

# Understanding Faith and the capabilities and limits of God

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What is Faith? How do I increase my faith? What can I expect from God? Does God still perform Miracles? How should I pray? What is too big for God?

These are questions that some Christians may not fully understand how to answer. I hope that this commentary will provide you with insight to these types of questions. As you read the text, you will see that more than 80% of it is composed of Bible scripture, with the remaining being my comments.

To help us understand the gifts of God (Salvation, Faith, or the other spiritual gifts), it is helpful to understand the capabilities and limitations of God. In the first two pages of this commentary, I have listed verses that may help define the greatness of God's power. The remaining pages are dedicated to uplifting scriptures of Biblical promises.

† The use of the name God or Lord in this commentary is referring in general to the Biblical Holy Trinity being composed of God the Father, his Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost. All scripture references provided in this document are from the Kings James Version Bible.

## **The power of God:**

We read in the first chapter of the Bible that **God created all things**. I don't see any evolution based "Big Bang" events listed here, but I do see a master creator that systematically planned the universe and all things according to his purpose. As I read through these verses, the nonchalant statement that "he made the stars also" (Genesis 1:16) caught my attention. It is as though this was so simple a task that it was barely worth mentioning. To help us understand the magnitude of this one event, we can look at secular science's understanding of the universe. It has been estimated that the universe contains 70 sextillion stars (7 followed by 22 zeroes) source= <http://www.cnn.com/2003/TECH/space/07/22/stars.survey/> . That is equal to about ten times the number of grains of sand on all the Earth's beaches and deserts. **What kind of awesome God do we serve that such an incredible creation only warrants this trivial comment of his ability to create an uncountable number of stars and solar systems?**

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning **God created the heaven and the earth**. 1:2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. 1:3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. 1:4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and **God divided the light from the darkness**. 1:5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day. 1:6 And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. 1:7 And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. 1:8 And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day. 1:9 And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and **let the dry land appear**: and it was so. 1:10 And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good. 1:11 And God said, Let the earth **bring forth grass**, the herb yielding seed, and **the fruit tree** yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. 1:12 And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good. 1:13 And the evening and the morning were the third day. 1:14 And God said, **Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night**; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: 1:15 And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. 1:16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: **he made the stars also**. 1:17 And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, 1:18 And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good. 1:19 And the evening and the morning were the fourth day. 1:20 And God said, Let the **waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth** in the open firmament of heaven. 1:21 And God created **great whales, and every living creature that moveth**, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. 1:22 And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth. 1:23 And the evening and the morning were the fifth day. 1:24 And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. 1:25 And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good. 1:26 And God said, **Let us make man in our image, after our likeness**: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Ephesians 3:9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, **who created all things by Jesus Christ**:

Colossians 1:16 **For by him were all things created**, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 1:17 **And he is before all things, and by him all things consist**.

*We read in Ephesians and Colossians that **God through Jesus created all things and that he existed before all things**. I've heard people question the eternity of God and ask where God came from or how he began. Due to the nature of human existence, it is difficult for us to completely understand the concept of eternity. For humans, there is always a start and end to all things, but this is not the case with God. When trying to comprehend eternity, we should consider that God only provided humans with a limited mental capacity that makes a complete understanding of eternity very difficult.*

Jeremiah 32:17 Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast **made the heaven and the earth by thy great power** and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee: 32:18 Thou showest lovingkindness unto thousands, and recompensest the iniquity of the fathers into the bosom of their children after them: the Great, the Mighty God, the LORD of hosts, is his name, 32:19 Great in counsel, and mighty in work: for thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men: to give every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings:

Isa 66:1 Thus saith the LORD, The **heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool**: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?

*In Job 9 we see it mentioned again that God created the celestial constellations*

Job 9:5 Which removeth the mountains, and they know not: which overturneth them in his anger. 9:6 Which **shaketh the earth** out of her place, and the pillars thereof tremble. 9:7 Which **commandeth the sun, and it riseth not; and sealeth up the stars**. 9:8 Which alone **spreadeth out the heavens, and treadeth upon the waves of the sea**. 9:9 Which **maketh Arcturus, Orion, and Pleiades**, and the chambers of the south. 9:10 Which doeth great things past finding out; yea, and wonders without number.

Job 12:12 **With the ancient is wisdom**; and in length of days understanding. 12:13 With him is wisdom and strength, **he hath counsel and understanding**. 12:14 Behold, **he breaketh down, and it cannot be built again: he shutteth up a man, and there can be no opening**. 12:15 Behold, he withholdeth the waters, and they dry up: also he sendeth them out, and they overturn the earth. 12:16 With him is strength and wisdom: the deceived and the deceiver are his. 12:17 He leadeth counselors away spoiled, and maketh the judges fools. 12:18 He looseth the bond of kings, and girdeth their loins with a girdle. 12:19 He leadeth princes away spoiled, and overthroweth the mighty.

