

### Number Two: Believe You Receive When You Pray

The second most important thing in prayer is to believe that you receive *when you pray*.

MARK 11:23,24

***“23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. 24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, WHEN YE PRAY, BELIEVE THAT YE RECEIVE THEM, and YE SHALL HAVE THEM.”***

Notice you are not to believe that you **shall** receive. That's believing in the future. You can't believe God will answer your prayer off in the future **some time** and then expect to receive the desired result.

Faith is believing that God is immediately working on your behalf, **the moment you pray in faith**. You must believe you receive the answer **now**. God puts emphasis on faith and on believing because He is a faith God. Faith is what pleases God.

HEBREWS 11:6

***“6But without faith it is impossible to please him....***

You can have good works and right deeds and not have faith and, therefore, not please God. You would be more pleasing to God by having more faith, and have your good works be a result of your faith. Faith is what pleases God.

Wigglesworth is quoted that there's something about believing God that will cause Him to pass over a million people to get to you. I like that. God is a faith God. And we are faith children of a faith God. We're saved by faith. ***“For by grace are ye saved through faith... Not of works, lest any man should boast”*** (Eph. 2:8,9). ***“We walk by faith and not by sight.”*** (2 Cor. 5:7).

It is praying in faith that works with God. That is the only prayer that does work. When you pray, believe that you receive.

Jesus said you shall have the desires of your heart, if you'll believe that you receive them. You'll have them after you believe that you receive. But most folks miss it because they want to receive before they believe.

Believe you receive from God when you pray. There are not too many people who do believe they receive from God when they pray. You can tell by the way they keep praying for the same need over and over again. If they really believed they had received their answer, they wouldn't have to keep on praying for it.

After you have prayed in faith, you're supposed to continue to believe and thank God for your answer. You're not to ask again and again in unbelief for that same need to be met. When you come to God for the same petition the second time, ***come in faith that God heard you the first time.***

You can always put God in remembrance of His Word, of course, and thank Him in faith that He is working on your behalf. That's the kind of faith that produces results in prayer. Of course, we must also realize that there is a prayer of intercession that is prayed over a period of time. We discuss this kind of prayer in another lesson.

I am convinced that if folks would quit praying about many of the things they're praying about and begin thanking God for the answer, the answer would come right away. But instead, they keep on praying in unbelief.

If a person makes the same petition more than once, that means he didn't believe that he received the first time he prayed. (Of course, a person can always come to God and put God in remembrance of His Word.) If a person believed he received when he prayed, he would be thanking God for the answer. Then the answer would be made manifest.

The difference between Bible faith and natural human faith is that the faith Jesus is talking about in these scriptures is a heart faith - a spiritual faith - not a head faith. We get so used to walking by head faith. But here **in Mark 11:24**, it says we are to believe in our heart that we receive our answer the minute we pray, even though the answer has not yet manifested in the natural.

The same thing is true of a physical healing. However, it seems that it is more difficult to practice this heart faith with physical healing than with anything else because we have a body and feelings and symptoms with which we have to contend. The body with its symptoms will try to pull us back into the natural realm, into a head faith, or believing what our senses tell us.

Most people want to believe that God healed them when they can see that the condition has grown better or when the symptoms are gone. Then they will believe they are healed. But anyone can believe what he can see! What Jesus is saying here is that we should believe when we pray, and then we will receive.

### **Believe You Receive Before You See the Answer**

**MARK 11:23,24**

***“23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. 24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, BELIEVE THAT YE RECEIVE THEM, and ye shall have them.”***

**Mark 11:24** is the verse that brought a young boy off the bed of sickness. It is the verse he used as an individual in prayer more than any other verse in the Bible. He preached and taught on this verse more than any other text in the Bible.

**Mark 11:24** was such a great blessing to him as he lay sick in bed. He had been given up to die by medical science. In those dark days on the bed of sickness, five doctors came and went, shaking their heads, saying that he had to die. They said he didn't have even one chance to live, not even one chance in a million.

