

**Mountain
Moving
Faith
In
Prayers**

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All quotations are from the Authorized (King James) Version.

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Many people in this world believe in prayers. However, their prayers are concerning the things in this world, usually on how they might prosper in this world living in prosperity and good health for themselves and for their family members. Christians also believe in prayers. Like the people in this world, Christians do pray for things in this life as well. In addition, Christians have been specifically commanded to pray where the promise of prayers answered is confirmed by none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, getting prayers answered are not usually the case. This begs the question as to why when there is assurance from the Scriptures where prayers will be answered according to the formula given and yet many times, the reply is not in the affirmative as expected by the praying child of God. As such, this is a short discussion and exhortation that prayers not only could be answered but could move mountains as well.

And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. (John 16:23&24)

Here is a promise of prayers that will surely be answered according to the simple requirements by asking the Father in heaven in the name the Lord Jesus Christ. There are no specific conditions given before prayers will be answered accordingly. This command is skewed in the favour of the child of God seeking to make his request known to God. This essentially is like having a blank cheque given from above.

Imagine, a very rich man comes to you and signs his name on a blank cheque and then gives it to you to fill in the figures, what would you do? How much would you ask? What if you are given a constant stream of signed blank cheques? What would you do? How much would you ask? Would it be very comforting to know that your provisions will be taken care of?

You can have everything your heart could wish! You might probably use these cheques to satisfy all your needs including all your wants. You may buy yourself a big house and a big luxurious car. You may get the latest IT gadgets. You may buy the best home entertainment system. You may buy yourself the most expensive handbag or the most expensive and fashionable clothes. You may go for an exotic holiday and perhaps enjoy the best food money can buy. You may even send your children to an Ivy League university.

Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. (John 16:24) But would your joy be full for all these earthly comfort and indulgence from a rich man? Your joy might full but for how long? I received this email from a “Christian” last year.

*Agree with me on the following:
In the name of Jesus-Christ,
Father in Heaven,*

*Bless me with several commercial and industrial operations that will span
the world and have a turnover of 50 billion dollars.*

Thank You and God Bless You,

Do you think this promise on prayer answered is applicable for this request? He was asking in Jesus' name according to scripture and demanded that I agree with him and pray on his behalf as well. The scriptures here concern promises that are infinitely more than a blank cheque signed by a rich man for some earthly provisions and comfort.

Nonetheless, do we always have our prayers answered? If not, either this promise is fraudulent or something is wrong with our asking. Is it possible that we ask beyond what the Lord can give? We certainly do not think so. Then why is our prayer not answered at times? Are we missing out on something concerning prayers?

If we bring a cheque to cash out in a bank and the teller tells us that the signature on the cheque is not recognized and this cheque does not belong to one of our clients, then we can claim that we have been cheated. In that case, we simply cannot cash out the cheque. But when we bring this promise in John 16:23&24 to cash out what we want in the bank in heaven and we are rejected, then we have to ask ourselves why. It cannot be true that the promise by the Son of the living God is not honoured in heaven. It is not possible that the Father in heaven does not recognize the promise made by His only begotten Son on earth and such promise is not honoured. It is just not possible. What the Lord Jesus Christ commits to His servants on earth, the Father in heaven will certainly keep. God's very own reputation is at stake if He cannot keep His promises given to His servants.

So an in-depth self-examination on our part is necessary. Is there any condition that we must fulfill before this promise given by Christ is honoured? The promise here said nothing about any conditions. The promise here is so simple that anyone with a third grade understanding in English can read and hold this promise before God and ask anything in Christ's name. Then why are our prayers and many things that we ask in Christ's name rejected in heaven? Then something must be very wrong with us. Prayer is such an important matter that it is necessary that we find out why our prayers are not answered and how can we pray in such away that the promise of prayers answered will work as given.

During the late eighties, I was driving on the mountains of Tennessee. A missionary casually and jokingly asked, “Do you have faith in God?” I answered, “Yeah, why?” The missionary continued, “You see that mountain there, move it over to the other side.” We had a good laugh knowing what the scripture has to say about faith that can move mountains.

