



## **BELIEVING GOD TO ANSWER OUR PRAYERS**

By Bill Subritzky

God told Moses to speak to the rock and it would yield its water so that the congregation of Israel would have water to drink. (Numbers 20:8.)

Instead of speaking to the rock, Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod. The water came out abundantly and the congregation and their animals drank.

God became angry. He spoke to Moses and Aaron saying, "Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them." (Numbers 20:12.)

God took Moses to the top of a mountain overlooking the Promised Land. He saw the land but never entered it. He died there.

Moses had led the children of Israel out of Egypt, through the Red Sea and for 40 years in the desert. He had seen the great miracles which God had performed including the miraculous provision of mana and meat to feed two-and-a-half-million people over that time.

Despite all of this Moses did not believe God's Word that if he spoke to the rock, water would come out. This made God angry.

Jesus told us that when we pray we should believe that we are receiving the answers to our prayer and then we would receive them.

The word "believing" means cling to, trust and obey. When we pray to God we should believe our requests are being granted. We should ask in faith, with no doubting otherwise we will be like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind and we will not receive anything from the Lord. (James 1:6-7.)

Moses failed to do this. He doubted. He did not believe God could send water out of the rock if he spoke to it.

The people of Israel continually tested God and doubted Him while they were in the desert, even though they saw a cloud over them by day and a fire by night for 40 years. They did not remember His power. They disobeyed Him by not believing His promises. He became angry and sent plagues upon them.

They limited their Holy one of Israel by their unbelief. (Psalm 78:41.)

When Jesus went to Nazareth He could do very few miracles there because people did not believe Him. They remembered Him as the carpenter.

The Bible says, "Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. And He marvelled because of their unbelief." (Mark 6:5-6.)

When He was called to pray for the daughter of the ruler of the synagogue, He was told that she was already dead. He said to the ruler, "Do not be afraid; only believe." (Mark 5:36.)

The people mocked him. Jesus said, "Only believe".

Because of the unbelief of the people, Jesus only took Peter, James, John and the father and mother into the room to pray for the child and bring it back to life. He only wanted believers to be present so that the Holy Spirit was not quenched by unbelief.

I believe that God hears our prayers and is often disappointed, even angry when we allow doubt into our heart. When we fail to believe we are quenching the work of the Holy Spirit.

God obviously was disappointed and angry because of the failure of Moses to believe Him.

What about us as believers? We believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We believe that we are born again and that God sends His Holy Spirit to dwell in us and transform us.

Therefore we are really no different in our position than Moses, who had seen the great miracles of God, yet at a critical time did not believe Him.

God has revealed Himself to us and requires us to absolutely believe Him without doubting. Then we will see the miracles.

Next time you are praying to the Lord. I suggest you tell Him that you absolutely believe He has heard you and is granting your prayer. As you continue to live without doubting, you will have wonderful results.

**Compiled by Bill Subritzky and produced by Dove Ministries**  
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