

Removing Doubt from Your Prayers

By: Andy Brenton

“But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts it is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways” (James 1:5-8).

How many times do we go before God in prayer “hoping” for an answer to our prayer instead of having the faith to know He can answer it? Countless times we hear “I hope” it isn’t so... or “I hope” my or your prayers are answered. If we believe that God is who He says He is and will do what He has promised, why do so many of us habitually waver in our prayers? Instead of exercising bold faith, we come to the Lord “hoping” He will hear us and answer our requests, but we’re just not sure He will. With this kind of thinking, we cannot expect to receive anything from Him.

One reason we are so prone to doubt is that we fail to see God at work in our circumstances. We asked, and nothing happened. Do we think the Lord is some cosmic errand runner who jumps in response to our requests? He sees past, present, and future and knows the right time for every answer. His invisible hand is already at work on our behalf - arranging situations to accomplish His will, opening hearts, and preparing us to receive what He wants to give.



Another cause for uncertainty is ignorance. If we don’t know God’s ways, we will be disappointed in His response. All too often our prayers are accompanied by expectations of how He will work. When He fails to intervene according to our timetable or anticipated method, we start to doubt. But placing our faith in the Lord and trusting in His good and perfect ways gives us stability as we wait for His answer.

To overcome doubts, spend time in the Word to learn God’s principles and ways. Then you’ll begin to grasp what He wants to achieve in your life and how He goes about it. Examine your past from a biblical perspective - faith will grow as you see the unexpected ways He answered your prayers.