*God states and then asks Jeremiah if **anything is too hard for him***

Jeremiah 32:17 Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and **there is nothing too hard for thee**:

Jeremiah 32:26 Then came the word of the LORD unto Jeremiah, saying, 32:27 Behold, **I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?**

*God questions Job about man's limitations compared to his own power and ask the question "where wast thou" during the creation of all things*

Job 38:1 Then the **LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind**, and said, 38:2 Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? 38:3 Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me. 38:4 **Where wast thou** when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. 38:5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? 38:6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; 38:7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? 38:8 Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it broke forth, as if it had issued out of the womb? 38:9 When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddling band for it, 38:10 And broke up for it my decreed place, and set bars and doors, 38:11 And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed? 38:12 Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days; and caused the dayspring to know his place; 38:13 That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, that the wicked might be shaken out of it? 38:14 It is turned as clay to the seal; and they stand as a garment. 38:15 And from the wicked their light is withheld, and the high arm shall be broken. 38:16 Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea? or hast thou walked in the search of the depth? 38:17 Have the gates of death been opened unto thee? or hast thou seen the doors of the shadow of death? 38:18 Hast thou perceived the breadth of the earth? declare if thou knowest it all. 38:19 Where is the way where light dwelleth? and as for darkness, where is the place thereof, 38:20 That thou shouldest take it to the bound thereof, and that thou shouldest know the paths to the house thereof? 38:21 Knowest thou it, because thou wast then born? or because the number of thy days is great? 38:22 Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail, 38:23 Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war? 38:24 By what way is the light parted, which scattereth the east wind upon the earth? 38:25 Who hath divided a watercourse for the overflowing of waters, or a way for the lightning of thunder; 38:26 To cause it to rain on the earth, where no man is; on the wilderness, wherein there is no man; 38:27 To satisfy the desolate and waste ground; and to cause the bud of the tender herb to spring forth? 38:28 Hath the rain a father? or who hath begotten the drops of dew? 38:29 Out of whose womb came the ice? and the hoary frost of heaven, who hath engendered it? 38:30 The waters are hid as with a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen. 38:31 Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion? 38:32 Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons? 38:33 Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? canst thou set the dominion thereof in the earth? 38:34 Canst thou lift up thy voice to the clouds, that abundance of waters may cover thee? 38:35 Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go, and say unto thee, Here we are? 38:36 Who hath put wisdom in the inward parts? or who hath given understanding to the heart? 38:37 Who can number the clouds in wisdom? or who can stay the bottles of heaven, 38:38 When the dust groweth into hardness, and the clods cleave fast together? 38:39 Wilt thou hunt the prey for the lion? or fill the appetite of the young lions, 38:40 When they couch in their dens, and abide in the covert to lie in wait? 38:41 Who provideth for the raven his food? when his young ones cry unto God, they wander for lack of meat.

*Satan is a created being and, like all of God's creatures, is subject to the final authority of God. Satan is not permitted to do anything unless God first allows him. In Job 1 and 2, God granted permission for the devil to touch Job's possessions and even his physical body, but refused to allow Satan to kill him.*

Job 1:9 Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for naught? 1:10 Hast not thou **made a hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side?** thou **hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.** 1:11 But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. 1:12 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. **Resist the devil**, and he will flee from you.

Revelations 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: **he was cast out** into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Revelations 20:10 And the **devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone**, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be **tormented day and night forever and ever.**

*Even the unbelievers are ultimately subject to his control:*

2Chronicles 20:6 And said, O LORD God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and **rulst not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?** 20:7 Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend forever?

Psalms 147:2 The LORD doth build up Jerusalem: he gathereth together the outcasts of Israel. 147:3 He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds. 147:4 **He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names.** 147:5 Great is our Lord, and of great power: **his understanding is infinite.** 147:6 The LORD lifteth up the meek: he casteth the wicked down to the ground.

Nahum 1:3 The LORD is **slow to anger, and great in power**, and will not at all acquit the wicked: **the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.** 1:4 **He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers:** Bashan languisheth, and Carmel, and the flower of Lebanon languisheth. 1:5 **The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence**, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein. 1:6 **Who can stand before his indignation?** and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him. 1:7 **The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble;** and he knoweth them that trust in him.

*Jesus said that he was the first and the last or the beginning and the end. He was before all things and will exist after life as we know it is over.*

Revelations 21:6 And he said unto me, It is done. **I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.** I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

*Things impossible for God*

*You may wonder how can this great God that we serve have limitations, but after reading the following verses you will see that there two things that the Lord can't do.*

Hebrews 6:18 That by two immutable things, **in which it was impossible for God to lie**, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

2Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, **who knew no sin**; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Numbers 23:19 **God is not a man, that he should lie**; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or **hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?**

*It is impossible for the Lord to either LIE or SIN. Holding to this understanding, we know that the Lord will hold true to any promises that he made! Keep this in mind as you read the remainder of this commentary.*

## God's Promises of Help

Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; **he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.**

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ the **same** yesterday, and today, and forever.

*The Lord promises Abraham (at 99 years of age) that he and Sarah (90 years old) will have a child. We read that Sarah laughs within herself at this thought and then the Lord asks if anything is too hard for him. After reading of the unlimited power of the Lord, is there indeed anything too hard for him?*

Genesis 18:10 And he said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah heard it in the tent door, which was behind him. 18:11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. 18:12 Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also? 18:13 And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old? 18:14 **Is anything too hard for the LORD?** At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

Hebrews 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.** 13:6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me

Matthew 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, **lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.** Amen.

