

**Prayer Requires Action**  
**1-25-2023**

*James 2:26 (NLT)*

*“Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works”*

Here, James completes his case for an often misunderstood teaching. His point is that genuine faith in God and in when we are in genuine relationship with Him, this will lead the believer to participate in good works.

Our deeds don't earn our salvation, but what we DO proves whether or not we really have saving faith.

Out of a prayer relationship, our faith moves us into action. Prayer does not mean we just sit by the wayside but we must take part in God's work.

When we are active participants in God's work, then we are truly living out our faith.

Prayer and faith work together and requires our action.

**1- Prayer makes us courageous in our faith**

*Mark 2:1-5:(NLT) “When Jesus returned to Capernaum several days later, the news spread quickly that he was back home. Soon the house where he was staying was so packed with visitors that there was no more room, even outside the door. While he was preaching God's word to them, four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they*

*lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, My child, your sins are forgiven.”*

These four men put their faith into action. They did something courageously for their friend

Consider the generosity of these men who created an opportunity for healing. We can follow this example to generously lift others and give them the gift of Jesus by our faith

Definition of Faith: trust, belief, confidence

Putting it all together: **Faith is having a “confident expectation”**

These men “expected” something to happen for this man

When we pray, we can “expect” God to do “something in the lives of others.

Our prayers can take a radical step of faith.

These men removed the “roof” .... that was a radical move.

When you pray in faith and get God involved in your action, anything can happen

## **2- Prayer prompts us to move quickly and quietly**

When we pray, obedience and faith guarantee results.

It is through our obedience to the promptings of the Holy Spirit that moves us to action.

It is out of fear, or intimidation of the devil that we tend to ignore the promptings or leading moments by the Holy Spirit.

We don't want to be rejected or seem weird so we tend to ignore those times.

Our intimate prayer relationship, prompts our faith to believe that we are not stepping out alone but that God is with us in that moment

These promptings are to help us strengthen our faith, as well as, to bless others

Lynne Hammond makes mention of this in Chapter 11 - she calls them "cues" that may come to us throughout our day

Promptings come in harmony with God's word - He will not tell us to do something if we aren't listening

Fellowship with God keeps us sensitive to his voice and that sensitivity should lead us to obey

How do you recognize these promptings?

These promptings come as a nagging feeling or a strong thought about moving forward to do .... sometimes you may feel like you are fighting with your conscience and there is a need for a response.

The leading of the Spirit of God will move you beyond yourself -

Delayed obedience proves unbelief

It becomes another response in faith that results in a peace and joy for both you and the other person.

Scriptural example:

Abraham is a premier example.

Even when the Lord required him to sacrifice his beloved son Isaac - the son of his promise in his old age - he obeyed promptly.

God isn't an idle talker...He speaks for us to move out in faith to do for a reason

The closer we relate to God in the fellowship of prayer, the more we will be able to sense God prompting us into action.

### 3- Prayer and faith can work miracles, signs and wonders

When we are connecting to God in prayer, we can believe God by faith to use us in seeing men and women set free

*Matthew 17:20 (MSG)- "Because you're not yet taking God seriously, said Jesus. "The simple truth is that if you had a mere kernel of faith, a poppy seed, say, you would tell this mountain, "Move!" And It would move. There is nothing you wouldn't be able to tackle".*

Reinhard Bonnke once said - "Man needs God but God needs man. When the two come together for God's purposes, anything becomes possible"

The supernatural agreement through faith between God and man who know how to pray is more powerful than a thermo-nuclear bomb!

A partnership between heaven and earth that is exercised when we agree with God's purposes and pray those purposes into being.

We can relate this truth to James 5:16 -

*"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man (or woman) availeth much"*

*Amplified - "The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available (dynamic in its working)*

The word “power” in this context is “dunamis” which is translated power, inherent ability to perform anything.

Dunamis derives from the same root word from which we get “dynamite” - a powerful explosive

When we pray we have the potential of igniting the explosive dynamite of heaven into our circumstances in the earth

Prayer prayed in faith has the power to destroy the devil’s schemes and make the way for every barrier to be shattered, every gate to be blown away and for God’s blessings to flow without interruption

For example, we can believe God through prayer to see people set free from demonic oppression, miracles of healing, etc.

Do I have scripture for this .... yes!

*Matthew 17:21 (KJV)*

*“Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting”*

*Another translation: (NCV) “This kind of spirit comes out only if you use prayer and fasting “*

*Mark 16:17 - “These signs will accompany those who **have BELIEVED**: In my name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; they will pick up serpent, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not harm them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they **WILL** recover.”*

I am not saying we should go on a “casting out demon tour”

But as long as the enemy can keep the people of God convinced that they are powerless against the circumstance that they face or others face, our impact in the earth will be anaemic and of little influence.

#### 4- Prayer gives us courage to use our voice for Him

**\* This last week we have been praying for God to use us to communicate for Him**

Prayer gives us the boldness to step out of our comfort zone, not with pride, but with humility to share the gospel to others

*2 Timothy 1:7-8 - "For has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord"*

That boldness becomes our voice in witnessing for Him. Not in an obnoxious manner, but with a heart of love

Out of a heart of intimacy with the Father, we can communicate this love to others

How does prayer make you prepared for witnessing the gospel?

1- We pray daily for an open door/or an opportunity in order to share God's love ( what I do each morning)

2- Pray that God will give you wisdom on how to act towards the unsaved (let your conversation and behavior always be full of grace)

3- Pray to be watchful, compassionate and sensitive to those in need of the gospel message (Be led by the Holy Spirit)

4- Pray regularly for the desire to witness

*Proverbs 11:30 (NKJV) “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise”*

5- Pray for boldness to speak up when needed