

Thanking God in Faith, Believing

Jesus said in Mark 11:24,

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*.

The Holy Spirit, through the apostle Paul said in Philippians 4:6,

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

The Lord said in James 2:26,

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Once we've prayed the prayer of faith, the way we can show God that we received it by faith, is by continually praising and thanking God that we have what we've prayed for. This is also one way that we can keep our faith active and in action, and it helps us to stay in faith, as well. Sometimes, it's easy to forget if you have even prayed for something or not. But, if a person is always praising and thanking God, it keeps reminding the individual that they're still believing God for what they had originally prayed for.

Praising God helps us to continually exercise our faith. It's what we do between the time we prayed, believing we received, until the manifestation. In addition, praise helps keep our mind occupied on God, and not on the problem. This is what Abraham did in Romans 4:20 **He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God.** He was in an impossible situation, but his praising and glorifying God kept his faith strong. When we continually praise God and thank Him and speak God's Word, we claim what we are in Christ Jesus. This is what causes the blessings of God to materialize in our lives.

Praising God and thanking Him is a way that we discipline ourselves, for there are disciplines of faith that a believer needs to develop in their life, in order to be strong in God. That's why we need to discipline ourselves to spend time every day in God's Word, meditating on the promises of God and putting time every day into prayer. We need to discipline ourselves to walk in love and not have a negative mouth, which talks unbelief. We need to practice always obeying what we have in our spirit, whether we really want to or not. And, of course, every day, we need to discipline ourselves to get on our knees and lift our hands to God and begin to praise Him for Who He is, as well as thanking Him for all the things we believe we received through prayer. This helps us develop our faith and patience in the promises of God.

Sometimes, people don't understand why you don't get real excited when a blessing manifests. What they don't realize is that it's not so much that you're not excited about it, but for a period of time, you have seen yourself possessing what you've prayed for through meditating on God's Word, speaking God's Word, and praising God, so that by the time it manifested, it was nothing really new.

Faith becomes weak when it's not exercised and used. Yet, on the other hand, the more you use your faith, the more natural it is to live by faith. Too few Christians know anything about receiving by faith and living by faith, so they have a tendency to be critical and judgmental about those who do.

Find something in your life that you need God to do for you and take your faith and release it on what you need God to do in your life. Find some scriptures that back up what you're believing God for. For instance, if it was healing, you can start out with Galatians 3:13, 1 Peter 2:24, and Mark 11:24. You can pray and say: *"God, according to Your Word, Christ has redeemed me from the curse of the law, and by the stripes of Jesus, I was healed, so what You've already purchased for me in and through Christ Jesus, I receive today, according to Your Word. For you said, what things soever I desire when I pray, if I believe I receive them, I shall have them, in Jesus' Name."*

And whenever the thought comes to you concerning what you're believing God for, right then, just say to yourself and to the Lord, *"I thank God I'm healed, for Jesus said, What things soever I desire when I pray, if I believe them I will receive them, in Jesus' Name. I've already prayed, and I already believe, so I've already received, and according to the Word of God, I believe I am healed. Amen."* Then, all the time, day and night, just keep thanking God you're healed, according to His Word.

Any time a thought would come to you that you're not going to be healed this time, or that you're getting worse, or you're not getting any better, just say, *"Satan, I rebuke you in Jesus' Name, for it is written, by His stripes I was healed. I'm healed because the Word of God says I'm healed."* And that's how you resist the devil and his attacks. The way we receive from God is by thanking and praising God. The way we resist the devil and refuse to receive things from him is by speaking the Written Word of God to Satan in Jesus' Name. Speaking to Satan and rebuking him and praising God and thanking God that you believe you've received is one scriptural way of releasing your authority as a believer, as well as your faith in God and His promises.

For faith to work and to produce for you, it needs to be released and put into action. When Paul and Silas were in jail in Acts 16:25-26, not only did they pray, but they began to praise God, which caused God to move on their behalf. **²⁵And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. ²⁶And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.**

There are people who have prayed to God for something but they failed to receive, because they never praised or thanked God. You're going to get a lot more from God by humbling yourself and praising Him and thanking Him, than you ever will by neglecting praising and thanking God. When I have needs in my life, I just praise God and thank God that the needs are met, according to His Word. This way, it helps my faith stay focused on God and His promises. It also continually reminds me that I have a responsibility as a child of God to believe God that this need is met. It keeps me from backsliding and neglecting my responsibilities as a believer to receive my miracles from God. It also pleases God when we live by faith.

Whether you and I get our prayers answered or not is going to depend more on us than it will on God. God is never going to doubt what He has spoken. It's you and I that doubt and get into fear, unbelief, and worry. So, we need to spend time, night and day standing on the Word, pleading our case before God, meditating on His promises, praying in tongues and lifting our hands in worship to God and thanking God that every need is met. This is how we receive from God and have every one of our needs met.

In the natural, we all like to be around someone who is thankful and appreciative. We are drawn to that person and we look forward to seeing them again. On the other hand, we have a tendency to not want to be around the person who's always complaining, griping, and murmuring. Well, God inhabits the praise of His people, but those who murmured and complained didn't receive from Him, as you read in numbers of 14:1, 2

¹And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. ²And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! Consequently, they didn't get to inherit the promises. So, let's show the Lord that we appreciate all the things He's done for us, and let's begin to thank Him for what we believe we've received from Him by faith, according to His Word.

I want to share some scriptures with you that will help you to thank and praise the Lord, because I know when I got saved, I didn't know how to do that. So, I just took scriptures that talked about praising God, and I read the scriptures until I learned to do it for myself.

1 Thessalonians 5:16, 18

¹⁶Rejoice evermore. ¹⁸In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

2 Thessalonians 1:3

We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

1 Timothy 2:1, 8

¹I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men; ⁸I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

1 Timothy 4:4, 5

⁴For every creature of God *is* good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: ⁵For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

Hebrews 13:15

By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.

James 1:2

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

1 Corinthians 5:19, 20

⁹What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? ²⁰For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Psalms 35:27

Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.

I look forward to sharing with you tomorrow.

Brother Rich

Remember, "***Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.***" 3 John 2