Here the Lord specifically told His people to ask in His name and it will be given. The trouble is, from our experience, we often did not get what we asked. So to add insult to injury, the Lord even taunts His people. **And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. (Matthew 17:20)**

What a challenge? As though not getting prayers answered that we think we asked according to God’s will is not sufficient humiliation, we are told that we could even move mountains if we asked in faith. Then something must be very wrong with us! What a rebuke for our lack of faith in the Lord!

If asking things from heaven in Christ’s name does not work many times, what more about asking mountains to be removed? This is crazy to say the least. This is indeed a tall order. Before we run to Bible critics who will not take the Bible literally and give us their private interpretation that this is not what the Lord mean and try to explain away such great and precious promises, we must consult the Bible from cover to cover for our answer. We must never fall into the trap Bible critics set for us for they conveniently take a Bible destructive approach by taking the scripture as being figurative. We will end up with only devotional application and not something that is substantial and literal.

So what should we do as Bible believers? If we really believe the veracity of the Scriptures, we must consult this book that we claim to uphold. No doubt removing mountain is a very tall order. This seeming impossibility and the ridiculous notion of moving mountains may deter us to find out why the Lord utters such words. We are told that every idle word will be judged one day. We can be certain that the Lord is not uttering idle words to provoke us or to mock us. We know that all scripture is given by inspiration and nothing is given to us for no apparent reason.

Moving a mountain is not only a tall order but also something that does not make much sense at all if we do not consult the Bible. We may be tempted to think that we can accomplish this feat by giving ourselves five years to call a tender and assemble a team of contractors using explosives and excavators, mountains can surely be removed. It has been done before and no doubt not something so difficult. But we are dealing with commanding mountains to be removed and they are to be removed immediately just by giving a command. We are not talking about construction and redevelopment work. It is a work of faith even when there is no labour of love.

Is it really impossible to move mountains just by giving a command? Has it been done by the saints before? In fact, something more spectacular, something more impossible than moving mountains was accomplished by saints in the Old Testament. Something more incredible was accomplished by Joshua when he brought the children of Israel into the promised land.

Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day. (Joshua 10:12&13)

What is recorded here is no doubt unbelievable according to our fallen minds. How can this possibly be true, the fallen mind would argue. However, it is God who spoke the world into existence. But can a man stop the sun and the moon? So the Sun stood for Joshua and the moon did not move for him. In fact, Joshua just spoke to the Lord as if he commanded the Lord and it was done. When we consider blank cheques of great and precious promises given to us, Joshua shows us the way to ask thing from God.

By the way, God never told him to ask such an incredible act. It was spontaneous and an act of great faith in a Great and Almighty God. In the heat and excitement of the battle and in utmost zeal to avenge the enemies of the Lord, Joshua made that incredible request and it was immediately honoured from above. Physics was murdered that day when Joshua went into the throne room of God to demand the constellation of heaven to be on his side. God was more than pleased to suspend the natural law of physics to allow his saints to accomplish works for Him according to His will.

It thrills God to answer such prayers from His people who have great faith in God who is the Creator of the heaven and the earth. God is indeed honoured and not ashamed to be called their God for their great act of faith of the Old Testament saints. So is moving mountain such an impossible feat after all when the sun and the moon could be stopped just by asking God?

We must have faith and nothing is impossible. But do we have faith? What faith are we talking about when we are only concerned about temporal matters like praying for our health and our wealth on earth? But we may argue that Joshua was an exception because God was actually bringing the Jews into the promise land. Then let us consider another case where heaven is moved by faith.

And Hezekiah said unto Isaiah, What shall be the sign that the LORD will heal me, and that I shall go up into the house of the LORD the third day? And Isaiah said, This sign shalt thou have of the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that he hath spoken: shall the shadow go forth ten degrees, or go back ten degrees? And Hezekiah answered, It is a light thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees: nay, but let the shadow return backward ten degrees. (2 Kings 20:8-10)

The Jews look for signs and this is one such case. It is to be expected because the children of Israel were led out of Egypt in the midst of great signs and wonders. King Hezekiah was very sick. He was told to prepare to die and set his house in order. But he prayed to God for an extension of his earthly life and God answered him. So he asked for a sign to prove that this was indeed true.