Philippians 4:19 But **my God shall supply all your need** according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

2Corinthians 12:9 And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee:** for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

1Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, **who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.**

Jude 1:24 Now unto **him that is able to keep you from falling,** and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, 1:25 To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 8:27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because **he maketh intercession for the saints** according to the will of God. 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

1Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the **dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.** 15:53 **For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.** 15:54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 15:55 **O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?** 15:56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 1:12 But as many **as received him,** to them **gave he power to become the sons of God,** even to them that believe on his name:

John 6:47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.**

1Peter 2:6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and **he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.**

Galatians 6:9 **And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.**

Isaiah 40:29 **He giveth power to the faint;** and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. 40:30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: 40:31 **But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.**

2 Peter 3:9 The **Lord is not slack concerning his promise,** as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Psalms 18:30 As for God, his way is perfect: **the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.** 18:31 For who is God save the LORD? or **who is a rock save our God?** 18:32 It is **God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect.** 18:33 He **maketh my feet like hinds' feet, and setteth me upon my high places.**

Isaiah 59:1 Behold, the **LORD's hand is not shortened,** that it cannot save; **neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:**

2Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall **humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways;** then **will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.**

## Promises of Financial Prosperity

1Samuel 2:7 The **LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich:** he bringeth low, and lifteth up.

Proverbs 10:22 **The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich,** and he addeth no sorrow with it.

*The Lord instructs us to PROVE him by paying our tithes and offerings and he will pour out a blessing so large that we wouldn't have room to receive it.*

Malachi 3:8 **Will a man rob God?** Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In **tithes and offerings.** 3:9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and **prove me now herewith,** saith the LORD of hosts, **if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.**

Proverbs 8:18 **Riches and honor are with me;** yea, durable riches and righteousness. 8:19 My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver. 8:20 I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment: 8:21 That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures.

Luke 6:38 Give, and it shall be given unto you, good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. **For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.**

Proverbs 3:9 Honor the LORD with thy substance, and with the **firstfruits** of all thine increase: 3:10 **So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.**

### Promises of Spiritual blessings to those who hunger and thirst after righteousness

Matthew 5:6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for **they shall be filled**.

John 6:32 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. 6:33 For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. 6:34 Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, **I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.**

Ephesians 3:16 That he would grant you, **according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;**

Proverbs 3:6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and **he shall direct thy paths.**

### Promises of Strength

Nehemiah 8:10 Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for **the joy of the LORD is your strength.**

2 Samuel 22:2 And he said, The LORD is **my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;** 22:3 The God of my rock; in him will I trust: **he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my savior;** thou savest me from violence. 22:4 I will call on the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies. 22:5 When the waves of death compassed me, the floods of ungodly men made me afraid; 22:6 The sorrows of hell compassed me about; the snares of death prevented me; 22:7 In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried to my God: and **he did hear my voice out of his temple, and my cry did enter into his ears.**

Psalms 18:2 The **LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.** 18:3 I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies. 18:4 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid. 18:5 The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me. 18:6 **In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.** 18:7 Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth. 18:8 There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it. 18:9 He bowed the heavens also, and came down: and darkness was under his feet. 18:10 And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind. 18:11 He made darkness his secret place; his pavilion round about him were dark waters and thick clouds of the skies. 18:12 At the brightness that was before him his thick clouds passed, hail stones and coals of fire. 18:13 The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hail stones and coals of fire.

*Definitions: Rock – the LORD is a solid foundation, Fortress – protection or defense in battle, my God, my Strength, my Buckler – a portable full body shield, Horn of my Salvation – The power of my salvation, High Tower – provides peace and safety in the midst of all kinds of struggles*  
*In summary, David stated that the promises of the Lord are as solid as a rock and he provides his protection from the weapons of satan in any situation.*

Psalms 27:1 A Psalm of David. **The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

Psalms 119:28 My soul melteth for heaviness: **strengthen thou me according unto thy word.**

Isaiah 40:29 **He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.** 40:30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: 40:31 But they that wait upon the **LORD shall renew their strength;** they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Isaiah 41:10 **Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.**

Philippians 4:13 **I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.**

Colossians 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; 1:11 **Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;**

*Paul explains that our fight is a spiritual one and must be fought with spiritual weapons.*

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 6:11 **Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.** 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with **truth**, and having on the breastplate of **righteousness;** 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the **gospel of peace;** 6:16 **Above all, taking the shield of faith,** wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 6:17 And take the **helmet of salvation,** and the sword of the Spirit, which is the **word of God:** 6:18 **Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,** and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

### Help in times of Afflictions

2Corinthians 4:8 **We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 4:9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;** 4:10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

2 Corinthians 4:17 **For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;** 4:18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Hebrews 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.** 13:6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Matthew 11:28 **Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.** 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 11:30 **For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.**

Psalms 30:5 For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favor is life: **weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.**

Psalms 30:10 Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me: LORD, be thou my helper. 30:11 Thou hast **turned for me my mourning into dancing;** thou hast put off my sackcloth, and **girded me with gladness;**

Psalms 103:8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. 103:9 He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger forever. 103:10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; **nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.** 103:11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. 103:12 **As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.**

Isaiah 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to **bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound**; 61:2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; **to comfort all that mourn**; 61:3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

Psalms 147:3 He **healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds**.

Psalms 37:39 But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their **strength in the time of trouble**. 37:40 And **the LORD shall help them, and deliver them**: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.

Psalms 37:23 The **steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD**: and he delighteth in his way. 37:24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for **the LORD upholdeth him with his hand**. 37:25 I have been young, and now am old; yet have I **not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread**.

Psalms 32:6 For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: **surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him**. 32:7 **Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble**; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.

Psalms 73:26 My flesh and my heart faileth: but **God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever**. 73:27 For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee. 73:28 But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.

