1) and when Paul stood before King Agrippa (Acts ch. 26).

The inmates were screaming and swearing as if a riot were about to break out! In times like these, we need God’s anointing and wisdom to know what to say and do. I said to Ralph, "What is it that you want God to do?" He said that he had been there 'all of these months' and had never had any hot meals. At this, all of the inmates shouted and agreed with him.

I asked, "What kind of hot food do you want?"

His response was, "Chicken."

I asked, "What kind of chicken?"

Ralph replied, "Fried chicken."

I asked him, "Do you want the Lord to get you anything else?"

He said, "No, if we get that it’d be a miracle."

I said, "Well, let’s all bow our heads and go to the Lord in prayer."
The amazing thing was that all of those inmates, who had just previously been shouting swear words reverently bowed their heads before the Lord as I prayed. God's conviction power was manifesting before those inmates throughout those jail cells. I opened up my Bible and I read Mark 11:24 and I prayed, "God, these men said that they haven't had any hot food since they can remember. I ask You, in the Name of Jesus, to bring in some fried chicken and throw in some roast beef, mashed potatoes, and gravy by this time next week, Amen."

The anointing that God gave me to testify and to deal with this spirit just lifted from me and I turned to the leader of the Christian organization and yielded the service back over to him. He was so scared and nervous about what he'd just seen! He didn't know what to do. He had just witnessed the whole jail go from being totally uncontrollable, to calm and peaceful. (This must have been what it was like for Jesus' disciples when they witnessed Jesus calming the storm and taking authority over raging demons and devils, as in the time He cast the legion out of the mad man of Gadara.)

The leader, not knowing what to do, asked the inmates how many wanted to be saved. Hands went up all over the place, signifying that they wanted to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The leaders led the men in a sinner's prayer and passed out Bibles to those who had gotten saved. After the service was over, the men from the organization came up to me and informed me that I had ruined the chaplain's ministry there, at the jail.

I asked, "How did I do that?"

They said, "By praying for chicken. You know good and well that God's not going to bring in fried chicken. That verse doesn't mean that. You just can't pray for chicken and God brings it in."

I said, "Then why didn't Jesus say, what things soever ye desire when ye pray, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them, except fried chicken?"

They insisted that God doesn't do things like that.

I said, "Well if God could move on the quail, why couldn't He move on the Colonel?" (Numbers, ch. 11)
The next Sunday, when it was time for the jail service, it seemed as if the whole organization was there waiting for me. Someone informed me that after the service, they wanted to talk to me. Their plan was not to let me come back. All they could say was, "We warned you not to say anything about miracles and now you’ve ruined the ministry for the chaplain."

Jesus and the early church were persecuted for standing up for the will of God by boldly declaring it and setting the captives free throughout the gospels and the book of Acts for having the supernatural power of God manifest through their lives and in their meetings, and the religious people always wanted to expel them. (And they began to pray him to depart out of their coasts...And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, where filled with wrath, And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong. Mark 5:17 and Luke 4:28,29. See also John, ch. 4 and Acts ch. 4.)

As we entered the building, just in time for the service, I heard Ralph’s booming voice coming down the hallway from the cells, which shouted out, "Where’s that guy that prayed for chicken last week?" The voice inflection sounded as though they didn’t get it, and the looks I got from the men that I went in with were those of ‘We tried to tell you, but you wouldn’t listen.’

It never ceases to amaze me how people can doubt God’s Word! Religious teaching brainwashes peoples’ minds and hardens their hearts; only prayer and intercession can open them up.

As I proceeded to round the corner and go into the hallway, Ralph was so excited! He was hollering out, "Man, not only did we get chicken, but we got roast beef, gravy and all kinds of other food! And all of us have put together a list of what we want you to pray for this week.”

Most of the inmates had been abused and mistreated, and had no hope of making it as a success in life. Someone has to take the gospel to them and it’s our job as believers, to set the captives free in and through the power of God. Jesus said in Luke 4:18,19, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted,
to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

And in Matthew 25:35,36 & 40, Jesus continues, For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me...And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Today, we believers make up the body of Christ on earth. The anointing that Jesus had when He was on earth was transferred over to the church when He ascended on high. He gave us the great commission to go forth into all the world to preach the gospel, lay hands on the sick, speak in tongues and cast out devils in His Name. It is our assignment to fulfill the great commission. Each believer has the power of God potentially available to them by the power of the Holy Ghost and the Name of Jesus.

Through the miracle that God did, Ralph got delivered of his demons and saved and filled with the Holy Ghost.

Remember, God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers (3 John 2).

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