

# Rules to the Prayer of Faith: Ask & Believe

- You Have to Ask.
- You Have to Believe You Received it When You Asked.

**Luke 11:13: If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?**

**Matthew 7:7-11: Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?**

**John 16:23,24: And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.**

**James 4:2: ... ye have not, because ye ask not.**

**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.**

***God requires you to ask Him for what you want, and then, He requires you to believe you received what you asked for when you prayed.***

Those are the rules for the prayer of faith. There are other kinds of prayers in the Bible, but if you're going to pray the prayer of faith, you've got to ask God for what you desire, and believe you received it the moment you asked.

## The Importance of Believing You Received

### Faith Requires You to Act and Speak Differently than You Did Before You Prayed

You could pray the prayer of faith, but then continue to talk and act as though you don't have what you prayed for. So, before you pray, just ask yourself, "Am I really going to believe I've received it once I've prayed, or am I going to keep talking about the problem?"

You can act in unbelief, and you can talk in unbelief. You can act and talk like you're not healed, and you can act and talk like you don't believe the loved one you've been praying for is going to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. You can act and talk this way, but doing so will nullify your faith. It's important that we always act and talk in faith, and that our actions and Words always line up with God's Word and with what we're believing God for.

**Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.** [James 2:17](#)

Another translation says, *faith without corresponding action is dead, being alone.*

The Weymouth New Testament says, **So also faith, if it is unaccompanied by obedience, has no life in it--so long as it stands alone. Nay, some one will say, "You have faith, I have actions: prove to me your faith apart from corresponding actions and I will prove mine to you by my actions."** [James 2:17,18](#)

### Three Rules to Acting in Faith Are:

I. **Always talk the Word.** (Josh. 1:8; Mt. 8:8)

II. **Act like you've received what you've prayed about.** (Mk. 11:14, Jas. 2:17,18)

III. **Don't ever say anything that is contrary to your prayer.** (Mk. 11:23, Jas. 1:5-8)

### **Think About It... Rules Are Rules**

You may not think that it is so important to follow scriptural faith rules, but would you be able to go online and access your email account if you leave out even one digit of your password? Or could you get any money out of the ATM machine if you fail to put in all the digits of your PIN number? Absolutely NOT!

Scripturally speaking, it is important that when you've prayed the prayer of faith, you believe you've received what you prayed for. It's also important when you've prayed the prayer of faith, that you always walk in love, and that you don't gossip, or ever let your flesh get out of control through strife, discord, unforgiveness, or sin. You must always be in control of your flesh and your mind. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:27, **But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.**

This means it was Paul's responsibility to control his body, and not God's responsibility. Likewise, it is our responsibility that when we pray the prayer of faith, we believe we've received it when we prayed.

It is your responsibility to control your mouth and never speak against your prayer, or act contrary to what you believe you've received. Jesus never spoke contrary to His faith decree, and He refused

to be moved by other people's opinions and what they said about a situation. (Mark 11:12-24, Mark 4:35-41, John, ch. 11)

As believers, we need to be as secure as Jesus was that we believe it's done (meaning that we believe God has granted what we prayed for) when we finish our prayer, and not be moved by anything or anyone else. When Jesus arrived at Lazarus' tomb, Lazarus was dead and buried, but that didn't change Jesus (John 11:1-44). That's how we're to be. We may not be there yet, but that's what we shoot for. Nothing ever moves a mature believer: not anger, or moods, or feelings. A mature believer doesn't believe they are healed just because they feel better. They believe they're healed because they prayed the prayer of faith and they received their healing by faith, in Jesus' Name.

## Nullifying Your Prayer of Faith

Sometimes you'll hear people say things like, *"Now, last week, we prayed for Sister Jones, and the Lord's touched her, and she feels so much better... Now, let's all pray tonight that the Lord will finish what He started."*

With this statement, whether you realize it or not, you're taking Sister Jones out of God's hands. Talking this way will delete your prayer of faith. We don't believe God heard us because Sister Jones feels better. **We believe God heard us because we prayed scripturally. When you hear someone talk this way, you've got to correct it, because talking doubt and unbelief will disconnect one's faith and keep a person from receiving from God. Don't get excited because people feel better! Always stay the same, regardless of the outward circumstances.** [2 Corinthians 4:18](#)

You've already prayed, and you believed this was taken care of, so you shouldn't do anything to hinder your prayer. For example, if you go online, and you start to download something, and the file is in the process of transferring to your computer, you would be foolish to counter what you are trying to do by aborting the operation, because doing so would keep you from receiving the download that's in progress.

People have aborted their prayers after having prayed the prayer of faith by going out and talking doubt and unbelief and acting as though it wasn't done. If you really want that miracle, you are going to have to discipline yourself to never act or speak contrary to what you prayed. These aren't my rules. These are the rules set forth by God in James 1:5-8, which says, **If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.**

All prayers have to be prayed in faith. But for the prayer of faith, you pray it one time, and you believe you've got it then. Until you can do that, you can't pray the prayer of faith. That doesn't mean you don't have faith, and it doesn't mean you can't pray. It just means you can't pray the prayer of faith.

## Praying IF

If you want to pray the word "if," pray the prayer of consecration and dedication (Matt. 26:36-45), but that's not the prayer of faith. Praying "If it be Thy will" is used when you don't have any scripture for what you are praying about.

For instance, you think you should go to college, but you may not have a witness in your heart of which college to attend. You're not even sure God wants you to go. This is when you start seeking God in prayer. You might say, *"God, if it be Your will, I'll go to \_\_\_college. Or, if You want me to work at \_\_\_, I'll work there."*

The reason you pray "If" in these situations is because the Bible doesn't tell you which college to go to, or where to work. So, you're seeking God for guidance. Jesus prayed this way in the garden of Gethsemane, but He never prayed this way in regard to someone's healing, nor did He ever tell somebody it wasn't God's will to heal them. You never pray "If it be Thy will" for healing, because healing is promised to you in God's Word (1 Peter 2:24, Gal. 3:13,14, Ps. 107:20).

Some people think they're playing it safe to pray, "If it be Thy will" for everything. I've had them tell me, "I always pray in every prayer, "If it be Thy will..."

Don't think you're being super holy or super spiritual because you pray "If it be Thy will" for every prayer, because it is an indication that you are being spiritually irresponsible, or scripturally ignorant.

You may impress some people and make them think you're being humble by praying this way, but it is usually motivated by pride, because you don't want to take the responsibility for whether you receive from God or not. You want to be able to save face by telling people, "It just wasn't God's will..."

You will suffer severe consequences for not using the authority in Jesus' Name that God delegated to you. You'll be rebuked by God, because if you know some of His Word, He'll definitely want you to do His Word (James 1:22). There's no getting around that! Jesus always rebuked any kind of doubt, unbelief or hypocrisy, and you're not above your Master. If He didn't always pray, "If it be Thy will," why would you think you should?

## **Just a Warning...**

If you have had any kind of opportunity to hear the Word of faith teaching (Ro. 10:8), and you chose not to because you didn't like it, or you thought it was too hard a message, or, for whatever the reason, you fail to take advantage of it, you'll be in a very dangerous position, whether you realize it or not. If you do not know how to open up your Bible and get it to work for you, the enemy, Satan, will take advantage of your ignorance (1 Peter 5:8,9; 2 Cor. 2:11, Hosea 4:6). God gives all of us an opportunity to hear the Word of faith, and then He'll watch and see what we do with it.

I look forward to sharing more with you tomorrow. Remember that God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers (3 John 2).

Your Word of faith pastor,

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