

*"Nothing is Impossible with God!!"*

**The Power Behind the Incarnation of Jesus Christ is Accessible to us Via Faith & Prayer!**



If we have been spiritually born-again, God is our Heavenly Father and we are his dearly loved children (Jn 1:12, 3:16; Rm 8:14-17; Gal 3:26, 4:4-7; Eph 1:3-5, 2:4; I Jn 3:1-2, 16). We have the privilege of bringing our requests to our Father (Phil 4:6-7; Heb 4:14-16). Here are some great Biblical truths relating to our privilege of praying for what we desire:

- 1) Jesus said "the thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (Jn 10:10). Satan wants to destroy your life, BUT God wants you to have a full and spiritually fruitful life. The good news is that God is far stronger than Satan! (I Jn 4:4; Jn 12:31-32; Col 2:15; Heb 2:14-15).
- 2) We miss out on some blessings/miracles because of our lack of faith in God (Mt 13:58). [Faith = "being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see" Heb 11:1].
- 3) We miss out on some blessings/miracles because we do not ask (James 4:2).
- 4) We need to have faith in God, and ask Him for miracles and blessings (Mt 7:7-10, 21:22; Mk 11:22-24; Jn 14:12-14, 15:16, 16:23-24).
- 5) We need to remember: ***NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD!!*** (Mt 19:23-26; Mk 10:27; Lk 18:27; Lk 1:26-37)
- 6) We need to pray persistently and not give up! (Lk 11:5-10, 18:1-8).
- 7) To summarize: Don't give up on any "impossible" situation, but keep praying, have faith in God, and remember that nothing is impossible for God!

**Our Prayer Requests Can Make a Difference in What God Does or Does Not Do**

Examples:

- 1) Moses reasoned with God to change His plan to destroy the Israelites (Ex 32:9-14).
- 2) Hezekiah earnestly asked God to extend his life – and God changed His mind and gave Hezekiah another 15 years (2 Kings 20:1-6).

- 3) Elijah prayed earnestly that it would not rain for 3.5 years, and it did not. He then prayed for rain and it rained (James 5:16-18; I Kings 17:1, 18:1, 41-46).
- 4) God canceled His planned judgments against Israel in response to Amos appeal (Amos 7:1-6).
- 5) God modified His planned criteria for saving Sodom and Gomorrah in response to Abraham's appeal (Gen 18:20-32).
- 6) God's planned judgment against the evil Ahab was postponed in response to Ahab's earnest and humble response (I Kings 21:17-29).

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Jesus said if we ask anything in His name, He will do it (Jn 14:13-14, 16:23). What if we don't get everything we ask for? Does the Bible give some conditions to the promise of Jesus? Yes -- our prayers may not be answered because:

- 1) Our request is outside the will of God (I Jn 5:14).
- 2) We have wrong motives (Jm 4:3).
- 3) We are not abiding in Christ and His words (Jn 15:7; Ps 37:4).
- 4) We are not bearing spiritual fruit (Jn 15:16).
- 5) We do not keep His commands and do what pleases Him (I Jn 3:21-22).
- 6) We have unconfessed and cherished sin in our life (Ps 32:1-5, 66:18; Is 59:1-2).
- 7) We have an unforgiving spirit (Mk 11:25).
- 8) We lack faith (Jm 1:6; Mt 21:21-22; Mk 11:22-24).
- 9) We lack persistence (Lk 11:5-10, 18:1-8).
- 10) A husband's prayers can be hindered due to lack of respect for his wife (I Pet 3:7).

### **What kind of answers may God give?**

- 1) *The answer is sometimes an immediate "yes"* (example: Peter walked on water to go to Jesus but began to sink and prayed "Lord save me" which Jesus did immediately -- Mt 14:22-31).
- 2) *The answer is sometimes delayed* (example: Jesus did not raise Lazarus from the dead until four days later -- John 11:1-44).
- 3) *The answer is sometimes "no"* (when God answers with a "no", the answer is accompanied with peace - Phil 4:6-7 - and grace - 2 Cor 12:7-10).
- 4) *The answer is sometimes different from what you expect* (example: you pray for character growth and God sends suffering. Why? Because "suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character" Romans 5:3-4).