Psalms 91:8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. 91:9 Because thou hast made **the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation**; 91:10 **There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling**. 91:11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. 91:12 They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. 91:13 Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet

Psalms 126:5 **They that sow in tears shall reap in joy**. 126:6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

Job 8:20 Behold, God **will not cast away a perfect man**, neither will he help the evildoers: 8:21 Till he fill thy mouth with laughing, and thy lips with rejoicing.

Psalms 22:24 For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; **neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard**.

Psalms 9:9 The LORD also **will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble**. 9:10 And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.

Psalms 138:7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.

Psalms 18:27 For thou wilt save the afflicted people; but wilt bring down high looks. 18:28 For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness. 18:29 For **by thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall**. 18:30 As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a **buckler to all those that trust in him**. 18:31 For who is God save the LORD? or who is a rock save our God? 18:32 It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect.

Psalms 34:17 The righteous cry, and **the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles**. 34:18 The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. 34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the **LORD delivereth him out of them all**. 34:20 He keepeth all his bones: not one

Psalms 23:1 A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 23:2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. 23:3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. 23:5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but **be of good cheer; I have overcome the world**.

Proverbs 18:10 The name of the LORD is a **strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe**.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 But the **Lord is faithful**, who shall establish you, and keep you from evil.

### ***Waiting on the Lord***

Psalms 40:1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. I waited patiently for the LORD; and **he inclined unto me, and heard my cry**. 40:2 He **brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings**. 40:3 And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD. 40:4 Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

Isaiah 30:18 And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: **blessed are all they that wait for him**.

Psalms 25:2 O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me. 25:3 Yea, **let none that wait on thee be ashamed**: let them be ashamed which transgress without cause. 25:4 Show me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths. 25:5 Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day. 25:6 Remember, O LORD, thy tender mercies and thy lovingkindnesses; for they have been ever of old.

Psalms 27:11 Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies. 27:12 Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty. 27:13 **I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living**. 27:14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and **he shall strengthen thine heart**: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Lamentations 3:24 The **LORD is my portion**, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. 3:25 The **LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him**. 3:26 It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD. 3:27 **It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth**.

Psalms 62:5 My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him. 62:6 He **only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defense; I shall not be moved**. 62:7 In God is my salvation and my glory: **the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God**. 62:8 Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: **God is a refuge for us**. Selah.

Hosea 12:6 Therefore turn thou to thy God: keep mercy and judgment, and wait on thy God continually.

## Worry

John 14:27 **Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you:** not as the world giveth, give I unto you. **Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

Proverbs 3:5 **Trust in the LORD with all thine heart;** and lean not unto thine own understanding.

1Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 5:7 **Casting all your care upon him;** for he careth for you.

John 14:1 **Let not your heart be troubled:** ye believe in God, believe also in me. 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that **where I am, there ye may be also.**

Philippians 4:6 **Be careful for nothing;** but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3:15 And **let the peace of God rule in your hearts,** to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Philippians 4:19 **But my God shall supply all your need** according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Matthew 6:25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? 6:26 **Behold the fowls of the air:** for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your **heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?** 6:27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? 6:28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: 6:29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 6:30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? 6:31 **Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?** 6:32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 6:33 **But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**

Romans 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death; but **to be spiritually minded is life and peace.** 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8:8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

Psalms 91:1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 91:2 I will say of the LORD, He is my **refuge** and my **fortress: my God;** in him will I trust. 91:3 **Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.** 91:4 He **shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.** 91:5 **Thou shalt not be afraid** for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; 91:6 Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. 91:7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. 91:8 **Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.**

Psalms 4:8 I will both lay me down in **peace,** and sleep: for thou, LORD, only **makest me dwell in safety.**

Isaiah 26:3 Thou wilt keep him in **perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee:** because he trusteth in thee. 26:4 Trust ye in the LORD forever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:

## Faith:

Define: FAITH [to trust; to persuade, to draw towards any thing, to conciliate; to believe, to obey]

1 a : allegiance to duty or a person : LOYALTY b (1) : fidelity to one's promises (2) sincerity of intentions

2 a (1) : belief and trust in and loyalty to God (2) : belief in the traditional doctrines of a religion b (1) : firm belief in something for which there is no proof (2) : complete trust 3 : something that is believed especially with strong conviction; especially : a system of religious beliefs

*Paul provides a definition of faith in Hebrews 11*

Hebrews 11:1 **Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.** 11:2 For by it the elders obtained a good report. 11:6 But **without faith it is impossible to please him:** for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

*We see in Hebrews 11:6 that "without faith it is impossible to please him", so it is the duty of all Christians to work to grow in faith.*

*I recall Brother Robert Hayden saying that "Faith is reaching out and taking hold of nothing and holding on to it until it becomes something".*

Matthew 7:7 **Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:** 7:8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

John 16:23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. 16:24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: **ask, and ye shall receive,** that your joy may be full.

Matthew 21:22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

## Scriptures relating to a grain of mustard

Luke 13:18 Then said he, Unto what is the kingdom of God like? and whereunto shall I resemble it? 13:19 It is like a **grain of mustard seed**, which a man took, and cast into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it.

Luke 17:5 And the apostles said unto the Lord, **Increase our faith**. 17:6 And the Lord said, **If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed**, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.

Mark 4:30 And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it? 4:31 It is like a **grain of mustard seed**, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth: 4:32 But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it.

