

## PRAYER

### Receiving whatever we ask

### Not receiving anything we ask

This study is to give us understanding in prayer so that the Lord would be glorified and that His joy would remain in us and that our joy would be full (Jn.15:7-11). There is much to study but our time is limited therefore some things will not be addressed in depth. The Lord gives understanding (1Cor. 2:11 & 3:7).

Prayer is extremely important and needful for us in this life. It keeps us from falling into sin. It produces joy in us when we are saved from being destroyed by difficulties. When we pray it is sweet when our desires are accomplished or our longings are answered (Pro.13:19), such as being healed from infirmities or those we love and care for receive what we asked. Who we pray to, why we pray, what we ask and how we ask, determines whether the only Wise God will give us what we request or will not give us what we ask. How we live also determines if our prayers are answered.

### Self-Examination (Be Honest)

1. When you pray are you assured or confident that what you ask you will receive?
2. Do you ask according to selfish ambitions, imaginations, dreams, or ideas that are against the knowledge and will of God? Do you know the will of God when you pray?
3. Do you ask to receive something in the way that you believe the matter should go?
4. When you pray do you see the conviction (reality) of your desire?

### Let us discuss and study

#### **Matt 21:21-22 (KJV)**

**21 Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. 22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.**

1. What is this faith?

Heb 11:1 (ASV)

Now faith is **assurance** of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen.

*Assurance is freedom from doubt, boldness, certainty, confidence, it is a guarantee.*

*Hope is a longing or desire for something accompanied by the belief in the possibility of its occurrence. It is an expectation to be received when it comes by the Word or promise of God. (Rom. 8:24,25).*

*Conviction – The state of being convinced or persuaded. A fixed or firm belief.*

*Doubt- Undecided or skeptical. Tend to disbelieve or distrust. To regard as unlikely. The state of being uncertain about the truth or reliability of something. Lack of confidence, questioning, reservation.*

*Amplified Bible states concerning faith that **faith is the confirmation, the title deed being the proof of things we do not see and the conviction of their reality. Faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses.***

2. Where does this faith, this assurance, this confidence, this conviction come from?

**So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Rom 10:17 (KJV)**

3. How do we obtain this faith? It is given to us by God. (Jn3:27, 6:65, Rom 12:3, Philip.1:29; 2Pet.1:3). The natural, fleshly or wicked man cannot have this faith.

Therefore when we have assurance, we have confidence and are convinced that whatever we ask, which is without being skeptical, undecided, uncertain, and regarding as unlikely, we will receive it.

Looking further at what is encompassed and embraced in **assurance** and **confidence** (faith).

**John 14:13-14 (KJV)**

**13 And whatsoever you shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.**

**John 15:16 (KJV)**

**You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever you shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.**

**John 15:7-8 (KJV)**

7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, you shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit; so shall you be my disciples.

**1 Jn 3:18-22 (KJV)**

18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. 19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. 20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. 21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. 22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

**1 Jn 5:14-15 (KJV)**

14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he hears us: 15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions (request) that we desired of him.

First of all have this knowledge. **But without faith [assurance and confidence] it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is (exist), and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Heb 11:6 (KJV)**

There are some Christians that believe God and the Lord Jesus is a concept, a notion, an Idea, a story or a principle. Therefore one could not go to a concept etc. with assurance and confidence expecting to receive anything desired.

In addition there are things that destroy assurance, terminates confidence and hinders faith, by which if these things exist we are not abiding in Christ, neither asking in a way that the Father would be glorified. We are not asking in the way that Christ joy remain in us and that our joy be full. Therefore we do not receive what we ask for. They are,

- Not asking at all (James 4:2)
- Asking amiss or with the wrong motive in order to satisfy lust, selfish ambitions (James 4:3 ; 3:14-16)
- Regarding (respecting, enjoying) iniquity or cherishing (treating with affection holding dear, treasuring) sin in the heart, the Lord will not hear (Ps.66:18).
- Not loving nor honoring one's wife according to knowledge, being bitter towards her, the prayer is hindered (delayed, held up). (1Pet 3:7; Eph.5:25; Col.3:19).
- Being double minded, or wavering which is doubting, causes nothing to be received (James 1:6-8)
- Loving only in Word or just saying love you but not in deed / practice and not in the truth/sincerity (1Jn.3:18,19). Therefore no confidence nothing received.
- Hearts / conscience condemning or judging to be guilty (1 Jn.3:21; Rom 14:22,23)

Where do you stand? If you do not have assurance and confidence when you pray making a request, does any or all of these seven ways have an effect on you?

If you do have confidence do the Scriptures in this study help you to understand why you know you received what you had asked?