Have Faith in God

Mark 11:22-23

Mark 11:22 has been a controversial scripture because of a variety of incorrect translations. It is difficult to understand the text if it is not translated properly. When a text is translated incorrectly the interpretation is also incorrect and leads to misunderstanding of scripture. I want to give clarity to the way this text is to be translated. The interpretation of this text is dependent upon its translation. When understood properly we can begin to understand the role faith plays in our prayer life.

The New International Version (NIV) and most (KJ V) of the Bible translate Mark 11:22 as "Have faith in God". The phrase "have the God kind of faith" is not a direct translation of Mark 11:22 in any version of the Bible. It is a phrase that has been popularized by some preachers and teachers to describe the kind of faith that Jesus is talking about in this passage. It also creates anxiety in many Christians whose prayers go unanswered and who are accused of not having enough faith.

This verse does not suggest that we can ask for anything and God will grant it. Instead, it emphasizes the importance of having faith in God's power to do the impossible. In Mark 11:22, the Greek word for faith is "pistis" which means "to have confidence or trust in someone or something". The verse suggests that having faith in God, to be dependent upon God is essential to our prayer life.

In verse 23, Jesus uses figurative/symbolic language to explain the power of faith. He says, "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". This verse does not suggest that we can ask for anything and God will grant it. Instead, it emphasizes the importance of having faith in God's power to do the impossible.

Having faith in God means trusting Him to do what is best for us, even if it is not what we pray for. It means believing that God's plan for our lives is perfect and that He will work everything out for our good. This is in line with Romans 8:28 "All things work for good for those who love the Lord and are called according to His (God's) purpose. Therefore, we should pray with faith, trusting that God will answer our prayers in the way that is best for us.

I WANT TO REINFORCE WHAT WAS SAID ABOVE

Mark 11:22 says "Have faith in God" and not "the faith of God." The verse emphasizes the importance of having faith in God's power to do the impossible. It means that in our prayer life, we should be dependent upon faith. It means our faith is in what God can do. Our faith is not in our faith but in God. It does not suggest that we can ask for anything and God will grant it. God is not a puppet that we can control with our thoughts. We cannot alter the program of God regardless of what we desire or how much we desire it. Instead, it encourages us to trust in God's plan for our lives and to pray with faith, believing that God will answer our prayers in the way that is best for us.

Having faith in God means trusting Him to do what is best for us, even if it is not what we pray for. It means believing that God's plan for our lives is perfect and that He will work everything out for our good. Therefore, we should pray with faith, trusting that God will answer our prayers in

the way that is best for us. In Mark 11:22-23 Jesus emphasizes the importance of having faith in God's power to do the impossible.

Blessings,
Pastor Gool