Matthew 17:20 And Jesus said unto them, **Because of your unbelief**: for verily I say unto you, If ye have **faith as a grain of mustard seed**, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Matthew 13:31 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a **grain of mustard seed**, which a man took, and sowed in his field: 13:32 Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

*We typically hear preachers and teachers refer to the scriptures above and how these infer that a small amount of faith (like a grain of mustard seed) can move mountains. While discussing this idea with my daughters, one of them made the comment that if a small amount of faith could achieve this kind of result, then we wouldn't need bulldozers. I'm not downplaying the power of God or the potential of faith, but I think we should be realistic about what level of faith is required to warrant such a prayer to be answered. Jesus even said that "This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting".*

*After researching information about the mustard seed, I think that the more applicable theme the Lord was referring to, is the quick growth of a mustard seed to a large plant and how a small seed of faith can grow quickly. If we can take hold of faith until it grows and fully develops, what are the possibilities? We know that God is bigger than any need that we have, but we can only see the greatest potential if we can match these promises with equal trust and confidence.*

**Mustard seed** – According to botanists a Mustard seed planted one day can begin growing the next. A grown black mustard would still be a herb, botanically speaking, but sometimes a very big herb, popularly considered a shrub. There are wild mustard plants over ten feet tall near the Jordan River, and even in moderate climate a mustard plant may grow that tall, provided it gets enough sunshine. It must, moreover, be remarked that generally trees in most parts of the Holy Land do not reach a large stature. The stem of a mustard plant also becomes dry and wood-like, which gives it the aspect of a tree. In summary, the three features of the mustard plant emphasized by the Lord are the small size of the seed, the large size of the plant in relation to the seed, and the rapid growth.

*Spiritual growth doesn't happen over night, but requires time and effort to achieve spiritual maturity in faith.*

*How do we grow in faith? The Bible tells us that faith comes by hearing or reading his Word. The more we study the scriptures and understand the way of the Lord, the stronger we can grow spiritually.*

Romans 10:17 So then **faith cometh by hearing**, and hearing by the word of God.

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but **my words shall not pass away**.

Psalms 119:89 Forever, O LORD, **thy word is settled in heaven**. 119:90 **Thy faithfulness is unto all generations**: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth. 119:91 They continue this day according to thine ordinances: for all are thy servants.

Isaiah 40:7 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. 40:8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the **word of our God shall stand forever**.

1Kings 8:56 Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: **there hath not failed one word of all his good promise**, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant. 8:57 The LORD our God be with us, as he was with our fathers: let him not leave us, nor forsake us: 8:58 That he may incline our hearts unto him, to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and his statutes, and his judgments, which he commanded our fathers.

### *Faith and Works*

James 2:14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? 2:15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, 2:16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? 2:17 **Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone**. 2:18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show **me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works**.

*The verse below describes a woman that continually made requests unto a judge until he finally became weary of her and granted the request. We don't have to be concerned about making God weary with our prayers, as he desires hearing from us. I think this illustrates that a simple two minute prayer may not always get the job done. Our continual seeking for answers to prayer proves to God that we are sincere in our requests. If we can plant the seed of faith by asking God in prayer and then continually "water" and "nurture" it by prayer, reading the Bible, attending church services, and fasting, we will see the same growth potential that a mustard plant possesses. That is when we can expect to see our prayers answered.*

Luke 18:2 Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: 18:3 And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. 18:4 And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; 18:5 Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by **her continual coming she weary me**. 18:6 And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. 18:7 And **shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him**, though he bear long with them?

James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. 1:6 But **let him ask in faith, nothing wavering**. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. 1:7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

Hebrews 10:38 Now the **just shall live by faith**: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

James 1:2 My brethren, **count it all joy** when ye fall into divers temptations; 1:3 Knowing this, that the **trying of your faith worketh patience**. 1:4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. 1:6 **But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering**. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. 1:7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. 1:8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

Ezekiel 12:25 For I am the LORD: I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass; it shall be no more prolonged: for in your days, O rebellious house, **will I say the word, and will perform it**, saith the Lord GOD

Romans 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? **If God be for us, who can be against us?**

1Peter 1:5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 1:6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 1:7 That the **trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth**, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

2 Corinthians 5:7 (For we **walk by faith, not by sight**):)

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ the **same yesterday, and today, and forever**.

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the **author and finisher of our faith**; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Mark 9:23 Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all **things are possible to him that believeth**.

1John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and **this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith**. 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

Ephesians 3:12 In whom we **have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him**.

Romans 8:24 For we are saved by hope: but **hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?** 8:25 But if we hope for that we see not, **then do we with patience wait for it**. 8:26 Likewise the **Spirit also helpeth our infirmities**: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the **Spirit itself maketh intercession for us** with groanings which cannot be uttered. 8:27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. 8:28 **And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose**.

Mark 11:22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. 11:23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and **shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith**. 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, **when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them**.

Luke 12:30 For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. 12:31 But **rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you**.

1 Thessalonians 5:24 **Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it**.

#### [Faith of Abraham \(Father of Faith\)](#)

Romans 4:16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the **faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all**. 4:17 (As it is written, **I have made thee a father of many nations**.) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. 4:18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. 4:19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about a hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: 4:20 **He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith**, giving glory to God; 4:21 **And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform**. 4:22 And therefore it was **imputed to him for righteousness**.

#### [Keys to getting answers to prayers](#)

James 5:15 And **the prayer of faith** shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The **effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much**. 5:17 Elijah was a man **subject to like passions as we are**, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. 5:18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

**Effectual** – Having adequate power or force to produce the effect. **Fervent**- From ferveo, to be hot, to boil, to glow. Hot; boiling; as a fervent summer; fervent blood. **Righteous**- Just; accordant to the divine law. Applied to persons, it denotes one who is holy in heart, and observant of the divine commands in practice; as a righteous man. Applied to things, it denotes consonant to the divine will or to justice; as a righteous act.

