

## Called to Pray

February 2019

### Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. NIV

Recently I was teaching a small women's group and I made the statement "God wants us to pray out of faith, not fear." Then, one of the women asked the question, "What do you mean? Does God not hear our prayer if isn't in faith?" My reply was **Hebrews 11:6**.

**And without faith it 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.**

I am not saying that God doesn't hear our prayers that come out of desperation, but He has given us His word and in His word are promises that bring faith when we pray, not just wishes or hope that He will answer. Going back to Philippians 4. God does tell us not be anxious (*the definition of anxious is, experiencing worry, unease or nervousness, typically about an imminent event or something with an uncertain outcome. Or wanting something very much, typically with a feeling of unease*). The way to escape praying out of fear is thanksgiving because it is quite hard to be fearful or anxious when you are thanking God for His answer to your prayer. Philippians then goes on to tell us to think on these things... true, noble, right, pure, admirable, and praiseworthy... Again, it is turning us back to faith not fear. More direction is given to us **in Mark 11:23-25**

**Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.**

Don't doubt (*or fear*) but believe and forgive. Isn't God good? He not only gives us the ability to prayer, but the keys to answer prayer by believing (*faith*). Let's pray. Dear Heavenly Father, we are asking you to help us to pray prayers of faith instead of fear and to know that when we come to you that you delight in answering our prayers and just as a Father wants the best for his children, you want the best for us and you give us the keys to get your best. Help us to dive into you Word and promises so that when we pray we already have faith to believe because we not only trust, but your Word says that we believe that we have received the answer. In Jesus Name we Pray!

Thank you for your continued love, prayers and support.

Blessings,

*Becky*

*Thank-you!*