

The Power of Thanksgiving

John 11:38-44

Introduction: Despite all of the wonderful teaching on faith over the past century, many of God's people are still ignorant of some basic truths. One of those truths is thanking God for answered prayer before you see the actual answer.

1. Jesus is our example:

- a. Many people rightly focus on the fact that Jesus is God, but we must remember that He became a man with human limitations (Phil. 2:5-10; Heb. 2:17; 4:15).
- b. Because some cults deny the deity of Christ, we Christians sometimes go to the opposite extreme by ignoring His humanity.
- c. While on earth our Lord did not walk in any power of His own. Jesus had to pray and depend on God to work miracles through Him as we have to now (Acts 10:38; Matt. 12:28).

2. WWJD – What would Jesus do:

- a. Jesus taught that His followers are supposed to walk in greater miracles than He did (Matthew 21:18-22; John 14:12-14).
- b. If we are to walk in the miracles that Jesus walked in then we must live the way He lived and follow the practices He had.
- c. Jesus had a habit of spending hours in prayer, sometimes all night.
- d. Jesus had a habit of fasting.
- e. Jesus had a habit of loving and caring for others.
- f. Jesus had a habit of faith.
- g. Jesus had a habit of always offering praise and thanksgiving to the Father.

3. Jesus showed us that thanksgiving before seeing answers was the secret of faith and miracles:

- a. John 6:9-14
- b. Take note of the fact that Jesus was very unconcerned about the amount of food in regards to the number of people present.
- c. Jesus did not give a long prayer begging God for anything. He simply gave thanks.
- d. When you have spent the time in fellowship with God that Jesus often did then when you are faced with an impossible crisis you only need to give thanks.
- e. There is no need to wait for a crisis before we pray. When faced with a crisis there is no need to spend hours in prayer.
- f. Marylin Hickey and KFC chicken. George Mueller and the orphans needing food.

4. Authority in “thanksgiving”.

- a. In John 11, when Jesus was confronted with a crisis His only response was to thank God and then command the situation to change.
- b. In Mark 11:22-24 we are told to pray with commanding power.
- c. We must believe before we see. If we believe then we will thank God and speak words of authoritative faith.
- d. Paul taught in several places that thanksgiving must accompany our prayers at the moment we are praying (Phil. 4:6-9; 1 Tim. 2:1-4).
- e. When we are constantly complaining and walking in unbelief, we are exhibiting an attitude of ingratitude. In essence we are in Satan’s territory. God is unable to help us (Mark 6:4-6).
- f. When we have an attitude of gratitude and are in consistent fellowship with God then we can have commanding power in all difficult circumstances.
- g. Always be thanking God. This will help us to see powerful miracles in our lives.