

(excerpts from the book “Answered Prayer Guaranteed,” by Frederick K.C. Price)

Have Faith for What You Ask For

Let's continue on with verses (Luke 11:11–13): If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him! I've been in several denominations where I was told, “Brother Price, you have to be prepared, because the Lord knows what's best for you. Sometimes God in His wisdom and mercy will give you what you asked for, and sometimes He knows that if you get what you asked for that you might become swollen with pride or get caught up in the thing and stop coming to church. So God knows that it was better for you to have this rather than what you asked for.” Jesus told us that we should ask the Father for the things we want. If God knows already, and knows He isn't going to give it to us, why bother? I submit to you that you should get what you ask for—as long as it's in line with the Word—and if you don't, you didn't get an answered prayer. If you just pray for a car, then be prepared to get some piece of junk with one wheel falling off. God has indeed answered your prayer. But if you pray, “Lord, I need a new SUV that will carry all my equipment plus the kids' stuff for all of their athletic events,” and you instead get a compact car, then God did not answer that prayer. At this point, however, I need to add one important qualification. If you pray for a Rolls Royce, you better have Rolls Royce faith. It's important to understand that God's power to provide your prayer requests never changes, but your faith can. Remember that in Nazareth, we found that Jesus could do no mighty works because of the people's unbelief. Jesus, the Son of God! The same Jesus who walked on water, raised the dead, and healed the lepers. But in Nazareth did

He suddenly lose His power? No! What changed was that in other examples of Jesus's power at work, especially healing, Jesus's power was mixed with the individual's faith. Even at Lazarus's tomb, maybe Lazarus couldn't help much (because he was dead!), but the women could believe Lazarus would rise again— and they did. And on the Sea of Galilee when the disciples woke Jesus up and said, in so many words, "Lord, man, you gotta help us! We're about to sink!" it was their faith that He could save them that became a conduit for Jesus to save them. We know that there are levels of faith, because Jesus spoke of "great faith" (Matt. 8:10) and "little" faith (Matt. 6:30). Both groups of people had faith, but some had more faith than others. Romans 12:3 says that we all have been given "a measure of faith." The King James Version says we have all been given "the measure of faith," meaning we all start out with the same amount of faith. Peter had enough faith to get out of a perfectly good boat and walk on water—for a little while. But he didn't have enough faith to ignore the wind and the storm. Doubt is the enemy of faith, and sometimes you can have more faith—for example, before you begin to think about something— than you have later if you begin mulling over in your mind all the reasons why something "won't work." A faith-filled believer who worked in an office situation had an emergency arise where he needed to copy some documents right away. But when he got to the copy room, three or four people were standing around looking at the copier. They told him that it was broken and they didn't know what was wrong with it. The power was off, and they just couldn't fix it. At that point, he had no other choice but to use his faith—and no time to worry about what people would say—so he walked up to the copier, laid hands on it, and said in a loud voice, "In the name of Jesus, I command you to work." That copier hummed to life and made his copies, then promptly shut back down as the next person came up to use it! He told me that if he had tried to prepare for that situation by thinking about it,

his natural mind would have told him he couldn't do that, and it wouldn't have worked. Yet it worked because *at that moment* he had no doubt whatsoever. I believe the same was true for Peter: at the moment he stepped out of that boat, he had no doubt whatsoever he could walk on water. It was only after his mind started telling him that what he was doing was impossible that he began to sink. Prayer depends, in part, on your faith. When I was first starting out in faith, we bought a car for \$151 a month. That car payment was bigger than our house payment. It took everything we had to believe for that \$151 a month. But as we have grown in faith, our ability to believe for bigger things has grown. Since that time, I've bought two cars for my wife that cost \$60,000 apiece and paid cash for them. Here's the point: we didn't start there, but you have to start somewhere. It's the same thing with healing. Don't wait until you get a diagnosis of cancer to "start believing" in healing. You'll be dead as a doorknob if you do! No, begin believing for healing with maladies that are not life threatening, like headaches or upset stomachs. Realize that the devil has a vested interest in trying to make sure you do *not* get your prayers answered. He will even attempt to "answer" your prayers with something other than—less than—what you asked for. As an example, say you prayed for an SUV, but someone came along and said, "God told me to give you this Volkswagen." Nothing against the Volkswagen, but it was not what you prayed for. If you accept that *as* the answer to your prayer, then you have accepted defeat. There would be nothing wrong if you accepted it, sold the car, and applied the money to the car you prayed for, but if you do not get what you pray for, your prayer was not answered. You Must Believe ... to Receive. This brings us to the essence of the prayer of faith, or petition prayer. Prayer has incredible power because it acts as a release mechanism. Think of it this way: You have a giant electric generator in a factory. Every morning the workman goes in and flips a

