

# Praying With Faith

## Mark 11:20-24

### Mark 11:20-24 (NASB)

<sup>20</sup>“As they were passing by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots *up*.

<sup>21</sup> Being reminded, Peter said to Him, “Rabbi, look, the fig tree which You cursed has withered.”

<sup>22</sup> And Jesus answered saying to them, “Have faith in God.”

<sup>23</sup> Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be *granted* him.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be *granted* you.”

In today’s passage, Jesus connects two important concepts: **prayer** and **faith**. And we know from other Scriptures that unless our prayers are united with faith, we shouldn’t expect to receive anything from the Lord ([James 1:6-7](#)).

### James 1:6-7 (NASB)

<sup>6</sup>“But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

<sup>7</sup> For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord.”

But what is the basis for our faith? Are we to believe that God will give us whatever we ask?

Jesus began by saying, “**Have faith in God**” ([Mark 11:22](#)). This is the foundation for prayer—trust in the Lord. If our requests are incompatible with His teachings, we have no reason to believe He’ll answer. Nor should we expect to receive if the motive is our own pleasure ([James 4:3](#)).

### James 4:3 (NASB)

<sup>3</sup>“You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.”

As Jesus’ prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane demonstrates, ultimate trust in God says, “...Yet not My will, but Yours be done” ([Luke 22:42](#)).

[First John 5:14-15](#) tells us we can count on God answering requests prayed according to His will.

### 1 John 5:14-15 (NASB)

<sup>14</sup>“This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

<sup>15</sup> 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.”

**Talnid Shorts 11/22/17**

**Dr. Eddie Idefonso**

**Praying With Faith**

Our prayers should, therefore, be anchored to Scripture because apart from the Bible, we don't know His will. But as we fill our minds with God's Word, our desires and requests begin to align with His. When that's the case, we can confidently expect to receive whatever we ask. And in those instances when we're not sure of His will, the Spirit intercedes for us ([Romans 8:27](#)). Even the obstacles in our life are no problem for the Lord. Nothing in harmony with His purpose will be impossible for us.

**Romans 8:27 (NASB)**

**<sup>27</sup>“And He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to *the will of God.*”**

God doesn't turn a deaf ear to the supplication of His children. As a loving heavenly Father, He protects, provides, guides, and cares for us. He has proven His love by sending His Son. Surely, we can trust Him with all our other concerns.