



Throwing Mountains

Mark 11:20-33 | Ryan Pfeiffer | February 12, 2023

“Prayer gives us eyes to see God. Prayer is seeing God.” - EM Bounds.

Passage begins with Peter pointing out the withered FIG TREE.

vs20 Withered... Greek (xērainō) “say-renō” — chile relleño.
It means to be dried up/ dead.

John 15:5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers...”

**Remain in Him. Prayer unites us with God in a radical relationship.
Bear much fruit! Prayer unites us with God in his reviving work all around us.**

REMAIN IN HIM. 22 “Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. 23 “Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them.”

Have faith in God... Prayer exercises and grows our faith in God.

Faith cannot grow without prayer—> Trust in a person can’t grow w/out relationship.

Prayer grows our trust in His WILL... and his WAYS.

Prayer opens our DESIRES, THINKING, OUR WILL—> God’s WILL.

Prayer is the process of uniting/ aligning our will with God’s will. Takes Trust!

1 John 5:14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

Prayer + God’s Word —> Reveals God’s Heart. Inspires our trust

God’s Will—> vs 25 if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”

God’s will is that we know him as a Father who loves us... forgives.
God empowers us to spread that forgiveness.

As a Sign that God is making outsiders—> insiders thru forgiveness.

23 “Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ ... believes... it will be done.

Prayer isn’t about giving us control ... about connecting us to the one who is.
The belief/doubt isn’t in what we think should happen... it’s in God’s will/ way.

Mountain... hyperbole... nothing with God is impossible. Renewing all things.
We are not to see anything as being beyond his reach, compassion, power.

Mountains = the unbounded range of God's reach.

Mark 9:23 "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes."

Mark 10:27 "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.

Mark 14:36 "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you."

BEAR MUCH FRUIT. 24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Prayer unites the infinite resources of God's goodness with our world.

If God is in control and knows everything why does he ask us to ASK?

Prayer doesn't give us control over God... but it does influence him.

The bleeding woman who touched Jesus... what if she hadn't reached out?

Asking is us reaching out in faith... God I want YOUR BEST HERE!

"There are wonderful things that will only happen if we ask for them."

Pete Greig, *How to Pray- A simple guide for normal people.*

THE POWER OF ASKING:

1. **RELATIONAL.** "The act of asking is relational in a way that mere wishing is not"

Jesus is more interested in a friendship than a transaction of favor.

Sometimes we want the favor without the friendship. Asking deepens friendship.

2. **VULNERABLE.** "to make a request is to admit some area of personal need. It extends trust to the person asked."

Asking for God opens our desires to him, our will to him so he can bring them under his goodness.

What if God doesn't give me what I want? the way I want it?

3. **INTENTIONAL.** "it involves the activation of our wills."

Asking awakens and activates our faith.

Persistent asking deepens our compassion... friends persevere thru the roof.

Persistent asking isn't convincing God... it's transforming us.

(Q) What about when our prayers aren't answered in the way we hoped?

When our loved one doesn't get better? When we still can't see the good?

vs 25... your FATHER IN HEAVEN...

Jesus prayed Mark 14:36 "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you."

I imagine the disciples have been praying for Jesus NOT TO DIE.

INVITATION to trust God with what we can't understand.

There is a battle. This side of heaven there are griefs, suffering, losses.

We are behind enemy lines... like Jesus... bearing witness.

WITNESS TO THE CROSS. Death, sickness, heartbreak, sin, NOT THE END!