Then his preacher came and said he should be patient because in a few days it would all be over. It may seem funny, but he could never tell his story without tears coming to his eyes.

His story goes like this: It was between 2:00 and 3:00 in the afternoon on a hot August day in Texas. The sun was shining brightly and there was hardly a cloud in the sky. But when that preacher left his room, telling him it would all be over in a few days, that room was dark. It was as though someone had pulled the blinds and had just put out the sunlight. It was so dark. The preacher said he had to die.

But thank God for the Word that fell from the lips of the Master as He walked the old dusty roads of Judaea long ago. Thank God, Jesus was talking to him when He said those words in **Mark 11:24**. He wrote in the margin of his Bible that this verse was for him. The word, "whosoever" in Mark 11:23 applied to him. So, he wrote beside the words, ***".. WHOSOEVER shall say unto this mountain ..."*** he wrote: "This means me."

Mark 11:24 says, "**Therefore I say unto you ...** He wrote his name where it says "you." Jesus said, "Therefore I say unto you." He just took God at His Word! He said it, and he believed it. Anyone can put their name in that verse too.

His heart leapt within him when he read this verse of Scripture and something on the inside of him was overjoyed and thrilled with these words from the lips of Jesus. It seemed that someone had turned on a light inside of him. On the inside of him something lit up.

Jesus is talking in this verse about what **you** desire. He's telling you how to get the desires of your heart. He's discussing the subject of prayer. He's talking about how you through prayer can receive the desires of your heart.

This is the verse of Scripture that brought healing and strength to his body and to his poor deformed heart. This verse enabled him, for more than fifty years, to go almost constantly day and night without sickness, disease, or pain.

The young boy became a minister of the gospel, and for the first thirty years of his ministry, he never really stopped to take a vacation. He would hold two to four services almost every day. Minister friends told him they didn't see how he held up under it. They said it surprised them that I didn't wear out. But he lived by what he preached.

It's not a chore and it's not a job to teach the Word of God. It's a thrill to do it. The Word works! Jesus is talking about how you as an individual can receive the desires of your heart. Many times, people read something else into Mark 11:24. They think God might answer their prayer **if it's His will**.

Well, it must have been His will to answer their prayers, or Jesus never would have said to ask! If it wasn't God's will that you have the desires of your heart, then Jesus lied about it by saying believers were to ask. We would much rather believe that someone else lied about this verse, than to believe that Jesus lied.

Back to that young boy who was sickly.

For about a month after that preacher left his room as he lay on the bed of sickness, he never even looked at his Bible. He didn't even ask to have the Bible brought to him because he thought he was going to die at any minute. He thought, Surely if the preacher knew of any help for him, he would have told him. But he just told him that in a few more days it would all be over.

In October following that day in August when the preacher came to see him, he asked his Momma to bring the Bible to his bed. He opened it to this verse in **Mark 11:24** and he read it again. Then he told the Lord that the doctors said he had to die; in fact, five of them had said he had to die.

The last doctor spent forty-five minutes talking to him one day explaining his condition to him. He told him nothing could be done for him. He did say that unless a Higher Power intervened, that he would die. He told him to stay ready to go. When the preacher came, he wasn't even as kind as the doctor was about his condition! He didn't even ask him whether he was ready to go or not. He just said that in a few more days it would all be over.

So, he told the Lord what the preacher had said. Then he pointed out to Jesus that when He was on the earth He had said, **"... What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them"** (**Mark 11:24**).

He told Jesus that the desire of his heart - the one main consuming desire of his heart - was to have a well body. He told Jesus that he was going to take Him at His Word. He told Him that if he didn't get off that bed, it would be because He told a lie in His Word. He said that if His Word didn't work, then he was going to have his folks throw my Bible in the trash can.

But he knew that His Word wasn't a lie, and he also told Him this. He knew it was the truth. He told Him that he was going to get off that bed. He didn't get off the bed that day, but he did not long after!

Don't try to put some kind of an interpretation on the Word of God. Just take it for what it says. In **Mark 11:24**, Jesus is talking about your desires. We can't make this scripture work for someone else. We can help the other fellow with our faith sometimes and get the blessing of God to work for them to some extent, but there is a part that they have to play in answered prayer.

