

October 17, 2021

PRAYER AND THE PRECIOUS GIFT OF FAITH

There are some tremendous challenges to the Christian in regard to the importance of believing prayer. In explaining to His disciples why they were ineffective in casting out a demon from a young lad, our Lord said, “. . . if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you” (Matthew 17:20 NIV). Again, in dealing with the amazement of His disciples over a miracle performed, our Lord promised, “If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer” (Matthew 21:22 NIV).

When an honest person examines himself in the light of the Scriptures, he soon finds that faith is just what seems lacking in his prayers. He begins to be afraid of prayer. O. Hallesby [in his book on *Prayer*] offers encouragement,

My doubting friend, your case is not as bad as you think it is.

You have more faith than you think you have. You have faith enough to pray; you have faith enough to believe that you will be heard. . . .

The essence of faith is to come to Christ.

This is the first and the last and the surest indication that faith is still alive.

When people came to our Lord during His earthly ministry with their various needs and problems, He invariably told them, “Thy faith hath saved thee.” All they had done was to come to Him with their needs, whether physical or spiritual. The simple but unmistakable mark of a living faith is, in the words of Hallesby, that it “sees its own need, acknowledges its own helplessness, goes to Jesus, tells Him just how bad things are and leaves everything with Him.” How much faith do we need in order to pray? “We have faith enough,” Hallesby answers, “when we in our helplessness turn to Jesus.”

—Dr. Francis W. Monseth, excerpt from recently published *One Thing I Seek: Selected Writings of Francis W. Monseth*, AFLC Heritage Series Volume V (Minneapolis: Ambassador Publications, 2021), 21.

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