As a Jew, he needed signs from God to confirm prayers answered. Gideon asked for signs too, not one time but twice before he went into battle. So God offered Hezekiah two ways where this sign was to confirm his promise. Guess what? Hezekiah did not choose the easier of the two. It would be too easy to move time forward since time is already moving forward anyway. He said it would be too easy for God to move time forward. He believed his God was great and almighty. Let time move back. It would be quite insulting to think that God could only do less and not more. What saints would believe there is a limitation to what God can do!

When we believe our God is so big, we ask big things from Him. Great faith asks for great things to be done. Hezekiah believed God could and he held God to His promise that He would. It is God who sets time in motion and of course God can move time either way He wishes. In fact, the Lord told His disciples concerning the coming end of the world that time would be shortened in the future: **And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days. (Mark 13:20)** Hence manipulating time is no big deal for Almighty God at all. In fact, one day, time will be no more.

Without faith, it is impossible to please God. So time move backward that day and Hezekiah did not suffer any jetlag. God messed up the physics textbook again that day. God also reset the expiry date of Hezekiah's natural life that day and gave him fifteen more years. No wonder fallen men have

been trying to invent a time machine ever since. Do we still think moving mountain is a big deal now? Are we still not convinced? What about stopping rain from falling from the sky? Elijah did that.

Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit. (James 5:17&18)

Not only did Elijah stop rain from falling on his head, he brought back rain when he felt led. If Elijah was not happy, he could even delay the rain for a much longer period of time and Israel would be turned into a desert. That is how much trust God has on His faithful servants. God issued him blank cheques to cash out that command even the natural elements in the air. It was entirely up to Elijah to act and act did he according to God's perfect timing and will.

But we are told Elijah was nothing special from us. He was just another man subject to like passions like us. He was truly just an ordinary man like us. He needed to eat and sleep and he suffered from depression too when he ran for his life when Jezebel wanted to kill him. So the question is, can God trust you and me?

Actually, if a saint is so close to God, he can even hold God to a ransom when he is desperate. When forced against the wall or pushed to a corner, a faithful saint could commit God to do miracles beyond his wildest imagination. This blank cheque kind of promise is nothing new. God entrusts His servants to do His will here on earth and His servants can command even heaven to be on their sides to get a victory if necessary. The forces of heaven are at their disposal when need be and nothing can hinder God's servants to accomplish God's will here on earth.

Another time, Israel had sinned against God and God caused them to suffer at the hands of their enemies. Famine in the city had brought economic activities to a standstill and black market flourished. The situation was so severe that women started eating their own children. This is how tragic lives had become to the inhabitants in Samaria who rebelled against the Most High. It was indeed perilous times. But eating children was truly unforgivable. Of course when the king heard about it, he was so infuriated that he wanted to put Elisha to death. The king blamed him for all the trouble just like the previous wicked king blamed Elijah for the famine in the past. Instead of repenting, the wicked always blamed God's servants for their trouble.

Then he said, God do so and more also to me, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat shall stand on him this day. But Elisha sat in his house, and the elders sat with him; and the king sent a man from before him: but ere the messenger came to him, he said to the elders, See ye how this son of a murderer hath sent to take away mine head? look, when the messenger cometh, shut the door, and hold him fast at the door: is not the sound of his master's feet behind him? And while he yet talked with them, behold, the messenger came down unto him: and he said, Behold, this evil is of the LORD; what should I wait for the LORD any longer? (2 Kings 6:31-33)

Here we can see that Elisha was desperate. The executioner was right at the door. He did not have many options left. He could wait no longer and it was extremely urgent and something must be done soon. He reasoned why he should wait on the Lord any longer. This is the occasion instead of waiting upon the Lord, he took things into his own hand. He committed God and put God's reputation at stake to see if God will honour His promise of giving His servant this kind of blank cheque promise for His cause.

