

**Pastor's (Upcoming) Bible Class**  
**"Learning How to Pray"**  
**(A Ten Week Study)**  
***A Sample Lesson***

**Faith Our Prayers are Answered**

Hebrews 11:1-6

"Faith means we are certain of the things we cannot see / No one can please God without faith. Whoever comes to Him must believe that He exists and will reward those who diligently look for Him."

James 1:6-8

"When you pray you must believe and not doubt. Anyone who doubts / should not think he will receive anything from the Lord."

There are two conditions for answered prayers. One is ***obedience***, honestly trying to live for the Lord. Psalm 66 said, "If I had **cherished iniquity in mt heart, the Lord would not have listened to me.**" The other, as seen in the verses above, is ***faith***. This does not mean if we believe hard enough and long enough for God to heal our child of cancer he or she will heal them

This is what TV healers say. Two things are wrong with this. (1) When a child is not healed, the blame falls on the mother and father, because they didn't believe good enough or strong enough. To add this to the grief they already have is a teaching, straight out of hell. (2) If God healed everyone in answer to our prayers we could not build enough churches to hold the people who would come for the wrong reasons.

When God tells us, "no", to any prayer, most of us are like the little boy. His mother overheard praying beside his bed: "Dear God, uncle Fred still does not have a job; my sister still picks on me and my cat has not come back. And God, I'm sick and tired of saying prayers for my family that *don't do a bit of good.*" We might want to wash his mouth out with soap. But God wouldn't. He was being honest and:

We might as well kneel down / And worship  
gods of stone / As over to the living God  
A prayer of words alone

To receive God's help and blessings we must believe that He answers every prayer. Some of you aren't too sure about prayers being answered. You look back at all the times when you prayed and nothing happened or things got worse.

And when you did get an answer, you know it may have just been a coincidence. When I grew half an inch a month when I prayed, I told my mother and she said, "I was at the age when boys have growth spurts." It wasn't until years later that I realized it was far more than that.