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Mighty Prevailing Prayer: Experiencing the Power of Answered Prayer

16. The Dynamic of Faith

This chapter argues that prevailing prayer needs more than fervor and persistence—it needs faith. Prayer without expectant faith is incomplete, and God has chosen to condition much of His working on our believing. The chapter shows how faith works, how it conquers doubt, and how you can know God has heard you.

Key takeaways

- God is almighty and sovereign, but by grace He normally limits His miracle answers to our faith—'According to your faith.'
- Many prayers are prayed with little real expectation. Jesus repeatedly rebuked His disciples' lack of faith, and unbelief actually stopped Him from doing miracles.
- Faith is not blind optimism. It faces reality (like Abraham facing his dead body) but measures it by God's promise, not by circumstances.
- Faith fixes your eyes on God; doubt, fear, and worry fix your eyes on things. 'The beginning of anxiety is the end of faith.'

- Faith is specific—it believes for a definite answer, not just belief in God generally.
- Don't demand signs, but welcome any God gives to strengthen weak faith (Gideon, Hezekiah). Our normal walk is by faith, not sight.
- You can know God hears because He is a prayer-hearing God, because you pray in line with His will ('always prayers' like a sinner's salvation), and sometimes by an inner assurance of 'praying through.'

Passages worth keeping

“Hours and hours of praying do not eliminate the need for faith. They may help you to arrive at the position of faith, but without the dynamic of faith, prayer does not prevail.”

The chapter's central claim: persistence positions you, faith prevails.

“The beginning of anxiety is the end of faith.”

Andrew Murray line summarizing why faith and worry can't share the same focus.

How it connects

The chapter builds its whole case on Abraham (Rom. 4): faith honors God by trusting the promise over visible impossibility, and God delights to respond to that trust.

Scripture referenced

- **1 John 5:4** -- Faith is the victory that overcomes the world
- **James 1:6-7** -- The doubter is double-minded and receives nothing
- **Matt. 9:29** -- 'According to your faith'—God ties His working to believing
- **Rom. 4:18-21** -- Abraham as the model of God-focused faith against all hope
- **1 John 5:15** -- If we know He hears us, we have what we asked
- **2 Cor. 5:7** -- We walk by faith, not by sight