

The Way of a Servant: Mark Faith and Prayer

Then He said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And His disciples heard Him say it. (Mark 11:14)

Per the fig tree, Jesus explains the relationship between God's power and effective prayer...

In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. (v. 20)

- ***It is motivated by God's work in the past*** – "Peter remembered and said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered.'" (v. 21)

"To this I will appeal: the years of the right hand of the Most High." I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. (Psalm 77:10-11)

- ***It is anchored in God's character*** – 'Have faith in God,' Jesus answered." (vv. 21-22)
- ***It trusts God for the incredible*** – "I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." (vv. 23-24)
 - ***"Whatever you ask?" – according to His will*** – "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know He hears us – whatever we ask – we know that we have what we asked of Him." (1 John 5:14-15)

The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law. (Deut. 29:29)

- ***"It will be done?" – with a believing heart*** – "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him." (Heb. 11:6)
- ***It addresses the heart's sin*** – "And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins." (v. 25)

"If I had cherished sin in my heart, the LORD would not have listened. (Psalm 66:18)

Ultimately, if we don't know Him well, we don't ask Him much...

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked Him and He would have given you living water." (John 4:10)