

PRAYING FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE

9/28/14

“Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?”

So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there, and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.’” (Matthew 17:19-20)

Introduction: Jesus taught us that it is completely realistic, in light of who God is, and what He has promised, for us to expect the impossible when we pray. Seeing the impossible is completely possible if we learn to pray in _____.

Thesis:

- A. The level of our believing will determine the level of our _____! Our container determines our capacity. We set the perimeters for God’s blessings and miracles in our lives.
- *“Then He touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith, be it done to you.” (Mat. 9:29)*
 - *“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.” (Eph. 3:20)*
- B. Too many people are settling for “man sized” blessings, gifts, dreams, and potential while the Father has “_____”-sized breakthroughs He is waiting to bring into our lives. It is not being presumptuous to pray for the impossible; it is being _____.

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.” (James 1:5-8)

Three ways to increase your faith in prayer

I. Choose to fully believe in the _____ God has towards you in Christ.

- A. The size of your faith will be greatly determined by the amount of favor with God you decide to believe you have. The amount of favor you decide to believe you have will determine the kind of prayers you pray and the kind of answers you receive.
- *“...much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.” (Rom. 5:17)*
 - *“And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.” (1 Jn. 4:16)*
 - *“For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Dear friends if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from Him everything we ask...” (1 Jn. 3:21)*
 - *“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” (Luke 11:13)*

“Condemnation kills faith; grace breathes life into our faith!”

- B. God is your gracious, extravagant, adoring Father who cares about your _____ need, and can solve your most impossible problem.

II. Constantly remember and give thanks for the miracles God has done for you and the little miracles you see Him doing every day.

- *“Our fathers in Egypt did not understand Your wonders; they did not remember the multitude of Your mercies, but rebelled by the Red Sea.” (Ps. 106:7)*
- *“Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness and for His wonderful works to the children of men.” (Ps. 107:8)*

- A. Your faith increases according to the size of your _____.
- B. Faith, like a mustard seed, _____ when we recall God’s faithfulness, and choose to see the little ways God is working. Each small victory is a platform for a greater victory, giving thanks for small things leads to faith for greater things.

“Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down.” (Jn. 6:11)

III. You increase your faith by daring to pray _____ “God-sized” container, stretching prayers on a continuous basis.

- A. God is _____ by such prayers.
“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt; open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.” (Psalms 81:10)
- B. Bold prayers lead to game changing _____ that catapult us forward in a life of faith and miracles. When we pray bold God-sized prayers we are not guilty of bringing our expectation of God down to fit into the box of our faith, we are raising our faith and expectation to the level of God’s ability and eagerness to move.
- C. Ideas for how to pray God-sized prayers
1. Silence doubt- Stop asking what if God doesn’t answer, start asking what if He _____, and what would happen if He wants to and I don’t ask.
 2. Be willing to risk asking for your secret heart desires.
 3. When you pray one of your “normal prayers” ask how God might want you to _____ it to be something exceedingly beyond what you might ask or think.
 4. Look for miracles that God did in the Bible and ask for those to happen in our lives today.

Examples of bold sized prayers in the Bible

- *“Ask of Me and I will give you the nations for your inheritance.” (Ps. 2:8)*
- *“Blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gates of their enemies In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.” (Gen. 22:18-19)*
- *“You shall say to this mountain move from here over to there and it shall be done for you.” (Mat. 17:20)*

(Answers: faith, receiving, God, obedient I. favor, smallest II. gratitude, grows, III. audacious, honored, results, does, supersize)