Then Elisha said, Hear ye the word of the LORD; Thus saith the LORD, To morrow about this time shall a measure of fine flour be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria. (2 Kings 7:1)

This was obviously empty talk. Such marketing strategy during the time when market had collapsed surely rang hollow. The city was besieged and the people were hungry and had started eating their children but Elisha promised them a Great Singapore Sale the next day. The stock markets were

all down and he told them it would be a bull run the next day. He took a position that was so incredulous that even his executioner could not take his head on the spot and bet with him instead.

Then a lord on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God, and said, Behold, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, might this thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof. (2 Kings 7:2)

Elisha was so confident and persuasive that his executioner stayed the execution for a day to see whether the Great Sale would take place. Of course, by taking a position against all fundamentals, Elisha was mocked. His executioner and everyone there knew very well that the probability of such an occurrence is close to zero. So unless the windows of heaven are opened, Elisha is going to lose his head. Will God open the window of heaven for this faithful saint of His?

And the king appointed the lord on whose hand he leaned to have the charge of the gate: and the people trode upon him in the gate, and he died, as the man of God had said, who spake when the king came down to him. And it came to pass as the man of God had spoken to the king, saying, Two measures of barley for a shekel, and a measure of fine flour for a shekel, shall be to morrow about this time in the gate of Samaria: And that lord answered the man of God, and said, Now, behold, if the LORD should make windows in heaven, might such a thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof. (2 Kings 7:1)

So Elisha went into the throne room in heaven to look for God having committed God on His behalf. He took heaven by storm and demanded that the windows there be opened. Surely the windows of heaven open he did because God's very own reputation was at stake. Nowhere are we told that God told Elisha to pray such a prayer. In fact, from Elisha's very own mouth, he claimed that he could not wait upon the Lord any longer. So he committed God on His behalf just like an agent committed his principal in a business deal and the principal is liable to fulfill the contract.

Elisha was so bold that he dragged God into the picture in times of desperation. God made all the financial analysts mad that day when the stock market went against all known fundamentals. All the economic experts lost

their bet that day. The executioner not only lost his bet but his life as well. God was more than pleased to honour such a deal and Elisha got himself away without losing a single strand of hair on his head.

Hence can God trust us to commit Him on any matter and God would honour that deal? God likes His saints to challenge Him and see if His promises to them are true. One such challenge was issued to the children of Israel during a time of apathy and apostasy culminating to one of the most famous verses in the entire Bible.

Moreover the LORD spake again unto Ahaz, saying, Ask thee a sign of the LORD thy God; ask it either in the depth, or in the height above. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, neither will I tempt the LORD. And he said, Hear ye now, O house of David; Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:10-14)

Despite God showing them how great and good He was to them and bringing them out of Egypt in the midst of great signs and wonders, they forgot God. God told the king to prove Him to ask anything for a sign whether from the depth below or in the height above. Here being told to prove God, their king turned down the offer with a pious excuse that he would not want to tempt God. How sad! This proves that he did not believe God and His promises. His faith in God was really so pathetic that sitting on the throne of Israel was a disgrace to the whole nation.

So God gave them a sign instead and this sign was so incredible that biology was murdered this time. How can a virgin give birth? It is against all human logic and known science. Guess what happened? It came to pass when God's only begotten Son came into the world to take away the sins of the world. Moreover, when this virgin born Son of God was on earth, he commanded the elements of nature and suspended the law of physics at will. One time, the disciples were frightened to death during a storm, the Lord simply told the storm to cease: **And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. (Mark 4:39)** If God's saints in the past could command heaven, no doubt the Son of God could do no less on earth.

Therefore, He who commands the wind and rebukes the sea has told His disciples that we could ask anything from His Father in His name and it would be honoured in heaven. Do we think it is still impossible to ask God like the saints in the past to do great things for God? But we may say those extraordinary feats by the saints in time past are no longer possible in our days. We may even insist that there is no need for such miraculous deeds to prove God anymore because we already have the complete inspired and infallible Bible. But we could not be more wrong as far as scripture is concerned.

