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Daily Devotional, Thursday, August 31, 2017 The Expression of Faith

AUGUST 31ST 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Mark 11:20-24

If you made a request of God and then time passed without results, it is understandable you might start wondering if He ever heard you at all. Do you remember thinking, *What happened, Lord? You said that if I asked in faith, You would do it. Didn't You hear me?*

Stop to consider this question: Can you think of a time you brought a petition to the Lord and it apparently went unanswered? What was the situation? What did you pray about it? What did you say to others about it? What did you do about it?

I believe one of the most common reasons we experience a crisis of faith is that our words and our attitude get out of line with each other. We tell ourselves that we are praying to the heavenly Father, seeking His will, and requesting His intervention, but what we're really doing is just complaining to Him.

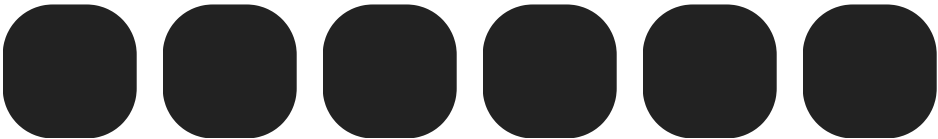
We say, "Lord, I really messed this up" or "I don't deserve this." We might pray, "How did this happen?" Or perhaps we even cry, "How did You let this happen?" We moan about the situation, reveling in every ounce of anguish, and then petition God to fix it. Is this a prayer that honors God?

In Mark 11:24, Jesus explains that if we ask for something, we should believe in our hearts that it has already been granted. This level of faith is found not in our whines but in our praises. God absolutely wants us to cry out to Him and to lay our petitions at His feet (1 Pet. 5:7). But we must be careful to do so in a way that focuses on God’s glory—not our own.

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