From James 5 we can see that prayer with adequate faith (effectual) and a spiritual burning or desire (fervent) from a Christian living a righteous life (holy according to God's standards) will avail much. This is as close to a recipe for successful prayer as we need.

#### [Prayer and fasting](#)

##### [Pray for our enemies](#)

*David humbles himself and prays for his enemies and receives a blessing in return.*

Psalms 35:11 False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not. 35:12 They rewarded me evil for good to the spoiling of my soul. 35:13 But as for me, **when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom**.

Luke 6:28 Bless them that curse you, and **pray for them which despitefully use you**.

Matthew 5:43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and **pray for them which despitefully use you**, and persecute you; 5:45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

##### [Praying without hatred toward others](#)

1Timothy 2:8 I will therefore that men **pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting**. 2:9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array. 2:10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

*From the following verse we find that prayer mixed with fasting gets God's attention. Perhaps this is because God sees that we are serious and concerned enough to sacrifice something for it.*

Mark 9:28 And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out? 9:29 And he said unto them, **This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting**.

##### [Thankfulness and Praise to the Lord – Keeping a prayer on our hearts](#)

1Thessalonians 5:16 Rejoice evermore. 5:17 **Pray without ceasing**. 5:18 **In every thing give thanks**: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. 5:19 Quench not the Spirit. 5:20 Despise not prophesyings. 5:21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. 5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

Phi 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication **with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God**.

Luke 18:1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that **men ought always to pray, and not to faint**;

Luke 21:34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. 21:35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. 21:36 **Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things** that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

*The Lord covets our praise as is evident by the statement that David was "a man after mine own heart". How many psalms can you find that David didn't praise and uplift the Lord?*

Act 13:22 And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found **David** the son of Jesse, a **man after mine own heart**, which shall fulfil all my will.

*Praying in the spirit and praying earnestly*

1Corinthians 14:15 What is it then? **I will pray with the spirit**, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

Luke 22:40 And when he was at the place, he said unto them, **Pray that ye enter not into temptation.**

Jude 1:20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, **praying in the Holy Ghost**

Luke 22:44 And being **in an agony he prayed more earnestly**; and his **sweat was as it were great drops of blood** falling down to the ground. 22:45 And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow, 22:46 And said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.

*Humble ourselves in prayer*

Luke 18:10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. 18:11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. 18:12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. 18:13 And the publican, standing afar off, **would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.** 18:14 I tell you, this man went down to his house **justified rather than the other**: for every one that **exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.**

Daniel 9:3 And I set my face unto the Lord God, to **seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes**: 9:4 And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments; 9:5 We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments:

*Jesus tells us that the Father knows what are needs are before we ask.*

*He instructs us how to Pray: Praise to the Father, asking for his will be done, asking for our needs, asking for forgiveness, forgiving those indebted to us, asking for deliverance, and closing with praise again.*

Matthew 6:8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for **your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.** 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, **Hallowed be thy name.** 6:10 Thy kingdom come. **Thy will be done** in earth, as it is in heaven. 6:11 **Give us this day our daily bread.** 6:12 And **forgive us our debts**, as we forgive our debtors. 6:13 And **lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.** Amen. 6:14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

Mark 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, **when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.** 11:25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. 11:26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

*We should not Ask for the vain things*

Jam 4:3 **Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss**, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

*We should not perform deeds for the honor of men, but of God*

Matthew 6:1 Take heed that ye **do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward** of your Father which is in heaven. 6:2 Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. 6:3 But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: 6:4 **That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.** 6:5 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. 6:6 But thou, **when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.** 6:7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. 6:8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 6:10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread. 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen. 6:14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 6:15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. 6:16 Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. 6:17 But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; 6:18 That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

1Peter 3:12 For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and **his ears are open unto their prayers**: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

*Prayer with Fasting sometimes required*

Matthew 17:15 Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatic, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. 17:16 And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. 17:17 Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. 17:18 And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. 17:19 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, **Why could not we cast him out?** 17:20 And Jesus said unto them, **Because of your unbelief**: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. 17:21 **Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.**

### Examples of Confidence in God

Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. 11:5 By faith **Enoch was translated** that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. 11:7 By faith **Noah**, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. 11:8 By faith **Abraham**, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. 11:9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with **Isaac and Jacob**, the heirs with him of the same promise: 11:10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. 11:11 Through faith also **Sarah** herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. 11:12 Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable. 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 11:14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

### Healing:

Define: HEAL [to be whole or entire]

1. To cure of a disease or wound and restore to soundness, or to that state of body in which the natural functions are regularly performed; as, to heal the sick. 2. To cure; to remove or subdue; as, to heal a disease. 3. To cause to cicatrize; as, to heal a sore or wound. 4. To restore to soundness; as, to heal a wounded limb.

HEAL, v.i. To grow sound; to return to a sound state; as, the limb heals, or the wound heals; sometimes with up or over; it will heal up or over.

### Promise of signs following believers

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. 16:17 **And these signs shall follow them that believe;** In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 16:18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; **they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.**

James 5:13 Is any among you afflicted? **let him pray.** Is any merry? let him sing psalms. 5:14 **Is any sick among you?** let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: 5:15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also;** and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. 14:13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14:14 **If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.** 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

Matthew 10:7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. 10:8 **Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils:** freely ye have received, freely give.

