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Mighty Prevailing Prayer: Experiencing the Power of Answered Prayer

17. How to Increase Faith

This chapter distinguishes natural faith (which everyone uses daily) from spiritual faith (the faith by which we are saved and pray). It argues spiritual faith can grow, lays out seven practical steps to increase it, and then describes the 'prayer of faith'—a definite request made in definite faith for a definite answer.

Key takeaways

- All Christians already have some spiritual faith; it can be grown through God's grace.
- Seven steps to greater faith: (1) recognize your helplessness and need, (2) feed on God's Word, (3) spend adequate time in prayer, (4) read accounts of answered prayer, (5) obey God fully—unconfessed sin blocks faith, (6) start trusting God for specific answers (faith is like a muscle), (7) practice praise, including militant praise against the Devil.
- The prayer of faith reaches through, touches God's throne, then rests unshakably in the assurance the answer will come in God's time.

- Marks of the prayer of faith: led by the Spirit, wholly committed like a vow, believing despite impossible circumstances, trusting apart from feelings, sure it aligns with God's will, refusing to accept denial, eager to obey, may involve spiritual warfare, and prays through every detail.
- Securing a promise often begins a battle—Satan contests ground God has pledged—but 'we are on the winning side.'

Passages worth keeping

"The real battle begins when the prayer of faith has been offered. But praise the Lord! we are on the winning side."

Reframes ongoing struggle after prayer as a fight already destined for victory.

"Helplessness united with faith produces prayer."

Names helplessness as the first rung of the ladder of faith.

How it connects

The chapter ties the growth of faith to obedience and praise, using Jehoshaphat's victory as the model: faith declared, praise raised, and God fights the battle.

Scripture referenced

- **Luke 17:5** -- Disciples' request, 'Increase our faith.'
- **Romans 10:17** -- Faith comes from hearing God's Word.

- **Malachi 3:10-12** -- God invites Israel to test Him through obedient tithing.
- **2 Chronicles 20:20-23** -- Jehoshaphat's militant praise wins the battle.
- **James 5:15** -- The prayer of faith; the Greek word can mean 'vow.'
- **Romans 4:19-20** -- Believing God despite the appearance of the situation.