

4 Prayers Guaranteed

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MBBC August 8, 2018, evening

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I shared with you two titles of prayer in lessons titles: “prayers that move mountains” and “prayers that frustrate.”

Prayers that move mountains are prayers of faith, which means they are prayers of understanding. Hebrews 11:3 tells us, by faith we understand.... You cannot move mountains without faith to reveal to you what it is that God wants you to pray for. Praying by faith is praying with an understanding of God’s will. You pray for it and believe in Him, and nothing can stop God from fulfilling that prayer.

Prayers that frustrate are prayers without understanding. They are prayers that are contrary to the will of God. They are prayers uttered with a sense of resistance to the will of God. Until we can pray, nevertheless, thy will be done, then we are doomed to pray prayers that frustrate.

In this lesson, we will look at prayers that are guaranteed. Prayers that are guaranteed are prayers backed by the full power of God’s omnipotence and His immutable promise. With that kind of backing anything can happen.

1. Prayers that are guaranteed begin with a verse already mentioned, Mark 11:22 – 23. The promise given in verse 23 is this: “he shall have whatsoever he saith.” What is the criteria for this guarantee? Faith in God, prayer according to understanding God’s will revealed by faith, and belief, without doubting, that God will do it.

- Faith has been discussed quite a bit from this pulpit, so I will not belabor the point.
- Instead, I will comment on: “Belief without doubting.” Belief without doubting God comes with knowing and accepting who God is. To truly know God is to love God. To truly know God is to believe Him, to believe in Him, and to implicitly trust Him.
- Does God lie? Does God deceive? Does God mislead? No, absolutely not, and to think or make decisions as though He does... voids His guaranty to answer prayers.
- But prayers that are guaranteed are more than asking and believing. They are prayers according to God’s will as revealed by faith.
- For example, First John 5: 14 – 15 says, “And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.” the promise, guaranteed prayer is “we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.” We know because we ask according to His will. Anything asked according to His will is guaranteed.
- The conditions for guaranteed prayer is “according to his will” and “knowing that he hears us.” According to His will takes us back to faith. God reveals His will to us by faith. Knowing that he hears us requires something else. But before I mention it, let me make an important point.
- He does add a qualifier to His promise saying in First John 5:16 “If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death.

There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it." Sins worthy of capital punishment like murder are forgivable by God but are not inconsequential. God will save the life of a sinner (if it be His will), but He will not save anybody from justice or from correcting a wrong. God is about justice and doing right. What about salvation? God forgives the lost and saves their souls from condemnation. Condemnation would be just and fair. God does not overlook justice in salvation. He fulfills it with the death of Jesus Christ. Jesus' death satisfies the justice that God requires. So, there is no compromise of justice when a lost soul is saved.

- But in the courts of men, for capital crimes, don't expect God to deliver one from the death penalty. The sentence is just.
- But God will hear prayers to deliver one from death or illness for sins not worthy of the death penalty in the courts of men. Perhaps sins such as sexual promiscuity resulting in HIV infection or life-threatening injuries resulting from a robbery gone wrong. If God reveals His will to you to pray for that life, and you pray believing it will come to pass then it will be done.
- But this highlights the problem. Is it His will? We should mistake asking and believing with God's will. It is possible to ask and believe and nothing happens. Ever been there?
- Here is what contributes to confusion: Verses promising answered prayers are often read with the implied meaning, not the stated meaning, that whatever you pray regardless of God's will, it will be done. All you must do is ask and believe. By introducing this implication into verses promising answers, we introduce confusion and disappointment. For this reason, I began our lesson with Mark 11:22 – 23. Have faith in God. You must understand God's will to pray according to His will.

2. John 15:7 "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." To abide in Christ is to be in fellowship with Christ. If Christ is your friend, then you know Him, and you understand Him. This means that you accept Him as your God and Creator. This means that you are surrendered to Him. Why surrendered? Because you understand that His way is the only way to maximum and absolute fulfillment. As a result, you will share the heart of Christ, the purpose of Christ, the goals of Christ, the desires of Christ. When you abide in Him, then you will pray as He would pray. You will pray with the mind, the heart, and the thoughts of Christ.

- Ps 37:4 says it this way, "Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." If you abide in Christ, you will delight in the Lord, and His desires will become your desires. His will becomes your command because you understand that nothing could be better. You will desire the same things as Christ desires. You will want His will to be done in your life, in the lives of others, and in the world.
- This brings us back to the first and great commandment in Matthew 22:36 – 40, which is to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind. When you fulfill the first command, you will delight in the Lord and His will. His will becomes your will. This will be what you delight in. so then, if you delight in the Lord, you will have the desires of your heart.

3. If you understand this concept of abiding in Christ, then John 16:23 will make sense to you where Jesus says, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you." To ask in His name requires that you abide in Him. To ask the Father in the name of Christ is to ask in the fellowship and blessed relationship you have with Christ. You are asking of the Father for the very things that Christ would ask for.

- There are those today who are confused about praying in Jesus' name, and who confuse others, thinking and saying that praying the words "in Jesus' name" is all you must do. But this approach is nothing more than another way of rubbing a magic genie lamp or kissing a lucky horseshoe. There is

no prayer power in your words. Power in prayer comes from your relationship to God. Power in prayer is rooted in the first and great commandment.

- So up to this point, for all that has been said, prayers that are guaranteed are prayers of faith, which reveal the will of God to those who abide in Christ and delight in the same desires of Christ. Four essential elements are required: 1) Faith, 2) the will of God, 3) abidance in Christ, 4) delight in the Lord's will.
- Prayers that are guaranteed are difficult because we are difficult. We have our own wills, our own ways, and our own desires. We are stubborn, rebellious, and dull of hearing. We are lazy in our efforts to pray and serve God. For this reason, prayers that are guaranteed are not commonly experienced. The difficulty lies in ourselves, not in God. And we must realize too that God does not intend to always reveal His will even if we are abiding with Him.
- All prayers would be futile if it was not for God's love and mercy toward us. And because He is so gracious and patient with our incorrigible ways in the flesh, He has a plan to help us pray despite our difficulties.
 - Romans 8:26 says, "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."
 - The bottom line is this Brethren: Pray. Pray anyway. Pray always. Pray despite yourself. Pray and let the Spirit of God do all the editing and corrections and translating to get it right.
 - Pray for wisdom, pray for understanding, pray for help to do right, pray for help to abide in Him as you should, pray for His will to be your will, pray that He help you delight in the things that He takes delight in.
 - And remember and take comfort in knowing the fact that prayers offered by the Holy Spirit are always delivered to Father perfectly. That is a guaranty.

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