

Pray and Not Faint

From: Overcoming the Overwhelming:
A 40-Day Journey toward Rediscovering Faith in God

Taken from Day 18: “Diligently” Seeking Him
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If we put a dollar into a vending machine, we have the reasonable expectation (hope) that what we just purchased will come out. I use this example deliberately because so many times I’ve heard people say, “Well, God isn’t a vending machine,” and, of course, He isn’t. Yet, He is a dependable God. He will do what he has promised, and we can joyfully anticipate that we will receive what He has promised to give us.

If we put a dollar in a machine and nothing comes out, it is highly unlikely that we are going to shrug our shoulders and walk away. No, we will likely shake the machine, maybe give it a kick or a punch; or, as I have done on more than one occasion, even feed it another dollar, hoping this time it will give me what I purchased, and if that doesn’t work, I will probably go find the manager responsible for the machine and demand my money back. We will likely not give up until we get justice.

Am I saying we should get mad at God if He doesn’t give us what we ask? Should we complain to His manager? Well, that’s just silly because as we all agree, God is not a vending machine, and He doesn’t have a manager. No. **God is far better than a vending machine and much more reliable.**

The point I’m making is this: We expect something as basic as a machine to give us the promised product. How much more should we believe and joyfully anticipate that the living, all-powerful, and faithful God who just so happens to be our loving Father will keep His promises to us.

Following are several examples given in Scripture that help us have a fuller view of what it means to seek God. This first one has to do with asking Him for something and not losing heart while we wait for the answer.

Luke 18:1-8

*Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, ²saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. ³Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' ⁴And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, ⁵yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.'" ⁶Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. ⁷And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? ⁸I tell you that He will avenge them **speedily**. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"*

What does real faith look like? It looks like a woman seeking justice and not giving up asking until she gets it. Now, God is no more an unjust judge than He is a vending machine. **God is far better than an unjust judge and much more reliable.** He will not only answer our prayers, but He will do so without resentment, and "speedily" if we will pray (seek/ ask) and not give up.

The widow knew her rights and insisted upon them. In like manner, we are to know what God has provided and promised and ask Him with confidence, knowing we will receive.

Jesus then asks this important question, "When the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" Can you hear the heart of God in this question? What pleases Him? What is He hoping to see on the earth? Our faith!