switch, and that huge dynamo comes to life, unleashing enormous power. Would you seriously claim that the power was “in” the switch? No, but without switching on that power, that generator just sits there. Your prayer is a switch, allowing the power of God to flow into your life and through you. The question we want to answer is, “How do I flip that switch?” We have looked at some of these principles for “flipping the switch” already, but the most succinct and direct instructions by Jesus on how to pray in faith are found in Mark 11:24. This comes at the end of a short lesson on using your faith to move mountains. In verse 24, Jesus said: Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. You would be surprised at how many people read that verse and think they read something else. What did Jesus say you would receive when you pray? He did *not* say you would receive “what you asked for.” He placed a condition on that by saying, “Whatever thing you ask when you pray, *believe that you receive them*, and you will have them.” What does the “them” refer to? It refers to those things you really believed *you would receive when you prayed*. You might want something very badly, and you might ask for it in prayer, but if you really did not believe you received it, guess what? You will not get it! It seems like a small point, but it makes all the difference in the world. The *what* that you pray for is merely your *direction* in prayer. But the *means* to unleash God’s power is *faith*, or believing that you receive *when you pray*. Matthew recorded this slightly differently: “And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive” (Matt. 21:22). It’s amazing that in the natural world, we have no problem with the way things work. We go through certain protocols because “that’s the way it is.” If a weed- whacker or snowblower says, “Push button five times before starting,” we do that automatically. Sometimes we’ll try five or six, but very few people will say, “I’m not doing that. What’s the

purpose of that?” In the natural, of course, the purpose is to prime the engine so it has fuel when you want to start it. For those people who live in snowy climates, if you get in a skid, the driving instructors tell you to turn into the skid. Huh? That doesn’t sound right. But anyone with any sense knows that’s how you straighten out your car. For hundreds of years, man tried to fly by flapping wings or pushing *against* air, until finally some people found that you can lift something that is heavier than air by creating a wing shape that causes lift. But be honest: how many of you *really* understand the principles of aerodynamics, so that when you see a 747 go up, you can say, “Sure, I understand that”? Yet most of you don’t have a problem flying and just accepting that *something* is making that airplane go into the sky. Yet when it comes to the things of God, we have great difficulty accepting God’s method of doing things—His instruction manual. Jesus said, “Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.” The key, then, is that at the moment you pray, you must believe that you receive. Not after you pray, and not even before you pray. *Present tense*. That faith is the triggering device—it’s the wing shape that gives your prayer lift; it’s the pump priming that causes your prayer engine to start up. Again, I have to be clear here: *what* you believe is critical. It’s not just that you believe God is God, or that Jesus is His Son. Those are prerequisites, but at the moment you pray for something, you must believe you receive it. Jesus said, “Believe that you receive them, and you will have them.” Did you catch that? Your *believing* is present tense, but your receiving (“will have”) is *future* tense. “How soon will I receive what I prayed for?” you might ask. That will be dependent on several things. First, how rapidly something comes into physical reality depends on your faith, as I have written earlier. The greater your faith, the sooner you can receive answers to prayer. Related to that, a second factor that determines how long you must wait for answers to prayer in the natural (and I

