Scripture of the Quarter

"V17 Pray without ceasing, V18 in everything giving thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

1st Thessalonians 5:17-18 NKJV

The Power of Prayer

I believe we as Christians sometimes forget the **supernatural power** of prayer. Not intentionally, but it happens, sometimes on a daily basis. We forget that prayer can save lost souls, bring the anointing that breaks all bondages, addictions, heals the sick, restores broken marriages, and delivers people from demons, and raises the dead.

Many Christians reach for pills from men for pain in our bodies before going to the Lord in prayer **first**.

We as Christians sometimes depend on men and what they offer instead of going to the throne room of God for help. The Bible says in Exodus 15:26 "If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought upon the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you." Now am I saying you should not take medications? Absolutely not, but why not pray to the Lord first believing His Word. It is written in the above verse He is the God that heals

you! Before you pray there are two important components which must be added when you pray, they are to have faith (trust) and to believe. Why? Lets read what Jesus said in Matthew 21:22 "And whatever things you ask in prayer believing you will receive." This is where some people have a problem, it starts when they say that they believe with their lips but do not mean it in their heart? A great example of this is what Jesus said in

Matthew 15:8 "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor me with their <u>lips</u>, but their <u>heart</u> is far from Me." NKJV

We all know Jesus knows our hearts!

I would like to pose three questions to all who are reading this newsletter:

- 1. If you don't believe can you be saved?
- 2. If you don't believe can you be healed?
- 3. If you don't believe can you receive the <u>free gift</u> of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues as it is written in **Luke 11:13?**

The answer to all of the above questions is **NO**!





The next thing we must talk about is obvious, faith—it coincides with believing.

Romans 1:17 reads "For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, the just shall live by faith." NKJV

his wife wanted a divorce, because of all the hurt and pain he caused her. He had faith and believed that Jesus could change her mind. The man repented of his sins that he had committed then I prayed, and I gave God all the glory for His mighty

Jesus knew that at times we might fall short in our trials and tribulations. In Romans 10:17 it reads "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

Since we serve a loving Heavenly Father whose love is unconditional and His mercy and compassion endures forever. I have personally observed situations that looked impossible to solve or overcome. This is where we must walk by faith and not by sight as in 2 Corinthians 5:7NKJV, (trusting God to do what He says He will do) and when **fervent** prayers were prayed the situation changed for the positive and was solved. It is written in James 5:16 "Confess your trespasses (sins) to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." I enjoy doing word studies and the word fervent in Greek is "energeo" which means mighty in, effectual, wrought forth it is where we get the word energy, pray with energy! I will give you an example; I prayed for an inmate in prison who stated

the hurt and pain he caused her. He had faith and believed that Jesus could change her mind. The man repented of his sins that he had committed then I prayed, and I gave God all the glory for His mighty works. The next month I went back he stated his wife wrote him and said she would give him a second chance. Why? Jesus made this promise in John 11:25 "Jesus said to her I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live." I quoted this verse to this inmate and told him if Jesus can resurrect the dead, He can resurrect a dead marriage and restore all family relationships if you believe. Prayer is something some people use a last resort, and it should be your first choice in any crisis which happens in your life. I have always said; No prayer no power, some prayer some power, more prayer more power! I want the empowerment of prayer in my life to change any and all situations of crisis and trials. Prayer also empowers us to do what God has called us to do as His disciples. I have had people ask me if God answers all prayer. This may shock some of you the answer is No. Why? Because, God never goes against His Word or His covenants. I will list four of the examples when God cannot answer a prayer.

- 1. Dishonor your wife: 1st Peter 3:7

 "Husbands, likewise dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered." The word hindered in Greek is ekkopto meaning to cut off or cut out. NKJV I hope all husbands take this seriously!
- 2. Wrong motives: James 4:3 "You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures." The word amiss in Greek is kakos meaning badly, wrongly, or terribly. NKJV
- 3. Doubting: James1:6-8 V6"But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. V7"For not let that man suppose he will receive anything from the Lord; V8he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways." NKJV
- 4. Sin: Isaiah 59:2 "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear." NKJV

Can you imagine if you are living in sin God can't hear your prayers and **your sins** hide His face from you! In closing, I don't know about you, but I want God to **hear** and **answer** all my prayers.

