

Steps To Answered Prayer

#4. Thank God for the Answer

Mark 11:24 (NKJV)

“Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive *them*, and you will have *them*.”

“Faith is not believing God can do something. Faith is not hoping he will do something. Faith is thanking God in advance.” ~ Rev. Rick Warren

- ~ Faith thanks God before it receives. Gratitude thanks God afterward.
- ~ If I handed you a check right now for a thousand dollars, would you wait until you cashed it to thank me? No! ~ You’d thank me right now. But it really wouldn’t be yours until you actually cashed it.
- ~ That check is really just a promise.
- ~ You believe that I was credible and that I had enough money in the bank to cover that check.
- ~ Faith is thanking God in advance.

- Review:
Steps To Answered Prayer:
1. Ask God and Find Scripture
 2. Believe In Your Heart
 3. Guard Your Mind



Psalms 118:21 (NLT) “*I thank you for answering my prayer and giving me victory!*”

John 11:41 (NIV) “*Then Jesus looked up and said, Father, I thank you that you have heard me.*”

- ~ If Jesus thought it was important to thank God before the answer came, then we should do the same.
- ~ Get in the habit of not only asking, but thanking God for the answer even when we don’t see any sign of it happening.
- ~ We can’t just look with your natural eyes; some situations look dead, health, finances, relationships, dreams.
- ~ Our mind tells us it’s impossible, no use even believing, but we dare to be as bold as Jesus!
- ~ God has the final say. Thank God in advance, that every promise He has spoken will come to pass.”
- ~ Don’t complain about it, don’t keep begging God to change it, don’t ask again and again for the same thing.
- ~ Every time you’re tempted to worry, get discouraged, choose to say, “Father, thank you for the healing, favor.
- ~ Lord, I thank You, not for just for a little bit, not for barely get by, but thank You for the abundance that You have in store for me.”
- ~ You may not see anything happen for a week, month, year, or for many years, that doesn’t matter!
- ~ Anybody can quit, anybody can get discouraged and give up.
- ~ As we continue thanking God our faith is getting stronger.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NLT) “*Be thankful in all circumstances, or this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.*”

We are to be thankful **IN** every situation. We do not thank God **FOR** every situation. (Big Difference)

Acts 16:22-26 Paul and Silas in prison, sang praises!! They didn’t praise Him **FOR** being in prison.

Qualities of Worship

1. **2 Chronicles 5:13-14** Worship brings the Presence of God.
2. **2 Chronicles 20:21-23** Worship Defends the enemy.
3. **1 Samuel 30:6** Worship Strengthens our inner man.
4. **Acts 4:23-24** Worship keeps us focused on the _____ and not the problem.
 - a. All day long we can think on the greatness of God and His goodness.
 - b. We lift our heart to God in singing praise and worshipping Him for what He has done.

Thank God for the Answer

Philippians 4:6 (NKJV)

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

- *Be anxious for nothing* – God does not want us anxious, He doesn't want us to worry.
- As long as you fret and have anxiety all the praying and fasting in the world isn't going to do any good.
- This must be possible or He would be unjust saying it.
- *In everything by prayer* – find your scriptures and stand on them.
- *Let your requests be made known* – remember we tell God our need even though He knows it.
 - It's polite to ask.
- *With thanksgiving* – use grateful language to God as an act of worship – this is faith!
 - Once you have prayed in faith, peacefully worship Him and tell Him that you love and trust Him.
- *And the peace of God* – peace in the midst of circumstances.
- *Surpasses all understanding* – you cannot explain some things of God, just be blessed by them.
- *Will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus* – like an armed guard.

Don't Consider The Circumstances

Romans 4:17-21

v17 *'I have made you a father of many nations'* the Lord told Abraham this 9 times throughout Scripture.

- Your faith begins where God's will is known; you will believe Who you trust.
- *'Calls those things'* God operates by the faith principles He wants us to live by.
- In the Lord's eyes it was done before it happened; Abraham grew to believe this as his fellowship with the Lord grew.
- Every time the Lord blessed Abraham, his faith grew; the Lord prospered him; the Lord protected him;

v18 What God tells you usually starts out as hope; that hope will turn to faith if you continue to stand on what the Lord said and refuse doubts that will come.

- *'according to what was spoken'* (**John 17:17**) God's Word is true; (**Numbers 23:19**) He is not a liar.

v19 *'not being weak in faith'* he needed to be strong in faith. Everything will fight what God has said.

- *'he did not consider...'* Abraham did not care that natural laws said this could not happen.
- Or he carefully considered what natural laws said and chose to believe the Lord anyway.
- *'the deadness of Sarah's womb'* Abraham had to have faith to believe Sarah could conceive as well.

v20 *'he did not waver'* did not contend with God – he was convinced that God would do what He said.

- Goodspeed and Good News *'his faith filled him with power!'*
- *'giving glory to God'* worship is an excellent way to build your faith.

v21 *'fully convinced'* – this is a process. Worship and fellowship are like vitamins or steroids for our faith.

- Weymouth *'being absolutely certain that whatever the promise He is bound by, He is able to make good.'*
- Abraham got it, he believed the Lord completely and received what God said would happen.