We can't always make God's Word work for the other fellow; it depends on what He does with the promises in God's Word himself. But we can make God's Word work for ourselves, and you can make it work for you too.

Jesus is talking about what things soever you desire. He's talking about your praying. This verse does apply to the other fellow, but they must appropriate it himself. You can't do it for him.

## Keeping What You Have Received by Faith

Too many times, we're trying to get someone else to do our praying and believing for us. We're great at that, aren't we? In the final analysis, **all** you will ever receive from God and **keep** will be that which you believed for yourself. And it will take faith to maintain what you receive after you have received it! If you don't have faith in maintaining it, then you won't keep it. Satan will try to take it from you.

For example, the young man that received healing became a minister and ministered in America for many years; teaching and preaching on the subject of faith by the Lord's direction. Many times, he would see people lose the healing they had received from God.

He often followed up on people who were healed in some of his great healing meetings. He personally knew some people who came to his meetings totally deaf, and they were so completely healed that they could hear a pin drop. Yet in a few weeks, they lost all their healing and couldn't hear a thing.

Why did these people lose their healing? Because for the most part these people were healed by someone else's faith. Or they were healed by mass faith; that is, by corporate faith of all the people attending the healing meeting. But in many cases, **those people failed to develop their own faith**, and when the symptoms tried to return, they just accepted the symptoms, and the sickness or disease came back on them.

Some who were in healing meetings were crippled and were totally healed. One woman in Pueblo, Colorado, had just gotten healed before he began preaching and teaching. She was a young married woman who had had polio as a child, and one foot was deformed. She had never worn a regular shoe on her foot; she had to have a specially made shoe.

This woman was in a meeting a few days before the preacher came and had been healed. But by the time the preacher with the healing ministry had left town, she had lost her healing. Her foot had become deformed again and she couldn't walk.

After the preacher taught one night, this woman went to the store and got a regular pair of shoes. The leaders of the healing meeting prayed for her, and she put on the shoe and walked normally. She said she finally knew how to keep her healing.

You see, the first time this woman received healing, after she got back home on her own away from the meetings, the devil came to tempt her with symptoms, and he defeated her. Because she didn't know how to stand against him and maintain her healing, she allowed Satan to rob her of her healing.

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SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

SESSION 76 – PRAYER PART 19

THE SEVEN MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN PRAYER PART 2

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The same preacher knew a woman minister friend active in ministry. She and her husband were in the insurance business as well. She developed a condition that pulled her head to one side, and it got progressively worse. Also, sometimes as she walked across the floor, her feet would suddenly go out from under her, and she would fall.

This woman had been prayed for and, finally, they sent her to specialists who told her that it was a deterioration of certain nerves of her body. They said she would never be get better but would steadily grow worse and then be bedfast until she died.

She came to one of the preacher's healing meetings and she sat over against the wall holding her purse up against her head. She had asked a doctor if he could put a brace on her head, but he said if they put a brace on it, it would break her neck. He said she would just have to live with it, accepting the fact that her condition would grow steadily worse. Someone always had to walk with her because of the danger of her falling.

She had gone to a particular healing meeting and had received instant deliverance when the preacher laid hands on her and prayed for her. She returned home and was perfectly normal for several weeks. Then the same symptoms gradually and slowly came back on her, until she became worse than she had ever been before her healing.

She then came to his meeting, and he just happened to be teaching on how the believer is to keep their healing. She came forward in the healing line, saying she now understood how to keep her healing. She said she had lost it because she hadn't resisted the devil with his symptoms. It wasn't the other preacher's fault who had prayed for her; it was her fault.

In the final analysis, all you are going to keep in life is what you believe for yourself, based on God's Word. If this woman had exercised her own faith in the first place, she would have kept her healing. The preacher prayed for her again and she received her healing.