keep phrasing this way because that prayer has already been answered in the spiritual realm) is the nature or size of your prayer request. Money, for example, doesn't just fall out of the sky; other people must bring it into your hands. So, say you prayed for a certain large bill to be paid. At that moment God answered your prayer, and perhaps He did so by directing someone to send you a check in the mail. Although that check hasn't actually arrived yet, it *is* a reality. The check has been written, mailed, and is on its way to you. There is another factor that determines how quickly you actually see in the natural the answer to your prayer. We have an enemy, the devil. One of the devil's jobs is to shake our faith, and one of the best ways to shake our faith is to attack our patience. As humans, we aren't very patient. Watch people after a stoplight turns green, and see how quickly they honk their horns if the person in front of them doesn't move instantly. (A humorist once wrote that the smallest time frame known to man is the time between a New York streetlight turning green and the cabbie behind you hitting his horn!) Satan knows we have little patience, that we live in a "now" society. He knows that if he can just delay an answered prayer, even for a few days, some people will stop believing—and once that happens, it's as if the prayer had never been answered in the first place. Often, then, the devil or his demons will intercept prayer answers and detour them, delay them, hold them up somehow hoping you will get off your confession of faith. In Daniel chapters 9–10, we see Daniel praying, asking for mercy for the Israelites (supplication), but also needing the ability to interpret dreams. In Daniel 10:12, Daniel was visited by an angel, who said, "From the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words." Note right there that God answered Daniel's prayer, not after several days, but on the "first day." Also note that it was Daniel's words that set everything in motion—the angel came

because of Daniel's words! But then look at what it says in verse 13: "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia." Friend, if this were a battle between an angel and an earthly prince, it would be no contest. There is no man who has ever been born who could defeat an angel in combat. The phrases "prince of the kingdom of Persia" and "Michael, one of the chief princes" both indicate that angelic beings are referred to in the Bible as "princes." What happened was that God answered Daniel's prayer immediately and sent an angel to carry out the assignment, but the demonic spirit known as the "prince of Persia" intercepted the angel and fought with him for three earthly weeks, until finally Michael arrived, and the two of them drove off this demonic spirit. That gap of time between when you ask—believing that you receive—and the physical manifestation of your prayer request is then subject to: (1) your faith, (2) the nature or size of the request relative to your faith, and (3) the resistance of the devil. Look at what Daniel did in the interim: "In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks" (Dan. 10:2). He mourned over the state of Jerusalem and was interceding for the Israelites. He did not beg God and every day say, "Lord, why haven't You answered my prayer?" Instead, he focused on praying for others. This brings me to an important point. If you pray and believe that you receive something, and yet the next day you ask for it again, then you really didn't believe you received it the first time. You can only pray a petition prayer, as such, one time, or you are not following Jesus's instructions: "When you pray, believe that you receive them [the things you ask for], and you will have them." By asking for something again, you demonstrate that you really did not believe that you had it in the first place. If you believed, you would not have asked again. What do you do in the interim—the time between when you ask for something in prayer and the time that you physically receive it—if

you can only ask for something once? You *thank* God for what He has already delivered to you. “Father, thank You. I believe I receive that new washer that we need.” When it comes to healing, you need to say, “Father, I thank You. I believe that I am healed.” People get hung up on this confession. Some people feel that if they don’t *talk the problem*, others will think they are lying. For example, if you are waiting for the physical manifestation of your healing from a tumor, you cannot say that tumor isn’t there. If your blood sugar is low, you can’t say it isn’t. But in the interim between your prayer and the physical manifestation of your healing, you just do *not have to talk about it*—*you do not have to talk about the symptoms*. If someone asks, “How are you?” or “How are you feeling?” you just say, “Well, based on God’s Word I believe I’m healed.” Instead of talking about the *symptoms*, you address the *solution*. It’s important not to get caught up in talking about *feelings*: “For we walk by faith, not by sight [or feelings]” (2 Cor. 5:7). We do this all the time in the natural, and no one has a bit of trouble with it. A woman, for example, might have a friend who is seriously overweight—can we be blunt?—fat! And yet we say (honestly) to her, “Your hair looks so good,” or “You have the most beautiful skin.” Professionals from business leaders to teachers learn to focus on the positive in someone. You’ll hear them say to an employee, “You have such energy!” Or to a student, “Johnny, that was a wonderful essay you wrote.” Normally, you won’t hear them say to the employee, “You have bad breath,” or to the student, “... but your math grade is pitiful!” This is the secret: refusing to talk about the problem continually is not *lying* about whether you have the problem. You cannot deny an X-ray, or a mortgage-in-arrears notice. And by all means, I am not saying that you refuse to discuss things with professionals, such as doctors, lawyers, accountants, or with spouses or family members when it comes to planning a strategy in the natural to deal with a problem. Remember, we are fighting a war on two fronts—the