### Jesus provides a special promise of healing unto his people

*When considering the special gift of healing that Jesus provided by suffering beatings and mocking, we should remember that just like in salvation, the price has been paid in full! **The same faith that can save us, also allows us to claim the promise of healing.***

*I recall several occurrences of healing that my pastor Franklin Chapman, Sr. has told about over the years. One of those occasions Brother Frank told about how as a young man he developed a bone disease after severely breaking his ankle. The doctors put a rod in his ankle but the bones would not mend. Doctors told him that if the bones did ever mend, that he would likely have limited movement and severe arthritis would develop. He told of being in a church service and the Lord telling him to remove the ankle brace and leap for joy. He was healed instantly! That night after returning home, he experienced severe pain in his ankle and asked his wife for liniment to rub on his ankle. His wife told him that they didn't have any liniment in the house and that he was healed that night and didn't need it. Brother Frank told her that he was "healed if he did die". He is now in his seventies and hasn't had any other problems with his ankle and hasn't suffered from any symptoms of arthritis.*

*I have witnessed and experienced both instant healings and gradual ones, so I know that both do occur. I recall that when I was a teenager, I had black spots that formed on the skin of my left leg. Over a year after the spots developed, I was in a revival service at church and Brother Robert Hayden said that the Lord told him that someone had just been healed of cancer. No one testified that they had been healed during that service, but later that night I saw that the black spots on my leg were gone and the skin was clear, as though nothing had even been there. I was a young Christian then and did not make mention of it until later, but after seeing pictures of skin cancer, I have no doubt that it was me that was healed that night. I could go on about stories of seeing and experiencing many healings through the years. Needless to say, we serve a living Lord that is touched by the feelings of our infirmities and can meet our every need!*

*Brother Frank's experience tells us that even with miracle healings, there can still be a struggle with doubt. If we can overcome that doubt, we can see the desired result. As I stated above, all healings aren't instant miracles, but some are gradual and require claiming the stripes that Jesus endured, just like we claim his blood that he shed for our salvation. Satan will fight a Christian over their salvation and try to make them doubt, so can we expect the devil to do any less with our healing? With this in mind, should we have any lack of faith in a God that created the universe and all things in it?*

Matthew 8:17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, Himself **took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.**

Psalms 107:19 Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and **he saveth them out of their distresses.** 107:20 **He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.** 107:21 Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! 107:22 And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.

Isaiah 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was **bruised for our iniquities:** the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and **with his stripes we are healed.** 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

1Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: **by whose stripes ye were healed.**

Matthew 8:16 When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and **he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:** 8:17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, **Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.**

### According to our Faith

Matthew 9:27 And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou son of David, have mercy on us. 9:28 And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. 9:29 Then touched he their eyes, saying, **According to your faith be it unto you.** 9:30 And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straitly charged them, saying, See that no man know it.

### Why do people get sick?

*The fall of mankind (Adam and Eve's sin) brought the penalty of sin (suffering and death) to all mankind.*

Genesis 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Genesis 3:17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: **cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;** 3:18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; 3:19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, **till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken:** for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Romans 5:11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement. 5:12 Wherefore, as **by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men,** for that all have sinned: 5:13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 5:14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. 5:15 But not as the offense, so also is the free gift. For if through the offense of one many be dead, **much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ,** hath abounded unto many.

1Corinthians 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 15:21 **For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.** 15:22 **For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.** 15:23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

1 Corinthians 15:45 And so it is written, **The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.** 15:46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. 15:47 The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. 15:48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.

*Sicknesses aren't necessarily the result of sins that we or our family committed, but as a result of man's curse or for God's demonstration of healing.*

Luke 13:1 There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 13:2 And Jesus answering said unto them, **Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered** such things?

John 9:1 And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from **his birth.** 9:2 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, **who did sin,** this man, or his parents, that he was born blind 9:3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: **but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.**

*Because of mankind's fall, God allows Satan to oppress us. In Acts 10 we find that Satan or the devil causes oppressions of sickness. Oppression should not be confused with Possession. [Oppression- imposition of unreasonable burdens, cruelty; severity. Possession - To hold; to occupy without title or ownership]. Christians can not be possessed by demons but they can be oppressed as is evident by Paul's messenger from Satan (2Cor 12:7)*

Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and **healing all that were oppressed of the devil;** for God was with him.

Luke 13:16 And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, **whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years,** be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?

*The Lord limits how much Satan can oppress Christians. Isaiah 59:19 says the Lord will lift up a standard (flag of war) against him.*

Isaiah 59:19 So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. **When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.**

*Because of the fall of man, we can expect suffering and sicknesses, but we have Jesus Christ (our advocate with the heavenly Father) who bore our sins and sicknesses. We should remember that God is always in ultimate control and the devil can not supersede his authority. We do not always understand why some things occur, but as 1 Corinthians 13:12 states, we shall know in full one day. We also know that all things work together for good to those that serve him. Everyone will not have the faith (Romans 12:3 refers to measures of faith) required to see cancers healed or miracles performed, but that should not keep us from striving to seek God for those answers because we know that he still has the power to do so.*

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, **according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.**

1Corinthians 13:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: **now I know in part; but then shall I know** even as also I am known.

Romans 8:28 And we know that **all things work together for good to them that love God,** to them who are the called according to his purpose.

