

CAYA Series – “Understanding the Purpose and Power of Prayer”

CHAPTER 5 - “CULTIVATING THE GOD KIND OF FAITH”

In this chapter, we will examine another reason our prayers may fail to work. It may be because we often have the wrong kind of faith.

EVERYONE LIVES BY FAITH

Many of us were taught that faith is necessary. However, we usually weren't taught how to obtain the faith that is pleasing to God.

WHAT IS FAITH?

General terms – Having faith means believing and having confidence in the words that you hear. It is believing in something that is not seen as though it is already a reality—and then speaking it and expecting it until it manifests itself. Everyone lives by this definition of faith and people usually receive exactly what they have faith for because we were made to operate that same way God does—through words of faith.

- ***Psalms 33:9*** – For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.
- ***Hebrews 11:3*** – By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.”
- ***Hebrews 1:3*** - The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by His powerful word.

When you ask for something in prayer, you have to start speaking about it as if it already exists. Moreover, you have to keep on speaking in order to see its manifestation. Then, when it comes, you have to continue to speak it, to keep it.

THE WORD OF FAITH

Romans 10:6-8 - ⁶ But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down *from above*) ⁷ or, “Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near

you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach):

The word ‘hear’ may have to do with what you are listening to. What is said goes into your ears and the ears are the gateway into your heart. **Matthew 12:34** –³⁴ “Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.” What you say reflects what is in your heart, of what you believe.

- Faith is belief in action – belief creates your life, and that’s what faith is: believing things that you haven’t yet seen to the point that you act on them until they come into being.
- Have the God kind of faith – Ex. **Mark 11:12-14** Jesus cursed the fig tree and it withered. What you hear creates faith for what you are hearing. Then you speak it, and it happens to you.

GOD’S FAITH COMES BY HIS WORD

Whatever you speak has the power to happen. This will be the biggest test of your faith.

- What do you say in the midst of adversity?
- What do you say in the midst of trouble?
- What do you say when things are not going the way you want them to go?

A continual diet of the Word of God will come out of your mouth and nourish your heart in difficult times.

Your salvation (**Romans 10:9-10**) came by the confession of your mouth and the belief in your heart! If you are born again by your words, if you can be kept out of hell and go to heaven by your words, if there is that much power in what you say, what effect are the rest of the words you speak having on you?

PLANTED BY THE WORD

The same belief principle applies to prayer. God has promised us:

Psalm 1:2-3 - But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.

The more time you spend in the Word, the more your mind is transformed. You begin to think differently. You start believing it, and that belief is reflected in what you say. Then the fruit starts coming.

Some of the things you're praying for right now have not been manifested because it is not yet their season.

LIVING IN REALITY

When you express your faith, some people say, "You're not facing reality." We've been trained to think that reality is what we can see. Faith is your title deed. A title deed is the evidence or proof of a person's legal ownership. Faith is the proof of your ownership of what you are praying for.

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father,

*The Bible says, "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith" (**Romans 10:8**). We pray that we will place our trust in You and Your Word rather than in the words of faith all around us that are contrary to Your truth. Forgive us for spending more time dwelling on our own plans, ideas, scenarios analyses, and schemes than on taking Your Word into our hearts and living by it. Open the truths of Your Word into our hearts and living by it. Open the truths of Your Word to us and let us rely on You alone. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who is the Living Word. Amen.*

[Individual/Small Group Activity]

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BREAKOUT QUESTIONS

What information presented in Chapter 5 impacted/influenced each team member the most? *(It could be a principle, revelation, understanding, insight or obstacle, etc.)*

1. What is one thing, positively and negatively that you have in your life that came as a direct result of your words?
2. Is it too late to change those negative words? If not, what action must you do? *(see bottom of page 92)*
3. Is the company (what and who you are listening to, books you read, music you listen to, videos you watch, and church you attend) you are keeping producing what you desire in your life?
4. How do we obtain and demonstrate faith that is pleasing to God?