Have Faith in God! What Does That Mean?

Mark 11:22; John 15:7; 1 John 5: 14-15

The first thing I want to say is that the text does not mean we can ask God for anything, and He will grant it. This scripture has been used to encourage people to believe they have a blank check. Jesus does not teach a blank-check theology where God grants every request. Instead, Jesus is teaching us to have faith in God and not the outcome.

In Mark 11:22, the Greek word for faith is “pistis” which means “to have confidence or trust in someone or something.” This verse teaches that faith in God is essential for anything to happen in the kingdom of God. The phrase “does not doubt his heart but believes” is not about our willpower. It is about getting on board with the will of God in and for our lives. It means aligning ourselves with the purpose of God. How do we do this? The faith that Jesus displayed, the kind of faith that speaks and things come to pass is grounded in the supernatural. It is grounded in God. When Jesus says, *“Have faith in God,”* the Greek suggests **a faith that is rooted in God**, not just faith in faith itself. This kind of faith comes through:

1. Spending time with God: **John 15:7: “If you abide in Me and My Words abide in you, ask whatever you wish and it will be done unto you.”**

2. Obedience and trust: Hebrews 11 has many examples of faith in action.
3. Experience: The more we trust God, the more we see God work.

This kind of faith comes from being closely aligned with the will and purpose of God. **1 John 5:14-15: says ""If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of Him.** Both John 15:7 and 1 John 5:14-15 say the same thing when speaking of answered prayer. All prayers are based on relationships, not on what you ask for. John 15:7 says: *"If you abide in Me and My Words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."* This verse emphasizes that **answered prayer is the result of abiding in Christ**. Abiding isn't just believing in Jesus—it's **living in continual fellowship with Him**, letting His words shape our thoughts, desires, and will. When we are deeply connected to Jesus: 1) Our prayers **become aligned with His will** because we start wanting what He wants. 2) We don't just ask based on personal desires; we ask based on **God's purposes** in our lives. 3) This means the promise **isn't a blank check**—it's an invitation to grow so close to Christ that our desires reflect His. This means our prayers choose what He wants for us. Our prayers choose His kingdom, not this one.

1 John 5:14-15 reinforces this idea:
"If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of Him."

This tells us that the **effectiveness of prayer is not about how much faith we have, but about whether our prayers align with God's**

will. 1) **God is not obligated to grant requests outside of His purpose.** 2) The **confidence** in prayer comes from knowing that **He hears us when we are in alignment with His will**. 3) The phrase **"we know that we have what we asked"** shows that God's answer is guaranteed when we pray in His will.

So, what is the message of prayer? As difficult a lesson as this might be, prayer is not about bending God to our will it is about aligning our will to His. Faith is not about believing God can do something, it is believing that God will do what is best.

Finally, to see powerful prayer, we must prioritize relationship over request. We must embrace the mindset of Jesus, even when facing death and suffering. Finally, come to the place of surrender and say, "Father, not My will but Thine be done." This is truly abiding in the Father and the Father abiding in Him.

Prayer is ultimately trusting that God knows best for us. It is trusting in the most fearful of moments that God's outcome is the best. Prayer is trusting with confidence that His ways are above our ways and trusting in this truth above all things.

Blessings,
Pastor Gool