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November 1, 2010

Prayer Is Not Magic



Yet many seem to think
or at least act like it is.

In magic, there are a lot of words spoken and physical actions taken. Like abracadabra, a little waving of the hands and bingo, the rabbit comes out of the hat.

I looked up the word *magic* in the dictionary, it said: the pretend art of working by the power or assistance of supernatural beings; sorcery; enchantment.

Sometimes many think prayer is like that. Just say the right words, wave your hands or bow on your knees and poof, God answers.

Then when God doesn't seem to answer we go back over our book of sayings to see if we said the right words or if we waved our hands at the right time and place, hoping that someday we'll get that rabbit to come out of the hat when we want it to.

Other people think, if they can get an experienced magician to help them or to get enough magicians together and all say the words at the same time we'll get the thing right and get God's attention.

So they go running around trying to get more people involved or phoning people and organizing a prayer vigil or a concert of prayer.

We might read several books on effective prayer – then go practicing the trick over and over until we get that rabbit to come out of the hat like it's suppose to.

This may sound funny, but the truth of the matter is, this is the way many approach prayer.

We've all done it. We've all done some analysis of our prayers and looked over it again and again - hoping to find the magic formula that will get God to answer.

Finding out why it doesn't work.

We've had people tell us that if we aren't in right standing with God that He won't hear us and telling us that if we have some unforgiveness or bad thoughts about someone that God will ignore us until we get that dealt with.

That "getting it dealt with," in turn, sometimes takes on all kinds of bizarre actions.

Some will spend weeks praying and fasting hoping to get forgiven for what they have done. Others spend as much time trying to forgive others - waiting until they *feel* released.

Some come under condemnation feeling that they don't have enough faith to get God to answer their need. So they either give up or they try to find someone else whose faith they think God will honour more.

Let's see if we can answer a few of these misunderstandings about prayer.

1. Prayer is not magic.

There is no pretend about it. There are no illusions involved.
There are no magic words.

Yes it's true that we ask or come into His presence in the Name of Jesus. But that isn't a magic word. It's our covenant connection. It's like signing a cheque. You use your name on that cheque to give it legality. It's the same way with the Name of Jesus. It's our User name and password. But it's not magic.

There is no magic folding of the hands or waving or special postures. We don't have to be on our knees to prove to God that we really mean what we're asking for or that we are *really* humble *this* time.

**Prayer is not a physical thing. It is spiritual communication.
It's our spirit communicating with God, Spirit to spirit.**

**Praying *in tongues* is not magic.
It's supernatural, but it's not magic.**

Supernatural is taking God's super and adding it to our natural.

Speaking in the language of our spirit is **super**. God has put that language in everyone's spirit. In order to release that prayer language a person needs simply to come into submission to His control and then it is easily released.

We speak those words out, using our **natural** - our vocal cords, mouth and so on.

So praying in tongues is not a magical chant that we can start into. Sometimes I think people get the idea that if they start to pray in tongues that God will answer faster or that the devil will flee faster or that something magical will happen.

Actually the devil can't understand what you are saying when you pray in tongues. So if you want him to go, just say so. You don't have to work up some kind of spiritual trance. Just say, "Devil I command you to go in the Name of Jesus." That's all.

Praying in tongues is not a magic trick. It doesn't mean you are using special powers. It's just our spirit praying instead of our mind.

2. Finding some spiritual person to pray for you.

There is a false notion, that has come down through church history, that if you get the pastor or some spiritual leader to pray for or with you that God will hear him, but you are just some little nobody.

That is a falsehood that was perpetuated by the Church of Rome. They told the people that they couldn't get to God but if they gave a gift to the church then the priest would intercede on their behalf - thus the clergy / laity thing came about.

James 5:13 Amp. *“Is any one among you afflicted - ill-treated, suffering evil? He should pray.”*

The word “afflicted,” doesn’t necessarily mean sickness and disease. It means: “troubled”.

Phillips puts it very simply: *“If any one of you is in trouble let him pray.”*

If you are in trouble, then YOU need to pray. It didn’t say that the pastor needs to pray for you or your friends need to pray for you. It says YOU need to pray.

As a child of God and a joint-heir with Jesus, you have access to the throne of Almighty God. He has every solution to every problem you’ll ever have, and He’s just waiting for you to come to Him, so that He can give you the answer.

It may take some private time alone with Him for you to hear it, but He will never disappoint you.

Don’t depend on others to do your praying for you. Go personally to the throne of God. Jesus is the only priest we need.

There are times when we can prayer with others.

Matthew 18:19 KJV *“Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.”*

Again this isn’t magic. It’s just the strength of agreement.

If there is a situation that you are looking for God to do something about, and He doesn’t have to violate someone’s free will to in order to bring it about and if the two of you will unconditionally agree on it - then go for it.

If you call me or another believer and say, “this is what the Word of God says concerning this situation, will you agree with me before God concerning it,” then that’s good.

But if you call and say, will you ask God to make such and such happen for me, then I’m not necessarily going to be in agreement with you.

If you are in trouble, then you pray. God will hear you just as well as anyone else.

3. Will God hear me if I have some unconfessed sin or if I don't feel like I've really forgiven someone?

Forget the feeling thing. The fact is you've forgiven them and that's that.

Now to the sin thing.

Many of us have heard this verse from **Psalm 66:18 KJV** *"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me."*

So we may have been taught that until we can think of every sin we may have not confessed or asked forgiveness for or have not repented of, then God won't hear our prayer.

Then we go on this fruitless search looking for sin in our lives.

The facts are: This verse was before the cross. Since then all of our sins have been forgiven. You are justified in God's sight, **there is no sin to your account**, the blood of Jesus has cleansed your spirit and you stand faultless, justified before God at all times.

Secondly, this verse was taken out of its context. The Psalmist continued in the next verse and said:

19 "But verily God hath heard me, he hath attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me."

God does hear you – all the time!

You don't have to go through some big routine of fasting and moaning etc. to get God's attention. There is nothing wrong with fasting. But it doesn't change God. He's always the same. Fasting just helps to get your attention on Him not His on you.

4. Do I have enough faith?

God has given each of us His faith. What better faith can you have? What we need to do is to put it into motion.

We activate it with the Word of God.

We look into the Word of God, see what it says about our situation then present that solution to God.

Pray the answer not the problem.

Mark 11:24 KJV *“Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, **when ye pray**, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”*

When you pray, believe you have received it. If you want to discuss the matter with Him again, then just thank Him for it, rather than asking over and over again for what you’ve already asked for.

Believe you have it when you ask.

Prayer is not magic!

We are SET FREE from trying to get that
“prayer answer rabbit”
to come out of the hat.