

Introduction:

²²"Have faith in God," Jesus answered. ²³"I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. ²⁴Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Mark 11:22-24 (NIV)

- An Outrageous Claim?
- A Misunderstood Promise?
- An Obvious Observation...

"Faith":

- **Definition =**

¹Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

- **Importance =**

⁶And 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.

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)

- **Faith, therefore, is having _____
that whatever God says, He _____ do.**

Question: When you pray, are you going to God with absolute certainty and confidence that what you are asking for will be given?

You can pray with absolute confidence:

¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

1 John 5:13-15 (NIV)

How?

1. To whom is this promise made?

1 John 5:13

2. How must we pray to know God hears our prayers? 1 John 5:14

3. How can we know the will of God? 1 John 5:14

➤ By the promises of His Word:

• For Wisdom - James 1:5-7

• For Deliverance - 1 Corinthians 10:13

• For Rest / Peace - Matthew 11:28-30

• For Financial Provision - Philippians 4:19

4. How can we know God's will when we have no promise for a particular situation?

²⁶In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. ²⁷And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

Romans 8:26,27 (NIV)

Conclusion: "We must pray in faith. That is, we must pray with confident expectation of getting the very thing we ask."

George Mueller

Discussion Questions:

1. What new insight did you gain about what it means to pray in faith?
2. On what basis can we come before God with absolute confidence?
3. What role does God's Word play in effective, confident praying?
4. What need do you have, or are you aware of, that God promises to meet?
5. What would it look like for you to claim God's promise and pray accordingly?