

The Faith It Takes To Pray

Faith is essential to pleasing God

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

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.

Rom 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

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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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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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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

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

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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Jas 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

Jas 5:17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months.

Jas 5:18 Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.¹²

We must believe God is powerful
enough to answer our prayers

Eph 3:16 that He would grant you,
according to the riches of His glory, to be
strengthened with power through His Spirit
in the inner man,

Eph 3:17 so that Christ may dwell in your
hearts through faith; and that you, being
rooted and grounded in love,

Eph 3:18 may be able to comprehend with
all the saints what is the breadth and length
and height and depth,

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We must believe God is powerful
enough to answer our prayers

Eph 3:19 and to know the love of Christ
which surpasses knowledge, that you may
be filled up to all the fullness of God.

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

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
5. Even if He does not change His mind He provides what is best

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