### Spiritual Gifts

*There are nine spiritual gifts that Paul says that a Christian should covet or strive for after salvation. Of these, Faith, Gift of Healing, and working of Miracles are three. That means that if we can become spiritually minded and close enough to God, that he will pour these blessings out to us. Some may say that these gifts were only for the apostles and not for our day, but I haven't found an "expiration date" listed in my Bible yet.*

1Corinthians 12:4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 12:5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. 12:6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 12:8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; 12:9 To another **faith** by the same Spirit; to another the **gifts of healing** by the same Spirit; 12:10 To another the **working of miracles;** to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

1Corinthians 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, **after that miracles, then gifts of healings,** helps, governments, diversities of tongues. 12:29 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? 12:30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? 12:31 **But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet show I unto you a more excellent way.**

James 1:17 **Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,** and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

1Timothy 4:14 **Neglect not the gift that is in thee,** which was given thee by prophecy, with the **laying on of the hands** of the presbytery.

*Peter was so close to God that his shadow healed the sick*

Acts 9:32 And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all quarters, he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lydda. 9:33 And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy. 9:34 And Peter said unto him, Aeneas **Jesus Christ maketh thee whole:** arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately.

Acts 5:15 Insomuch that they **brought forth the sick** into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the **shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.**

[Virtue from Jesus heals others](#)

Mark 5:24 And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him. 5:25 And a **certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years**. 5:26 And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse, 5:27 When she had heard of Jesus, **came in the press behind, and touched his garment**. 5:28 **For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole**. 5:29 And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and **she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague**. 5:30 And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that **virtue had gone out of him**, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes? 5:31 And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? 5:32 And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing. 5:33 But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth. 5:34 And he said unto her, Daughter, **thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague**.

Luke 6:17 And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases; 6:18 And they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed. 6:19 And the **whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all**.

Matthew 8:2 And, behold, there came a leper and worshiped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. 8:3 And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, **I will; be thou clean**. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

[Other scriptures related to healing](#)

Psalms 103:2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and **forget not all his benefits**: 103:3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; **who healeth all thy diseases**; 103:4 Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; 103:5 Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's. 103:6 The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.

3 John 1:2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

Exodus 15:26 And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt **do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee**, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for **am the LORD that healeth thee**.

Exodus 23:25 And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and **I will take sickness away** from the midst of thee. 23:26 There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfill.

Deuteronomy 7:11 Thou shalt therefore keep the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which I command thee this day, to do them. 7:12 Wherefore it shall come to pass, if ye hearken to these judgments, and keep, and do them, that the LORD thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy which he swore unto thy fathers: 7:13 And he will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee: he will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, in the land which he swore unto thy fathers to give thee. 7:14 Thou shalt be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle. 7:15 And the **LORD will take away from thee all sickness**, and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee; but will lay them upon all them that hate thee.

Jeremiah 17:14 **Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed**; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise. 17:15 Behold, they say unto me, Where is the word of the LORD? let it come now.

Proverbs 17:22 **A merry heart doeth good like a medicine**: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

Jeremiah 30:17 For **I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds**, saith the LORD; because they called thee an Outcast, saying, This is Zion, whom no man seeketh after.

Proverbs 4:20 My son, **attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings**. 4:21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. 4:22 For they are life unto those that find them, and **health to all their flesh**.

Matthew 8:6 And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. 8:7 And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. 8:8 The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. 8:9 For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. 8:10 When Jesus heard it, he marveled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. 8:11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. 8:12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 8:13 And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and **as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee**. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

Malachi 4:2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with **healing in his wings**; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

Proverbs 17:22 **A merry heart doeth good like a medicine**: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

Matthew 21:22 And all things, **whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive**.

[Prayer can change God's mind - Hezekiah's prayer is heard by God and his days lengthened, Moses pleads for his people](#)

2Kings 20:1 In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, **Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live**. 20:2 Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the LORD, saying, 20:3 I beseech thee, O LORD, **remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight**. And Hezekiah wept sore. 20:4 And it came to pass, before Isaiah was gone out into the middle court, that the word of the LORD came to him, saying, 20:5 Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, **I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee**: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the LORD. 20:6 And **I will add unto thy days fifteen years**; and I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.

Exodus 32:11 And **Moses besought the LORD his God**, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand? 32:12 Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? **Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people**. 32:13 **Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants**, to whom thou sworest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it forever. 32:14 **And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people**.

*Anointing with Oil and the use of "Prayer Cloths" (used by Paul)*

James 5:13 Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. 5:14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and **let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord**: 5:15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Mark 6:13 And they cast out many devils, and **anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them**.

*All churches may not have the custom of using "prayer cloths", but it is based on the scriptures in Acts 19 where Paul sent forth handkerchiefs and aprons to the sick. At our church, we typically cut up small pieces of cloth and anoint them with oil and have the church pray over them before sending them to the sick or for other needs. There of course is no "magic" in the cloths, but it is the same faith that applies when we anoint someone with oil.*

Acts 19:11 And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: 19:12 So that from his body were brought unto the sick **handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them**.

*If we do not receive our healing in this life, all Christians we have an unconditional promise of a glorified body in heaven.*

Revelations 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and **there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain**: for the former things are passed away.

1Corinthians 15:53 **For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality**. 15:54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, **Death is swallowed up in victory**.

*I hope that some of the scriptures listed in this document and my simple comments will help increase your faith and provide a reference for encouragement in your time of need.*

May the Lord bless and keep you,

*Brother S. Evans*

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