

THE FAITH LIFE

Real-Life Prayer

I. Take it, Possess it, Receive it, Lay hold of it

A. Mark 11:24-When you pray you lay hold of, you take possession of

1. When you pray beg? Grovel? Cry? Believe God can do something? Hope God will do something? NO
2. Believe-Be persuaded, have confidence; Receive-Lay hold of, to take, seize, take possession of
3. If I believed that I've laid hold of it, then I believe I have it

B. 2 Peter 1:3-You can't lay hold of something God is not offering

1. If you're not sure God's offering it to you how can you lay hold of it
2. Ephesians 5:17, 1 John 5:14-15-To pray and believe effectively you have to know the will of God
3. *Whatever things you desire*-Should you desire something for your life that God doesn't want for you? No
 - a. God's arms aren't crossed, he's not withholding, these things are for you, they belong to you (Psalm 84:11)
 - b. God has given us (offering a gift) all things that pertain to life and godliness

C. Numbers 13:2,30-The promise land belonged to them, but they had to possess it

1. Just because Jesus paid for it and it belongs to you doesn't guarantee you'll walk in it; You have to lay hold of it
2. Because of what Jesus did God has given it to you, God has set it before you and much of the church just sits there and begs/asks God to give them something that He's already given them and it's sitting in front of their face and they know nothing about laying hold of it-Gal3:13,1Pet2:24,Mt8:18,2Cor8:9,Rom8:32

D. Deuteronomy 1:6-8, 20-21-God gives it to us, God set it before us, now what? Go up and possess it

1. 6-8-There's some people who've been travelling around the same mountain and it's time to lay hold
2. 39-God gave it to them, but they wouldn't possess it – This describes many believers
3. *Numbers 33:53-I have given you the land to possess it*
4. Joshua 18:1-3-This group of people hadn't possessed their inheritance and Joshua said what are you waiting for
5. Psalm 23:5-He's prepared a table for you and you sit there and ask for what's sitting on the table: Eat Boy

E. John 15:7, Psalm37:4-You can't disobey Him and try lay hold of something he is offering

II. Call it, confess it, profess it, declare it, decree it

A. Romans 4:17-We call things that be not as though they were/are and speak of non-existent things as if they already exist

1. This is before you see anything, this is before you feel anything
2. Joel 3:10-Let the weak say I am strong
3. Luke 13:11-12-This woman was bowed over for 18 years and Jesus called her loosed
4. Joshua 6:2, 15-God called Jericho their city, Joshua called Jericho their city

B. Do your words matter?

1. *Proverbs 16:24-Pleasant words are as a honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones; Proverbs 12:14-A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth; Proverbs 18:21-Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof; Proverbs 13:2-From the words of his mouth, a man will enjoy good things; Proverbs 13:3-He that keeps his mouth keeps his life; Proverbs 14:3-The lips of the wise shall preserve them; Proverbs 12:6-The mouth of the upright shall deliver them*

C. This is so vital because of this powerful truth: You don't get what God says, you get what you say-Num14:28

1. God can call you something, but if you call yourself something else you will get what you say

D. The way your words will come to pass is if you hear first from the Father and say what He says

1. John 8:26, John 12:49-50-Jesus operated in such a way that he only said what the Father said
2. Heb3:1-Jesus works with our words and he watches over his words in our mouth and sees to it they come to pass
3. Proverbs 30:6-Add thou not to his words-You don't need to say anything else other than what he's said

4. Isaiah 43:2, Dan3:17-I have to believe and say what He says and add nothing to it

E. This is not just speaking; This believing and speaking; Because I believe I have it I call myself ???

1. What makes it faith is I don't see it yet, I don't feel it

III. The Fight of Faith, The Walk of Faith

A. Here's the contention: What you've laid hold of, what you're calling/saying, you don't see and you don't feel

1. Deut2:24, 1Tim6:12-There's a fight to possess it and it's the fight of faith; When everything in the natural is saying it's not yours, it doesn't belong to you, the fight is to not me moved and say it's mine, it belongs to me

2. It's this tension between what you say you believe and what you see; This is where battles are one and lost

B. 2 Corinthians 5:7-We are to walk by faith and not by sight (Outward appearance; Perceive by any of the senses)

1. Walking by sight is speaking and believing based on what you see and feel (the information that is transmitted to you through your senses)

2. Walking by faith is speaking and believing based on what the Word says (the information that is transmitted from God to you through your spirit)

C. 1 Peter 1:5 -9-You rejoice in V5 and then it looks like V5 isn't true in V6 and that leads to the trial of your faith in V7

1. The information you receive through your senses will put your faith on trial; When you what you see is different than what you say you believe your faith goes under the microscope and it gets weighed in the balance of truth and we find out if you're really in faith or if you're walking by sight; Laying hold is good, speaking is good but this right here is where the battles are won and lost; What you've laid hold of and what you've been decreeing only matters if you'll walk by faith and not by sight

a. If you what you see moves you, downs you, darkens you, discourages you you're walking by sight

2. This is what gets you fired up about a guy like Abraham, David, the three Hebrews – That in the face of contradicting circumstances and with information flooding through their senses and reasoning screaming it's not happening, it's not working, it's not changing, you're going to lose faith came roaring back up out of them

3. Hab3,Job5:22-This is faith – The guy's bloody, the guys beaten and he looks up and say I'm winning

a. This is not just rejoicing, this rejoicing that's coming from believing

D. Hebrews 10:23-You have to hold fast to what you laid hold of

1. Deuteronomy 11:8-It's takes strength to not be moved and lay hold of what's yours

2. Deuteronomy 3:18-You need to be armed to win