



SERIES: MY PRAYER LIFE

Faith: The Missing Ingredient

Life Reference: Mark 11:20-24

Focus Verse

"And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God" (Mark 11:22).

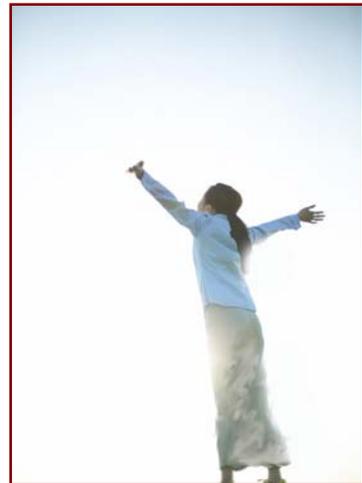
The embossed envelop looked official. Ripping it open, the letter read,

Dear (You),

We regret to inform you that your great uncle has passed away. You are an heir. Please contact our office for further details.

Sincerely,

Attorney-at-law



I am busy. I hardly knew my great uncle existed, so I procrastinate. I go to work every day, pay bills, and balance my checkbook like I have always done. Since I make no inquiries, I am unaware that unimaginable wealth is mine.



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Each of us has received a similar letter – the Word of God. It tells of a death that left us benefits we often fail to use.

“For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

When He gave His life, God left us an array of benefits. Comfort, deliverance, help, salvation, healing, restoration, blessings, and peace are available to us. As in the imaginary letter above, however, response on our part is necessary.

How does it work?

I’m glad you asked!

Life Reflection:

Am I presently enjoying these benefits?

How do I release all that God has provided for me into my life?

The answer is faith! Faith is the belief that God is who He said He is and He will do what He promised.

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1).

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6).

Life Reflection:

Are faith and positive mental attitude the same thing?



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No, they are not. While people who have a positive outlook on life may be healthier and happier, faith is another concept altogether.

“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Colossians 3:17).

“By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him” (Acts 3:16, NIV).

We must know in whom we believe. Our faith has to be firmly planted in God. He is the source of our strength. He is who we need. He has all we need. Faith in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ is critical in the life of a believer.

Life Reflection:

Do I pray in faith, believing that God is at work in my life?

How do I increase my faith?

Faith is like a muscle. Exercise it, and it becomes stronger.

“If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you” (Matthew 17:20, NIV).

Life Response:

It is possible to know something is available, but until it is used it has little value. Electricity is wired to most homes; but unless a switch is flipped, its power lies dormant. The Word of God is the same. Provision and power are waiting to be released into our lives.

Let’s observe the difference a little faith makes:



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PRAYER: "God, I need your help today. I am having trouble at work. My boss is always finding fault with me. I need Your protection. I am asking You to change this situation."

Do I really mean the words I am saying? I am thinking either one of two things when I approach God. *Yeah, right. Things will never change for me. I never get a break!* And nothing happens. Because I do not believe the words I say when I pray, God does not intervene on my behalf. My faith remains weak.

But what if my thoughts went along a different line? *Things have been bad for a long time. But I am going to continue to pray until they change. I believe God is working on my boss. Either he is going to change or be removed. I am God's child. No weapon that is formed against me will prosper!* (See Isaiah 54:17.)

The second approach fills me with hope. My spirit is lifted. While I am waiting for God to answer my prayers, I can handle the situation because my faith and trust is in Him! In God's time, He does transform my uncomfortable job environment into a peaceful, enjoyable workplace. I am encouraged to believe God in the future. I have exercised my muscle of faith.

Life Reflection:

Is faith in God a constant battle in my life?

The enemy is always feeding our minds with lies. How we respond to those lies is critical. Either we fold at the thought of failure and hopelessness or we learn to exercise our spiritual muscle of faith and fight back.

Where do our thoughts come from? What is behind our outlook on life? We are constantly receiving input from outside sources. *Is this thought from God? Perhaps He is trying to warn me of impending doom or is the enemy trying to discourage and distract me?* When in doubt, we can use the following Scripture as a test to reveal who is speaking into our hearts and minds:

"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).



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We can recognize who is speaking to us by asking a simple question. "Is this life?" The enemy always speaks death. God speaks life.

When a difficult situation arises, a typical reaction may be:

"This is hopeless."

Faith's counter response is to claim:

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13).

"I will commit my ways unto the Lord. I will trust in Him. He will bring it to pass." (See Psalm 37:5.)

"God has called me by my name; I am His. When I pass through the waters, He will be with me; and through the rivers, they will not overflow me. When I walk through the fire, I will not be burned." (See Isaiah 43:1-2.)

The enemy inserts another thought:

"Does God have everything I need? Can I really trust Him?"

Faith's response:

"I will trust in You, Lord, with all my heart, and lean not on my own understanding. I acknowledge You in all I do, and I know You will direct my path." (See Proverbs 3:5-6.)

"I will be strong and courageous. I will not be afraid or dismayed. God is with me everywhere I go." (See Joshua 1:9.)

"God has given me peace. I will not be troubled or afraid." (See John 14:27.)

"God's grace is sufficient for me, for His strength is made perfect in my weakness." (See 2 Corinthians 12:9.)

"God is able to do more than I can even think or ask!" (See Ephesians 3:20.)

It is important that we align what we think and say with the Word of God. When we rely on God's promises – speaking and believing those things that we trust He is doing in our lives – power is released.





Whatever area you are struggling in, find Scriptures that apply to that particular problem – memorize them – pray them – claim them – quote them – believe them! You will be amazed at what faith in God’s Word will accomplish!

More Prayer References:

Habakkuk 2:4
Matthew 6:25-34
Matthew 15:21-28
Matthew 17:14-21
Luke 7:50
Luke 22:31-32
John 14:12-14
John 16:23-24
Hebrews 11

Unless otherwise noted, Bible quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, King James Version.

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