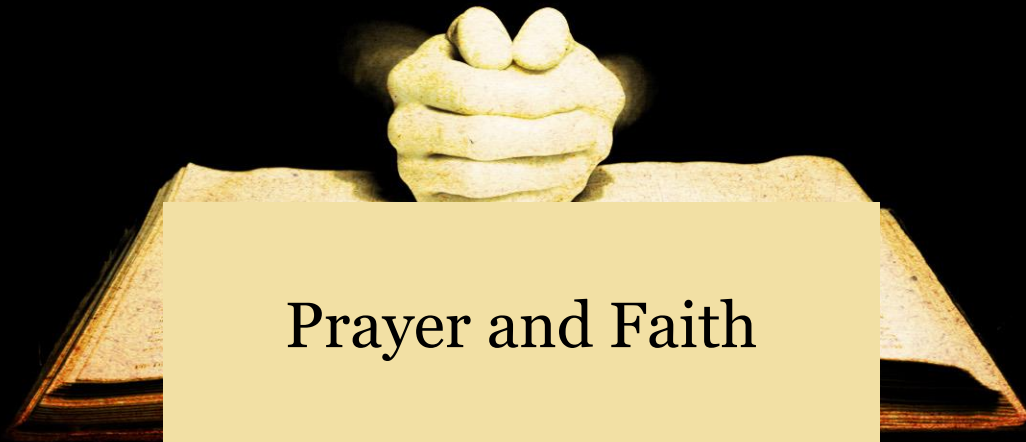


Communicating with God

A study of prayer and Bible study



Prayer and Faith

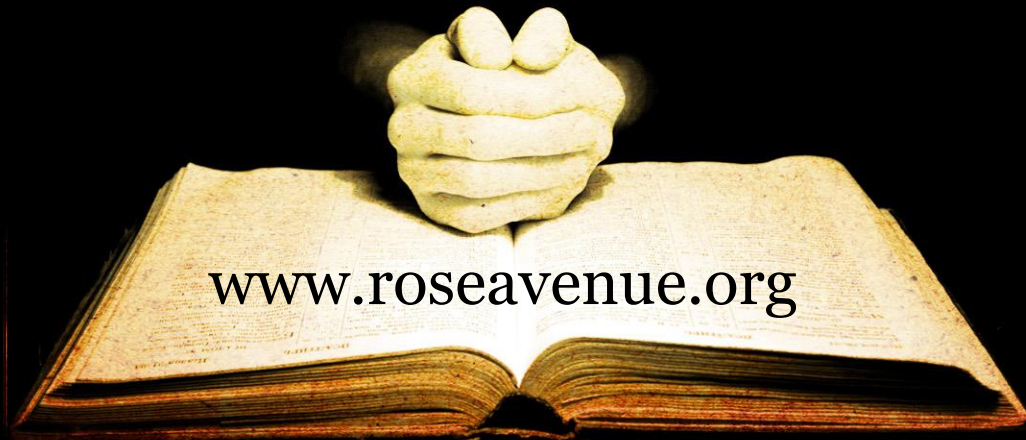
A study of prayer!



- We have addressed God's part in prayer – He is accessible, able to answer and wants us to pray to Him.
- We have also noted numerous Biblical examples of men and women who prayed – Jesus, Paul, Moses, Abraham, Hanah, Daniel, Nehemiah and David.
- Last week we began a study of HOW to pray. We addressed persistence as we pray.

Prayer (12)

Prayer and Faith



Communicating with God:
A study of Prayer & Bible Study
Our 2024 Theme



The Bible: Faith and Prayer

- It is clear that God expects us to have faith as we pray to Him.
- **James 1:5-8**, “...*Let him ask in faith...*”
- **1 Timothy 2:8**, *I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;*
- **James 5:13-16**, “...*The prayer of faith will save the sick*”



The Bible: Faith and Prayer

- **1 John 5:14-15**, *“This is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything...”*
- **Mark 11:24**, To His apostles, Jesus noted that whatever they asked in prayer, *“believe that you will receive them, and you will have them.”* (Also, **John 15:7**)
- **Matthew 15:28**, a Syrophoenician woman asks Jesus to heal her demon possessed daughter. Jesus notes her extraordinary faith.
- **1 Peter 5:7**, casting your cares on Him



The Bible: Examples of Faith and Prayer

- **Luke 23:46**, “Father, *into Your hands I commit My Spirit...*”
- **Matthew 17:19-21**, they could not cast out a demon because of their (weak) faith.
- David. In the psalms continually he manifests faith
Psalm 22:21, “You have answered Me.”
Psalm 3:4, I cried to the Lord with my voice, And He heard me from His holy hill.
Psalm 55:16-17, Psalm 77:1 (Asaph)



The Bible: Examples of Faith and Prayer

- **2 Corinthians 12:7-10**, Paul's prayer concerning his thorn in the flesh. Paul accepted the answer from the Lord and took pleasure in what he would face. He trusted that the Lord would take care of him.
Cf. 2 Timothy 3:10-11.