Sixteen years came and went, and she and her husband were still more active than most ministers (although they were retired from the insurance business and in a sense had retired from the ministry). They got more people filled with the Holy Ghost in their home than all the Full Gospel churches in their city put together in any given week. They were constantly praying with people. Some of the most marvelous healings happened in their ministry because they had learned the secret of faith.

### **Each Believer's Responsibility**

That's the reason we are telling you these scriptural truths, so that you can begin to believe and teach and hold fast to that which you have learned.

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The Bible says, **"Therefore I say unto YOU, What things soever YE desire, when YE pray, believe that YE receive them and YE shall have them"** (Mark 11:24). This is primarily an individual faith affair.

How can we help someone else permanently with our faith if the other person doesn't exercise their own faith to receive from God? We wouldn't be able to help them. That person wouldn't be able to receive even if we prayed the prayer of faith because his lack of faith would nullify our faith. When it comes to praying for someone else, that other person's faith can nullify the faith of the one praying.

The Bible says, **"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"** (Amos 3:3). Two of us couldn't walk together in faith unless we were in agreement with God's Word.

#### **MATTHEW 18:19**

**"19 ... if two of you SHALL AGREE on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven."**

If we were praying with another person for that person's need to be met, and that person was not in faith, then we would not be in agreement with God's Word. That person's unbelief would nullify the effects of my faith.

Even though people can sometimes temporarily receive something through someone else's faith, especially if they are baby Christians, if they listen to the devil's lies, they'll lose it. One person's unbelief nullifies the effects of the other person's faith in the prayer of agreement.

**You need to know the Word for yourself** and learn how to develop your own faith. That's how you maintain the blessings of God in your life. Then when the devil tries to defeat you, you can resist him with the Word - with your faith in God's Word.

A preacher was asked to hold a meeting at a church in Tucson, Arizona. The pastor of the church told the visiting preacher that several years before, a man came to Tucson who had a healing ministry. They started out the healing meeting in the pastor's church, since his church building was fairly large.

There was a Methodist woman who had arthritis and was brought to this church meeting on a stretcher. For three years she had been bedfast, and the doctor had told her that she was going to grow steadily worse. She was unable to walk a step.



This man with the healing ministry laid hands on her and ministered to her. Instantly she was free, and she walked up and down the aisles.

The local paper carried a front-page story of her healing, along with a picture of her walking. The doctor testified that it was a miracle of God because she had been stiff as a board. After she was healed, doctors couldn't find any trace of arthritis! Every night after that, the crowds got so big they had to continue the meeting at the city auditorium. For three weeks they had a mighty move of God in the meeting.

When the visiting preacher came there years later, this pastor told him that the meeting closed and about six weeks afterwards, the woman again became bedfast. She couldn't walk anymore at all. The pastor had gone to her home, and she told him she believed the other preacher had just hypnotized her.

What actually happened however, was that she had been in a meeting where the gifts of the Spirit were operating through that evangelist. She was really healed by the power of God, but when she got back home on her own, it was up to her **to maintain her healing** with her own faith. And since she didn't know how to do that, she had lost her healing. The devil will always try to return with his symptoms. We see that principle in the Word.

**MATTHEW 12:43,44**

***“43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. 44 Then he saith, I WILL RETURN into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it EMPTY, swept, and garnished.”***

The Bible tells us in this verse that when the unclean spirit has gone out of a man, he walks through dry places, seeking rest, and finding none, it says, he'll go back to the house he came out of.

There is a scriptural principle involved in those verses. The devil is going to try to get back in again if he can - even in the case of sickness and disease. Sickness and disease are of the devil, and you can be sure that Satan is going to try and return to a person who's been healed and try to put that same sickness and disease back on them. He'll be back unless you stand your ground against him with the Word.

When the devil came back to this woman with symptoms of arthritis, it made her think she wasn't really healed. Therefore, she lost her healing. When the visiting preacher came along to preach in that city three years later, there she was, still bedfast.

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SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

SESSION 76 – PRAYER PART 19

THE SEVEN MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN PRAYER PART 2

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The reason we are preaching and teaching these biblical truths is that in the final analysis, prayer and faith are primarily the individual believer's responsibility.

