

# Wishful Thinking or Powerful Reality

## The faith for prayer

### 1. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever. Heb.13:8

Have you ever thought it would be neat to have walked with Jesus? Go back in time and see Him? How about today? Is He different, or absent? Then why does it seem so much less exciting now?

### 2. Issue of faith (Hebrews 11:6)

Why don't we pray? Problem of Deism.

Our biggest obstacle: unbelief. We find it hard to believe He is really there.

John called the miracles “**signs.**” They were not an end in themselves. They pointed to something more important: God is and He rewards those who seek Him.

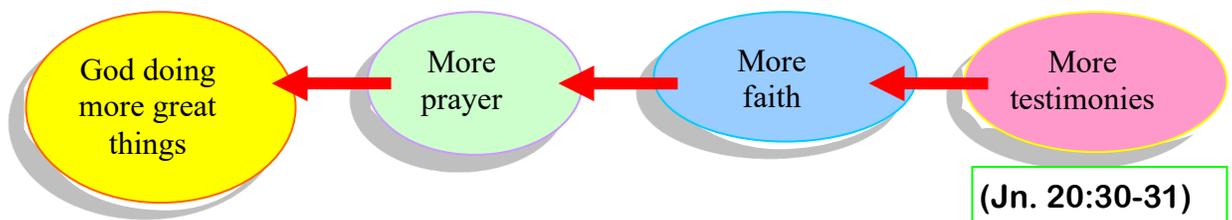
- 1) Don't believe He's there. Must believe He is. Isn't it hard, almost impossible, to be with someone you know and not say anything?
- 2) Don't believe He will answer. Must believe He rewards those who seek Him. Why do people play the lottery? They believe, even though the evidence is to the contrary. Why do they believe so much more than we do?

Faith is contagious.

Much better to have asked too much and believed too much

What if it were all true?

### 3. What makes a difference?



A pastor accused me of getting people's hopes up

I want you to know that I am not trying to get you to pray by making you feel guilty or by disciplining yourself.

**Guilt** - Pray so you won't feel bad for not praying.

**Discipline** – Suck it up and give me 50 on your knuckles, private!

Neither of those will get you very far.

Do people play the lottery so they won't feel guilty or because they have disciplined themselves to? Do you breathe so you won't feel guilty or because you have disciplined yourself to?

#### 4. Examples of prayer

- 1) **Guidance**  
Belleza divina (Heavenly Beauty) message  
Going to Argentina
- 2) **Healing**  
Caroline with croup
- 3) **Missions**  
Town in North Africa
- 4) **Church**  
Praying at Heritage
- 5) **Salvation**  
Diego's grandmother
- 6) **Provision**  
Our first year of marriage  
Our house in Argentina
- 7) **Deliverance**  
Woman at PCA church

#### Marveled

The Centurion's faith

Matt.8:10 Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled and said to those who were following, "**Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel.**

John 5:20 "For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, **so that you will marvel.**

We don't pray because it always "works." (Although I think it actually does, in a larger sense.) We pray to manifest his reality and his glory on the earth. Don't pray because you have to. Pray because you get to.