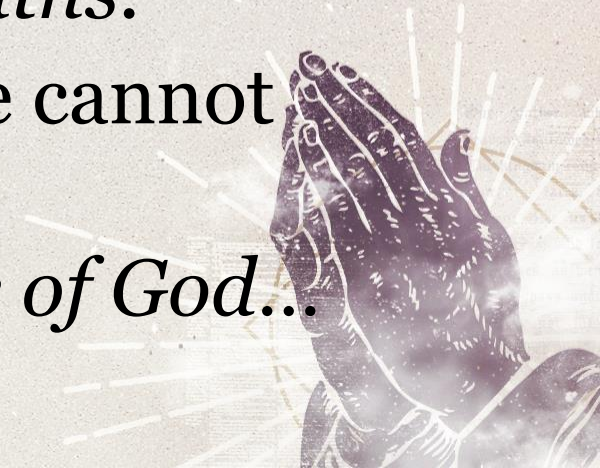
Praying with Faith

- **FIRST, we must understand what faith is.**
- **Hebrews 11:1**, ...the substance (assurance – NASB) of things hoped for, the evidence (conviction – NA.SB) of things not seen.
Our faith is NOT blind (as many in the world would imply). It is based on “infallible (convincing) proofs” (**Acts 1:3**)
2 Corinthians 5:7, but we do walk by faith!
- Faith is believing God and trusting Him!



Praying with Faith

- **FIRST, we must understand what faith is.**
- **Proverbs 3:5-6**, *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.*
- **Hebrews 11:6**, without faith we cannot please Him
- **Philippians 4:6-7**, *... the peace of God... will guard your hearts*



Praying with Faith

- **FIRST, we must understand what faith is.**
- **Ephesians 3:12**, In Christ, *we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him. please Him. Cf. Ephesians 3:14-21, Christ dwells in our hearts through faith*



Praying with Faith

- **“Prayer can be risky”** (Devoted to Prayer, Marshall McDaniel)
- When we pray to God and leave it in His hands, we are taking a risk. We are trusting Him.
- Consider Abraham – **Genesis 12:1-3, 22:1ff;**
 - Hezekiah – **2 Kings 19:15-19**
 - Paul - **2 Timothy 3:10-11**
 - David – **Psalms 37:23-25**



Praying with Faith

- **“Prayer can be risky”** (Devoted to Prayer, Marshall McDaniel)
- Genuine faith in our prayers is seen when we put it in His hands and let it go.
Note: IT is easy to SAY trust Him (especially in times of crisis), but it is much more difficult to do so.



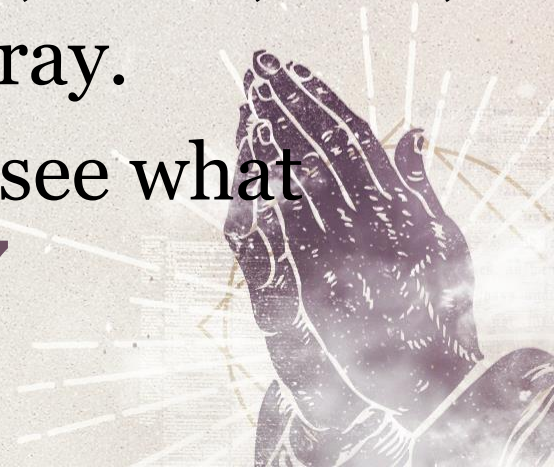
Praying with Faith

- **Pray about it!**
- **Luke 17:5**, *“increase our faith.”*
- **Mark 9:24**, *“If you can believe, all things are possible to Him who believes. Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, ‘Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!’”*
- BUT understand that the way your faith will increase is by being tested
(**James 1:2-4**)



Praying with Faith

- **Read your Bible**
- There IS a correlation between faith and God's word.
- It is in His word that we learn what, when, how, where, who and why we ought to pray.
- It is in His word that we learn and see what genuine faith is – **Romans 10:17**
- **Psalm 119:18** – a request



Praying with Faith

- **Read your Bible**
- **Acts 4:24-26** – Christians prayed to God and quoted scripture (**Psalm 2:1-2**). This demonstrates that prayers must be accompanied with an understanding of His word.
- **Hebrews 4:16**, because of what Jesus did we can boldly come before His throne of grace. **Cf. Heb. 12:1-2** – He is the finisher (perfecter) of our faith.



Praying with Faith

- **Know what praying with faith is NOT!**
- Simple optimism – we pray and assume that we will get our way.
- An entitled attitude – God does NOT owe us anything! And we cannot appeal to “our righteousness” and demand He give us what we want – **cf. Luke 18:11-12**, the Pharisee, “prayed thus with himself...”



Praying with Faith

- **Act on your prayers**
- Do not expect a miracle OR for God to do what you ought to be doing.
- Effective prayer is about a willingness to submit to His will – **cf. James 4:1-3**
- **1 John 3:22, 1 Peter 3:12 (Psalm 24:15)** –He hears because we keep His commandments



Genuine prayer is based upon faith!
Increase your faith, and a greater
“prayer life” will follow



As you pray,
do you trust Him?





Let us pray!