That visiting preacher could have ministered differently than he had over the years, and he could have had much larger crowds with more people healed at the moment; but he found that by the third and fourth week of healing services, many people had lost their healing unless they are also taught the Word.

He hated to lose his labor! He often would say he would rather do a more thorough job of teaching people the Word so they can learn to stand on it for themselves. Then those who do receive healing will be able to keep it.

Our wrong thinking defeats us so many times. That's why people need to be taught the Word in order to get their thinking straightened out. Some people say that if God really healed that woman who had arthritis, then she would still be healed.

But if God didn't heal her, then who did? How come when the man laid hands on her, she was able to walk instantly? A twelve-year-old child would have enough sense to know that God had healed her. If you can't see that, then you're in bad shape.

### **Listening to Doubt Can Rob You of God's Blessing**

A preacher preached in a town one time, and a thirty-year old man came to the meetings who had some kind of peculiar disease; his nerves were deteriorating. He related that he had become totally paralyzed and couldn't work. He heard about a healing meeting in Dallas and although he belonged to the Methodist church, he went to that meeting. When hands were laid on him, he was instantly healed and had gotten up out of his wheelchair and walked. He went to his house and was able to pull off his clothes by himself and get himself ready for bed; he had been totally helpless before that time. However, then he made the mistake of beginning to question himself if he was really healed.

This Methodist man had never been in a Full Gospel meeting before in his life. He wondered if God had really healed him, or if the minister had some kind of a "power" that had made him well. When he began to ask himself such questions, he could feel his paralytic condition sweeping over him again. In a little while he was just as helpless as he had ever been! He could talk, but he couldn't move. Then he said, "Lord, if this is really of You, then let that same power come over me again that came over me in the meeting."

He felt the power come over him again, and he was loosed, got up, walking freely. He went to the bathroom, got some water, walked around, and then got back in bed.

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SESSION 76 – PRAYER PART 19

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When he woke up the next morning, he dressed himself, and the news about his healing was soon all over town. Later that morning, there was a knock at the door and when he answered the door, there stood his pastor. This man was up and walking around, but his pastor came over to warn him about this "healing business." This pastor told the man not to let people hoodwink him. The pastor told the man God doesn't heal today. By the time the pastor got through talking, the man couldn't move a finger!

Later, this man who was paralyzed and his wife moved to Dallas. The preacher that had prayed for him previously held a meeting in the church where his wife was a member. She had sought God and had received the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues. She told the preacher the story of what happened to her husband, and she said she knew her husband's healing was of God. She said that by his own admission, the man knew he had been healed by the power of God. But then he had listened to that pastor and lost his healing.

After that, her husband just lay in that bed continually and couldn't do one thing for himself. "He'll curse God for his condition, and yet claim he is saved," his wife told me. "He says his healing was of the devil." But if this man's healing was of the devil, how come that's never happened to him again? How come it never happened until a man of God laid hands on him and prayed for him?

I'm talking about prayer. Jesus said, **"... WHAT THINGS SOEVER YE DESIRE, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them"** (Mark 11:24).

That man was healed by a manifestation of God. However, when he got back on his own, it was up to him to maintain his healing with his own faith. But he let someone talk him out of it. From that day to this, if he's still alive, that man is probably still in a wheelchair.

That's the reason people need to be taught what the Word of God says and to believe God for themselves. You need the fellowship of people who believe God, people of like-precious faith. If the people peddle doubt and unbelief where you go to church, then you had better leave and find a church where they preach faith, because the principle of faith is taught throughout the Word of God. And as we believe that we receive when we pray, and act on our faith in the Word, we will see the Word work in our own lives!

We're discussing the seven most important things about prayer. We've seen that the correct way to pray under the New Covenant is to pray to the Father in Jesus' Name. We've also seen that in order to receive what we've asked for in prayer, we must believe that we receive when we pray. We'll continue our discussion of these important prayer principles in our next lesson.

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SESSION 76 – PRAYER PART 19

THE SEVEN MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN PRAYER PART 2

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Page 11 of 11