

Mark 11:24

Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

Jesus says to ask and believe, not to ask and tell God how to answer.

I know that sounds simple and like a no brainer, yet how often do we ask the Lord while telling Him how to answer our prayers?

Maybe you are praying about a job, and you ask the Lord for a job, then you tell Him what kind of a job you want, how much you want to get paid and so on. But have you ever considered that the Lord knows better than you do and knows of an even better job than what you could think of?

† **Isaiah 55:8-9** *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts."*

Or maybe some of you are praying for a spouse, then you give the Lord specifics on who that person will be, even down to what they look like; or maybe you are trying to decide on one of two different people that you are interested in, so you give the Lord the choice of A or B. But what if the Lord knows that maybe you are not ready for a relationship or that He is preparing someone so awesome that he or she would blow you're A or B choice out of the water.

† **Isaiah 55:8-9** *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts."*

How about if someone is sick, how often do we pray for the Lord to heal that person? Sure we want someone to be healed so they could stay here with us longer, but could you imagine that the Lord knows better, and wants him or her in heaven with Him, no longer suffering here on this earth, or to use this sickness for His glory?

† **Isaiah 55:8-9** *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts."*

These are just a few examples, but looking at today's verse which says: ***Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.***

This is not a name it and claim it verse, but its rather an, ask and believe verse, and the believing is not getting your way, but the Lord's way and what He knows is best.

Look at the verses right before today's verse, and at all that Jesus was saying.

† **Mark 11:22-23** *So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says."*

Did you catch the very first four words that Jesus said: **"Have faith in God."** Which is not having faith in yourself or even your request or how you think that God should answer your request. It's also not faith that if you name it and claim it, it will be yours, because those who follow name it and claim it have turned themselves into little gods, giving God orders on what He must do because they named it and claimed it, even though it's not His (God's) will.

And after those four words about having faith in God, Jesus talks about moving a mountain and casting it into the sea. So think about this, if two or more people are praying and asking for the same mountain to be cast into the sea; One may ask or believe that the mountain will go to the right, whereas another may ask and believe it is going to the left, and other may ask and believe that it is going into an altogether different sea, and even another may even want it moved but not cast into the sea, but into a lake.

They all asked, and they all believed, so which one got his or her way?

I would say none of them because we do not control or order God around. He does whatever He wants to do and what will bring Him glory, not what will build up our pride. It could very well be that no one got their way because God did not want the mountain moved, no matter how much they prayed and fasted or believed. Once again, the faith is not in the moving of the mountain, but in praying God's will and that His will, will be done for His glory.

So what should we do then? Simply what Jesus said to do, which is to **"ask"** and **"believe,"** and the belief is that the Lord will answer in the way He knows best. After all, isn't that why we call **Him Lord** and **trust in Him!!!**

† **Psalm 18:30** *As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.*

† **Psalm 37:5** *Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.*

† **Psalm 91:2** *I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."*

† **Psalm 118:9** *It is better to trust in the LORD Than to put confidence in princes.*