

No Doubt

Matt. 21:18-22

If you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, be removed and be cast into the sea, it will be done...

An important part of growing spiritually is learning to believe without doubting. It's a process for sure, but it is possible. According to this passage Jesus showed us that it is possible. And when we believe without doubting, according to the promise, what we speak to and what we ask for will be done.

When we hear and read of promises like this, two things usually happen. Our spirits agree with it, because it's God's word. At the same time our carnal minds doubt it, because we've asked for things in the past that we didn't receive, so we've become doubtful. We hear it, but we filter it through our negative past experiences.

If this happens to you, there is good news. It is possible to live a victorious Christian life without doubt, even if you don't always receive. However, you can receive more often than not if you know what to do.

The first thing is to know where doubt comes from. It comes from one of two places. It comes either from a carnal mind (the flesh), or is planted by the enemy.

Rom. 8:5-8 The carnal mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

James 1:5-8

Our spirits believe. Our minds doubt if they are not renewed. Doubt is like a tare or a weed that chokes the wheat of God's promise, and keeps it from growing and producing a harvest. So when the doubt arises, recognize the

source and reject it. Tell yourself, no. I will not doubt. I will believe. Operate from the spirit, and as you continue to do so, your spirit will be in control and the flesh will lose its control.

As you renew your mind with God's word and believe it, the carnal mind will no longer be dominant, even though it will still be there, constantly opposing God and His word. Just remember, that's not the real you. You are a spirit, and you've been born again. The real you loves God and believes God at all times.

The more you believe and reject doubt, the stronger you become and that's when you receive more regularly.

Don't expect the carnal mind to go down without a fight. It will oppose your faith at every turn. Just remember that Jesus has given you power over it and use that power as often as it attacks. Put it back in its place. Say, "No you don't. I believe God. I don't believe you. I reject you. God will do what He said."

The same applies when the enemy tries to bring doubt. Where the flesh is less creative and just brings a straight out assault on your faith, the devil uses deception.

Gen. 3:1-5

2 Cor. 2:11

When we are ignorant of his devices, Satan takes advantage of us. That's why it is important not to be ignorant. His goals and methods have not changed since the garden. His goal is to steal the word that's been sown in our hearts.

Mark 4:2-4, 13-15

How does the devil steal the word? He does it by misdirection.

Misdirection is defined as the action or process of directing someone to the wrong place or in the wrong direction.

In magic, misdirection is a form of deception in which the performer draws the audience to one thing to distract it from another.

So the enemy uses your needs and your problems against you as a distraction. Once he gets you focused on them, he gets you doubting and discouraged. That's when he picks your pocket and steals the word, so that what God has promised and planted does not produce in your life.

You can always know when the attack is working because we start doubting and we become discouraged, upset, anxious or worried. The devil's strategy is working. Make no mistake, he's after the word to steal it out of your heart, so what you're asking for you will never receive.

When you begin feeling these emotions of doubt, discouragement, worry or anxiety, tell yourself, "I will not doubt. I believe what I say will come to pass. That's what Jesus told me to do, and He would not tell me to do it if it weren't possible. So I believe, and I will not doubt."

Here are some ways to weaken the power of doubt so your faith will produce answered prayer.

1. Keep your mind stayed on the Lord. (Is. 26:3)

The term "perfect peace" in the Hebrew is *Shalom Shalom*. This is a Hebrew method of putting greater emphasis on a word. This passage is saying the Lord will keep us in everything the word *Shalom* implies: Health, happiness, well-being, peace.

2. Don't rely on what you know. (Prov. 3:5-6)

If you try to figure out how to solve your problem, you will grow discouraged when the answer doesn't come. However, that's not how God designed it. He told us to trust Him and not to lean on our own understanding. Instead, we are to acknowledge Him in all our ways, including our problems, and He will direct our paths. He will make our paths straight.

3. Be careful on where you get advice from. (Ps. 1:1-3)

People may have the best of intentions and may even have some experience, but God may not want to solve your problems the way they dealt with theirs, especially if they don't know the Lord. It doesn't mean you don't listen to advice, it means you don't walk in it.

Instead, you meditate in the word so God can renew your mind and give you His plan. This is what He told Joshua in Josh 1:8. He told Joshua to meditate on the word to do what it says. Then he would make his way prosperous and have good success. He was NOT to mediate on the walls of Jericho, but on the word of God.

4. Never lose your praise. (Ps. 34:1, Ps. 8:2; Matt. 21:15-16)

Our praise is a weapon. God uses it to keep our minds on Him. God has also ordained it to silence the enemy. When he tries to speak to you, focus on praising the Lord instead. When the enemy speaks louder by trying to bring discouragement and misdirect your focus, praise God even more. It will eventually silence the enemy and as you resist the devil he will flee.

When you apply these strategies and keep doubt from your heart, the promise of Jesus will come to pass and we will see more victory and more answered prayer than we've ever seen before. Let's use our faith and remove doubt so that we bear fruit, and so that God is glorified.