

## Living By Faith

### Lesson 3

#### The Faith It Takes To Pray

## Faith Is Essential To Pleasing God

Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

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## Introduction

- Faith is believing in, trusting in God displayed by obedience to His Word
- One of the essential expressions of our faith is prayer to God, communicating our requests to Him
- For prayer to be effective, it must be done by applying principles of faith

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## We Must Believe God Exists

Psa 14:1 **For the choir director. A Psalm of David.** The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; There is no one who does good.

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## We Must Believe God Exists

Rom 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

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## We Must Believe God Is Personal Near And Cares For Us

Act 17:23 "For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you.

Act 17:24 "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands;

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## We Must Believe God Is Personal Near And Cares For Us

Act 17:25 nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all *people* life and breath and all things;

Act 17:26 and He made from one *man* every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation,

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## We Must Believe God Is Personal Near And Cares For Us

Act 17:27 that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

Act 17:28 for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.'

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## We Must Believe God Is Personal Near And Cares For Us

Act 17:29 "Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man.

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## We Must Believe God Is Personal Near And Cares For Us

Jer 23:23 "Am I a God who is near," declares the LORD, "And not a God far off?"

Jer 23:24 "Can a man hide himself in hiding places So I do not see him?" declares the LORD. "Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?" declares the LORD.

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## We Must Believe God Is Personal Near And Cares For Us

1Ki 18:27 It came about at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Call out with a loud voice, for he is a god; either he is occupied or gone aside, or is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and needs to be awakened."

1Ki 18:28 So they cried with a loud voice and cut themselves according to their custom with swords and lances until the blood gushed out on them.

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## We Must Believe God Is Personal Near And Cares For Us

1Ki 18:29 When midday was past, they raved until the time of the offering of the *evening* sacrifice; but there was no voice, no one answered, and no one paid attention.

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## We Must Believe God Is Personal Near And Cares For Us

Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

1Pe 5:6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

1Pe 5:7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

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## We Must Believe God Is Powerful Enough To Answer Our Prayers

Jer 32:16 "After I had given the deed of purchase to Baruch the son of Neriah, then I prayed to the LORD, saying,

Jer 32:17 'Ah Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You,

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## We Must Believe God Is Powerful Enough To Answer Our Prayers

Jer 32:18 who shows lovingkindness to thousands, but repays the iniquity of fathers into the bosom of their children after them, O great and mighty God. The LORD of hosts is His name;

Jer 32:19 great in counsel and mighty in deed, whose eyes are open to all the ways of the sons of men, giving to everyone according to his ways and according to the fruit of his deeds;

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## We Must Believe God Is Powerful Enough To Answer Our Prayers

Jer 32:20 who has set signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, *and* even to this day both in Israel and among mankind; and You have made a name for Yourself, as at this day.

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## We Must Believe God Is Powerful Enough To Answer Our Prayers

1Jn 5:14 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

1Jn 5:15 And if we know that He hears us *in* whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

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## We Must Believe God Is Powerful Enough To Answer Our Prayers

Eph 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,

Eph 3:21 to Him *be* the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

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## We Must Believe God Is Powerful Enough To Answer Our Prayers

Mat 7:11 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!

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## We Must Believe God Can Be Persuaded To Answer Our Prayers

Psa 139:1 **For the choir director. A Psalm of David.** O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*.

Psa 139:2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar.

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## We Must Believe God Can Be Persuaded To Answer Our Prayers

Psa 139:3 You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.

Psa 139:4 Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all.

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## We Must Believe God Can Be Persuaded To Answer Our Prayers

Mat 6:8 "So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

Mat 6:9 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

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## We Must Believe God Can Be Persuaded To Answer Our Prayers

Exo 32:9 The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, they are an obstinate people.

Exo 32:10 "Now then let Me alone, that My anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them; and I will make of you a great nation."

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## We Must Believe God Can Be Persuaded To Answer Our Prayers

Exo 32:11 Then Moses entreated the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does Your anger burn against Your people whom You have brought out from the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?"

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## We Must Believe God Can Be Persuaded To Answer Our Prayers

Exo 32:12 "Why should the Egyptians speak, saying, 'With evil *intent* He brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to destroy them from the face of the earth'? Turn from Your burning anger and change Your mind about *doing* harm to Your people.

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## We Must Believe God Can Be Persuaded To Answer Our Prayers

Exo 32:13 "Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants to whom You swore by Yourself, and said to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heavens, and all this land of which I have spoken I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit *it* forever.'"

Exo 32:14 So the LORD changed His mind about the harm which He said He would do to His people.

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## Even If He Does Not Change His Mind He Provides What Is Best

2Co 12:7 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me--to keep me from exalting myself!

2Co 12:8 Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me.

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## Even If He Does Not Change His Mind He Provides What Is Best

2Co 12:9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

2Co 12:10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

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## Do We Have The Faith It Takes To Pray?

1. We must believe God exists
2. We must believe God is personal near and cares for us
3. We must believe God is powerful enough to answer our prayers
4. We must believe God can be persuaded to answer our prayers

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