And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. (Revelation 11:3-6)

These two witnesses mentioned here have not appeared on earth yet. They will make their entrance into this world sometime in the future and the inhabitants on earth will be terrified by them. They are given power to shut heaven and plague the earth at will. They can do such miracles as often as they will. They can easily fulfill the promise given to us to ask God in Christ's name for anything to get their job done. Before we write off Christ's challenge that mountains could not be moved by faith, we should consider some prophecies that have yet to be fulfilled.

Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it. (Zechariah 4:7) What is a mountain before God's servant? Such mountain is nothing when they stand in the way of God's perfect will. Any saint could also move such mountains away: **And the mountains shall be molten under him, and the valleys shall be cleft, as wax before the fire, and as the waters that are poured down a steep place. (Micah 1:4)** What is so great about mountains when they stand in the way of God's will! The Lord did not tell His people to remove mountains frivolously. Mountains will be moved and we will be amazed at the scale at which this would be done in the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the

mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee. (Zechariah 14:1-5)

This event concerns the second coming of Christ where we will be coming back to earth with the Lord to rule and reign with Him. During this monumental event, mountains will indeed be moved. They will be moved in such a way that it will completely change the landscape of Israel during the Kingdom Age when the Lord steps down on Mount Olive.

Do not think that mountains cannot be moved by faith in Christ. The trouble is our own mountains of laziness and spiritual incompetence that are hindering us from asking God to do great things for Him. Are our prayers being answered? What kinds of prayers? If our prayers are not being answered, have we questioned why?

If we have any outstanding issues that need to be resolved with the Lord whether it is lack of faith or unrepentant sin, we should get them work out with Lord. Do not for a moment, think that just because we have food on the table, clothes to wear and a roof over our heads mean God is answering our prayers. The unsaved people in this world have all these as well. Does that mean God is answering their prayers as well? So what is the difference between a sinner saved by grace and a sinner lost in sin?

Have we ever considered before we were saved, we have food on the table, we have clothes to wear and we have a roof over our head? Then how come suddenly after becoming a Christian, we have to pray for food on the table, clothes to wear and a roof over our head? Has becoming a Christian caused us to become so disadvantaged? Are we worse off than before we get saved? Does it mean that if we do not pray for all these, we will have our needs denied to us?

So is the scripture promise of our prayers that are sure to be answered if we ask in the Lord Jesus' name referring to praying for our daily need? Did not we get all our daily needs before we get saved? Then why are we only praying for our own needs alone?

Imagine if we were the angel in heaven sorting out the prayer requests sent up from earth, we probably would not know whether to laugh or cry with some of those most pathetic prayers like asking God to give a 50 billion dollars commercial and business operation worldwide. What do we want such things for? Does God not know all our needs?

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you as we are told. So the scripture on promise of prayers answered though with no specific conditions given are implied. If we are not praying prayers that please God, then this promise of certainty of prayers answered surely rings hollow.

We need to start to learn to pray prayers that please God from a micro level beginning with ourselves. We need to ask God to teach us to grow in faith. We need to ask God to help us grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ so that we will know what to ask and how to pray. We need to pray how to be sensitive to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. We need to learn how to be led by the Holy Spirit in our prayers.

We need to know how and what to pray for our family members. We need to pray for the spiritual growth of our family members in Christ. Then we can move out slowly to the church level and desire God to do things for us as members of the church. We need to know how and what to pray for the church so that our church will be strong in the Lord and serving Christ acceptably. We need to know how to pray for the prosperity for the church on the spiritual things of Christ so that Christians will be heavenly minded instead of being worldly minded.

Then we can proceed to the macro level that crosses national boundaries to see God glorified in His saints from here and abroad. Then and only then will we learn not to pray selfish prayers for ourselves that in reality we are only in the kindergarten level just learning to pray. When we pray for things that please God according to His will, our prayer requests will certainly be honoured in heaven. God will be more than pleased to give us anything through His Son. Can God trust us? May we learn to pray with the objective in mind of moving mountains ahead of us whatever the mountains of hindrance maybe that God may indeed be magnified and glorified during our pilgrimage on earth!

If you have been blessed with the reading of this book and you wish to contact the author, you may write to him at charles@kjb-asia.com.