

Luke 18:1

Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart.

As a child, when you opened your Christmas presents and discovered that you did not get everything that you wanted from Santa, did you think Santa didn't love you or that he wasn't real? In most cases the answer would be no, because as a child you saw Santa everywhere, so you knew he was real (Even though you saw a lie) and in most cases we did get some of the things we asked Santa for, and our child like faith was in what our parents told us, not in what we actually saw.

But now that we are grown-up, we know that he is not real and that it was our parents that gave us the gifts. But our belief was in something, or should I say, someone, that we could see, which was an old man, with a long white beard, and who wore a red suit, and a red hat, who acted like he was Santa Claus.

Keeping that in mind, remember that Jesus said, ***“Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.”*** Mark 10:15

When you pray, aren't you talking to God, who you cannot see, asking for something that you cannot see, and in faith believing that you will see them both? This is child like faith, because when you got saved, you prayed to God, who you could not see, accepting Jesus, who you have not seen, believing that you will go to heaven, which you can not see. And your faith is in what you cannot see, because God said in His word that's it's all true, and we know that ***“God, who cannot lie.”*** Titus 1:2b

So just like a child that believed in Santa and didn't doubt him, even when we didn't get everything that we wanted. How much more should we believe in the living God, even when He doesn't answer all our prayers the way we want Him to, or when He doesn't give us everything that we ask for.

So, child like faith is believing in what you cannot see, because you are told it is true, but you know what, that's not only child like faith, but also adult like faith, which we know from this well-known verse in **Hebrews 11:1** *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

Once again, we have never seen God or Jesus or even the Holy Spirit. Yet don't we pray to Him and sense His presence and see the evidence of His salvation and the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our lives, ***“the evidence of things not seen”***.

† **John 3:8** *The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.*

Do we not look for Jesus to come and rapture the church, His bride (us as believers) and take us to heaven, "*the substance of things hoped for*"?

† **John 20:29** *Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*

Even when Jesus was on this earth, today's verse clearly says that "*He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart.*" Which means that the Lord wants us to trust Him, without any doubts, even if we cannot see the results right now.

I have never been to heaven, but I hope every day that Jesus would come and take us all there right now. And that hope is in what Jesus told us in His word, that there is a heaven and that He is there right now, and He will come back to take us home with Him. But just because Jesus hasn't taken us there yet, and I cannot see it, does not mean that He or heaven is not real, and it's no reason to doubt Him. And we don't doubt that Jesus exists, or that He is God and that He rose on the third day, and that there is a heaven and that we as believers will all go there one day soon.

But does your faith really stop there, believing in Jesus and heaven only, but you start to doubt because you don't see answers or experience heaven here on earth because of all the things you may be going through right now?

When we were children, we believed a lie for years that there was a Santa Claus and that he lived at the North Pole in his castle, where he, and the elves made all the toys. If we can have faith in a lie as children, how much more faith should we have in the Truth, Jesus Christ, as adults!!!

† **John 5:24 (NLT2)** *I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.*

† **Titus 1:2** *in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began*