physical and the spiritual. In the natural world, you might need to get medical help, have an operation, or take medicine. You may need to get financial help, refinance your house, or do whatever it takes. To state the facts to a doctor or accountant is not “unbelief.” What you say is, “I see that tumor, doctor. Let’s attack that aggressively in the natural, but in the meantime, I believe God has already dealt with that tumor in the spirit realm.” We seem to have no problem with this process in the natural world. You will say, “I can go to the basketball game with you Saturday, because I get paid on Friday.” In fact, you don’t really know that you will get paid on Friday—you believe it. Every time you say that, you are really making a faith confession, except in this case you apparently have more faith in your employer than you do in God. Early in my faith walk, I had a test in this respect. Many years ago as a young teen, while showering, I felt a small lump underneath the mammary gland, about the size of a green pea, in the left side of my chest cavity. I paid little attention to it at first, but as time passed it grew to the size of a quarter and became very painful to the touch. Shortly after high school I married. At that time the pain was unbearable. I went to the doctor and had it examined. The doctor said I had a tumor or growth. He couldn’t say if it was cancerous or benign. He said it needed to be removed surgically if I was to get any relief from it. After the operation the doctor informed me that it was not cancerous; however, vestiges of this kind of growth could possibly float over to the right side of the chest cavity and begin to grow there. Many years later, as the doctor had warned, while showering I noticed a small pea-sized growth under the mammary gland in the right side of my chest cavity. Unlike the first growth, which grew very slowly, this one seemed to spring up overnight and became extremely painful. But this time I had come into the knowledge of faith and healing. I took my stand on Mark 11:24, Matthew 8:17, and 1 Peter 2:24. I said, “Father, You said in Your Word, Matthew 8:17, referring to Jesus,

'He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.' And in 1 Peter 2:24, again referring to Jesus, You said, 'By whose stripes you were healed.' In Mark 11:24, Jesus said, 'Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them (KJV).' I am now praying, and I say, 'Father, I desire that this tumor or growth be healed. According to Your Word, I believe that I receive my healing now, in Jesus's name. Thank You, Father. I believe I am healed.'" From that point on, the battle was on. As time went on the tumor grew larger and hurt worse. Every day in my prayer time, I reminded the Father, "I believe that I am healed." You have to keep your confession in the present tense. This went on for months. In the natural, every day the first thing that would come to my mind was a thought from the devil. "Fred, how do you feel?" I would say, "Devil, I do not walk by how I feel. I walk by faith and not by sight. According to the Word of God, with Jesus's stripes, I was healed, and if I was, then I am, and if I am, then *I is*,' because Hebrews 11:1 says: 'Now faith is ...,' and I believe I am healed." If the devil can get you into the arena of feelings and sight, instead of in the arena of faith, he will take you out. In my case, I continued praying for many months, "Father, I thank You. I believe I'm healed." Finally, eleven months had passed, and one day I was in the shower, just soaping up, and all of a sudden, I noticed I didn't feel the pain. I stopped, grabbed my chest, and lo and behold, the tumor was gone. Vanished. At that point, I prayed a different prayer: "Father, I thank You. I am healed." I no longer had to believe it as a faith fact, because now I had it as a physical fact.