

## *Our Ongoing Struggle with Faith*

### *Mark 11:22-33*

*“What was Jesus saying about the relationship between faith and the answer to prayer? When we fall on our knees and cry out to God, and we give Him the concerns of our hearts, we can know for sure that He hears and He answers, and His answers are always perfect. But we tend to think that if God does not do what we ask Him to do, He has not answered. Jesus, in agony, prayed in the garden of Gethsemane, asking, ‘O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me’ (Matt. 26:39b). Does the fact that Jesus went to the cross the next day mean the Father did not answer Him? No, the Father did answer Jesus’ prayer. His answer was ‘no.’ We need to remember that Jesus also prayed, ‘Nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will’ (v. 39c). Jesus’ response was this: ‘If you say ‘no’ to My request, I say ‘yes to what You want Me to do.’ That is the prayer of faith. That is trusting God.” Sproul*

- I. When Jesus said, *“Have faith in God,”* he was giving a command to his disciples, as well as to those of us who follow him, to *“trust God”* in all matters of life. It is a moral, ethical, and spiritual responsibility for all believers to put their faith in his love for us knowing that he is working all things for our good. To not trust him impugns the integrity of his character, the reliability of his promises, and the veracity of his Word. The reason for the command is because if we don’t trust him, we will find ourselves putting our trust in something or someone else, which when you think about it, amounts to putting our trust in an idol.

Mark 11:20-22

Matt. 28:18-20

Rom. 12:1-2

Phil. 4:8-9

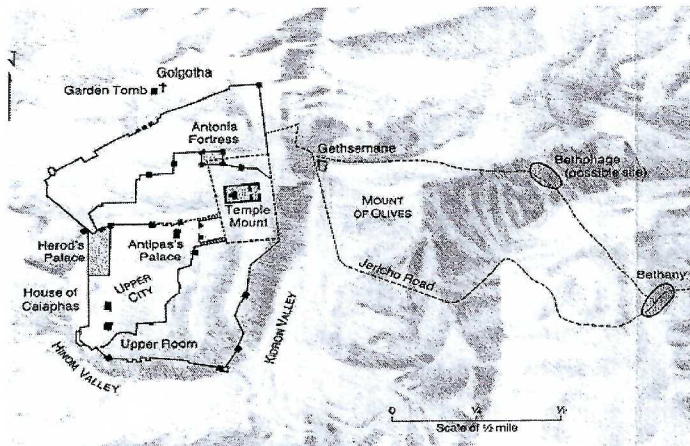
Prov. 3:5-6

**Rom. 8:28** *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

- II. Faith and prayer go hand in hand; you can't have one without the other. A lack of sincere prayer shows a lack of confidence in the Lord's desire or ability to give an answer to whatever we are praying for. On the other hand, an eagerness to go to the Lord in prayer shows dependence and trust in the Lord to answer our prayers according to his good will. Time and time again we are told that we are to approach his throne of grace with confidence (Heb. 4:16), that we are to approach him often and not give up (Lk. 18:1-8, 1 Thess. 5:17), that if we ask him anything with a desire for his will, he hears us (1 Jn. 5:13-16), that we are to believe he'll answer prayer and not doubt (James 1:6), and that we are to pray in the power and leading of the Spirit (Eph. 6:18, Jude 20).

Mark 11:23-26

1 Jn. 1:9



**Heb. 11:6** *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

**Rom. 8:26-27** *26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

- III. Where did Jesus get the power and authority to determine the destiny of the souls of mankind. His power and authority were given to him by God the Father. It is part of his role as God incarnate (Col. 2:9). Men and women have a choice to either submit to his authority or reject it. The one will reap the benefit of eternal life in God's kingdom, the other will reap everlasting contempt because of a refusal to believe the gospel and submit to his Lordship.

Mark 11:27-33

Matt. 28:18-19

Rev. 20:11-15

Dan. 12:1-3

**Col. 2:9-10** *For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.*