

"It's Because Your Faith Isn't Strong Enough"

At the foot of the mountain, a large crowd was waiting for them. A man came and knelt before Jesus and said, "Lord, have mercy on my son. He has seizures and suffers terribly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. So I brought him to your disciples, but they couldn't heal him." Jesus said, "You faithless and corrupt people! How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me." Then Jesus rebuked the demon in the boy, and it left him. From that moment the boy was well. Afterward the disciples asked Jesus privately, "Why couldn't we cast out that demon?" You don't have enough faith, (Apestea = Your Unbelief)" Jesus told them. "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible." Matthew 17:14-20 (NLT)

Why do some prayers get answered and others don't?

They all do! Yes, No, & Not now.

What are the keys to how God answers prayers?

1. It begins with <u>motivation</u>. Whose will and plans are we really asking for?

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who <u>remain in me</u>, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. But if

you <u>remain in me and my words remain in you</u>, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings **great glory to my Father**. **John 15:5-8 (NLT)**

How to find Gods will...

- Pray for God's wisdom... James 1:5
- All scripture is God-breathed... 2 Timothy 3:16
- Ask... Seek... Knock. Matthew 7:7-8

2. People have a say in it.

"You faithless and corrupt people! vs 17

I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. 1 Timothy 2:1-4 (NLT)

3. God always sees a bigger picture.

How long must I be with you? vs 17

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take. **Proverbs 3:5-6**

4. It's not a matter of how much faith, but who it is in.

"Why couldn't **we** cast out that demon?" "You don't have enough faith, (Apestea = Unbelief)" ...I tell you the truth, if you had faith (Trust) even as small as a mustard seed... vs 19-20

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to **HIS WILL**, he hears us. **1 John 5:14 (NIV)**

Going deeper on your own. Read Matthew 17:14-20. Now read Matthew 8:5-13. Then read Matthew 15:21-28. What is the difference between the Roman Centurion, The Canaanite woman, and the disciples and the people in Matthew 17? Has there ever been time when Jesus was so real in your life, then with time the relationship has drifted? What can you do today to being drawing close to Him again?