

First Baptist Church Smiths Falls

March 24, 2019 - Communion Sunday

Scripture: Mark 11:20-26 New International Version (NIV)
20 In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. 21 Peter remembered and said to Jesus, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!” 22 “Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. 23 “Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. 24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. 25 And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”

Congregational Prayer: “Our Father”

Our Father, Which Art In Heaven, Hallowed Be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom Come. Thy Will Be Done, On Earth As It Is In Heaven. Give Us This Day, Our Daily Bread, And Forgive Us Our Trespases, As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us. And Lead Us Not Into Temptation, But Deliver Us From Evil. For Thine Is The Kingdom, The Power And The Glory. Forever And Ever. Amen

Message:

Introduction:

- Let’s see if you remember some old songs from the 60's and 70's television: “Just sit right back and you’ll hear a tale..”
“Here’s the story of a lovely lady...” “Come ride a little train that is going down the tracks to the junction...”
- It is fun to remember. When we remember something from

the past we often gain new hope for today.

- Let me help you in your Battle Plan for Prayer as you grow in Christ Jesus our Lord through constant prayer to the Living God, our Heavenly Father.

Part 1: 7 Ways to Grow your Faith in Prayer

- Our reading for today from Mark 11 is about having faith in your prayers. Verse 23 is about having “mountain moving” faith in the Lord, Jesus Christ. Jesus backs this up in verse 24: “*Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.*” Do you believe in prayer? Did This happen? Are amazing things possible for those who pray?
- After Jesus ascended to heaven, the apostles could simply tell the lame to walk, and they would, or the blind to see, and they did. Or the deaf to hear, and they heard the voices of joy and laughter at their healing. Imagine having the faith to say

to a person with a crippled hand, “Be healed in the Name of Jesus Christ!” and it was. It was as Jesus promised them in John 14:11-13 New International Version (NIV): *“Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. 12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”* Jesus promised His disciples that would great things in His name, and the disciples could in prayer. So can we. Do you have belief in prayer?

- Last week we introduced the first two of seven ways to grow in your faith:

- 1. Remember to start with Thanksgiving

- 2. Remember that God is our loving heavenly Father.
- 3. Remember that God loves us and cares for us. God has a heart of love. Turn with me to Ephesians 3:17b-19 (NIV) which says: *“ And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”* How amazing is God's boundless love. Remember God’s care.
- 4. Remember to pray knowing that God is able. God can, and will, answer any request. Nothing is too difficult for Him. Ephesians 3:20-21 says: *“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations,*

for ever and ever! Amen.” God can do more than we can even ask or imagine.

5. Remember that God is aware. God knows our requests before we can come to Him with it, as Jesus said in Matthew 6:7-8. We are reminded not to worry, next, in Matthew 6:31–32. Isaiah 65:24 but says that before we call, God will answer. The story of finding Rebekah for Isaac from Genesis 24 shows us how God had prepared the way for Abraham's servant. God is way ahead of us because he knows our needs even before we ask. Sometimes we just have to wait. Isaiah 40:31 reminds us to wait upon the Lord. It is therefore important for us to ask God to teach us how to wait upon Him. Back in the Medieval times, Lords and Ladies always had an "attendant in waiting" who would be studying the ruler awaiting any indication that it was time to go and do a task.

Can we learn to be an “attendant in waiting” for God, where we are actively waiting upon God, looking for His next request upon us, and can this be our greatest duty in the kingdom of God? In waiting, we will find that that season of stillness will teach us more about God and ourselves. Remember that God is aware.

6. Remember that God prompts prayer. God's Holy Spirit will prompt us to pray. Romans 8:26 says: *“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.”* When your prayers get stuck in your throat, God will loosen your tongue if you let Him.
7. Remember God's perfect track record. God does things for His name's sake. He is Jehovah Jireh – God the provider. Joshua 23:14 (NIV) says: *“...you know in all your hearts*

and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one word of them has failed. All came to pass.” Jesus is recorded in Luke 16:17 as saying: *“It is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle (iota, small part) of the law to fail.”* Would God ruin his perfect track record on you?

- These are the 7 things that helps us to trust God, and to pray boldly, in faith.

Part 2: More Attributes of our Heavenly Father as we Pray

- Last week we had our top 10 attributes, but the next 11 are also top as well:
- 11. Caring– *“Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?”*

Matthew 6:26

- 12. Sovereign – *“The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.”* Psalm 103:19.
- 13. Shepherd– *“The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.”* Psalm 23:1-3.
- 14. Ever-Present– *“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”* Psalm 46:1.
- 15. Refuge– *“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust!”* Psalm 91:1-2.
- 16. Gracious – *“The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.”* Psalm 116:5.
- 17. Healer – *“...for I am the LORD, who heals you.”* Exodus 15:26.

- 18. Powerful – *“Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O LORD, and You exalt Yourself as head over all. Both riches and honour come from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone.”* 1

Chronicles 29:11-12.

- 19. One Who Saves– *“The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.”* Zephaniah 3:17.
- 20. Helper– *“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”* Isaiah 41:10.

- 21. The One Who Makes All Things New– *“He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”* Revelation 21:5.

- 21 Attributes of our God, our Heavenly Father, on whom we can believe in prayer.

Conclusion:

- “So now it’s time to said goodbye to Jed and all his kin. They would like to thank you all for kindly dropping in. You’re all invited back next week to this locality, to have a heaping helping of some hospitality.” It is good to remember - to especially remember the power of prayer to our wonderful God.
- Our God is an awesome God . Our amazing God calls for us to pray in belief. Does your in your Battle Plan for Prayer include faith in prayer?

- Remember to grow in Christ Jesus our Lord through constant prayer to the Living God, our Heavenly Father.