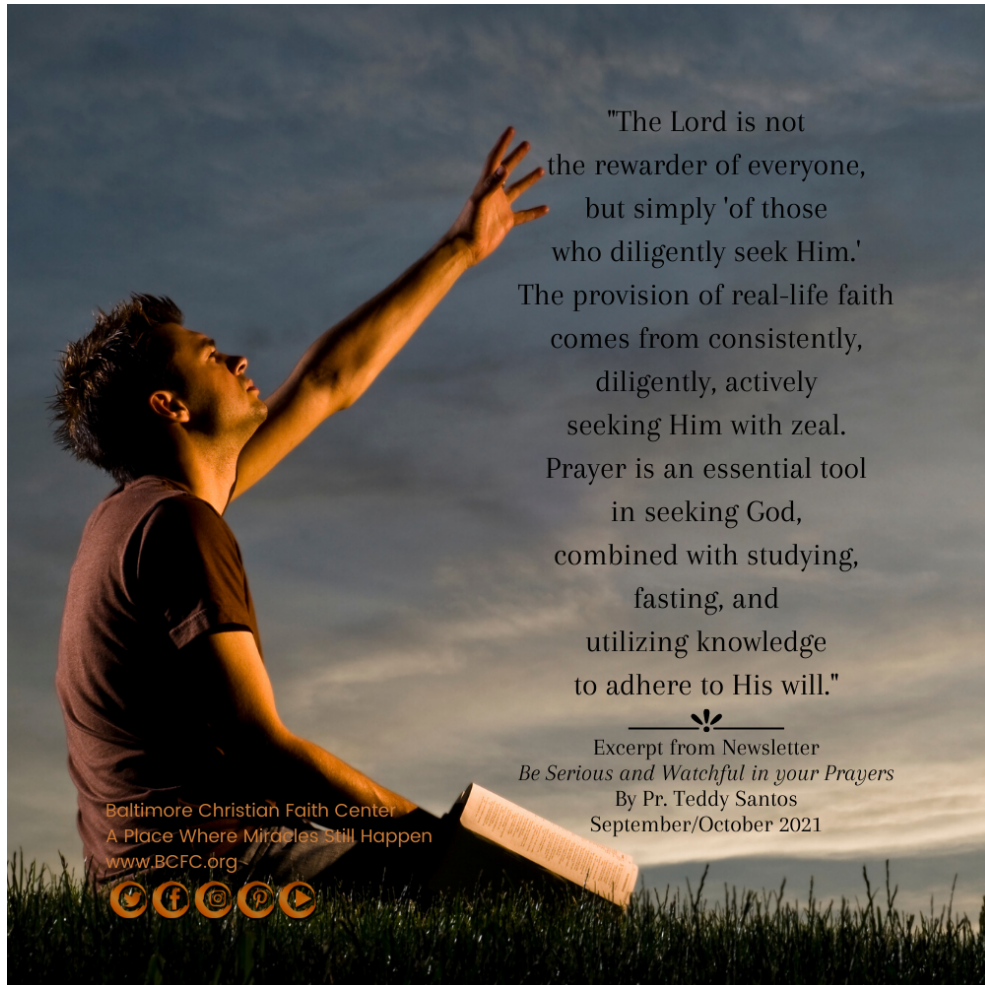


BE SERIOUS AND WATCHFUL IN YOUR PRAYERS

Newsletter – September/October 2021



"The Lord is not the rewarder of everyone, but simply 'of those who diligently seek Him.' The provision of real-life faith comes from consistently, diligently, actively seeking Him with zeal. Prayer is an essential tool in seeking God, combined with studying, fasting, and utilizing knowledge to adhere to His will."

Excerpt from Newsletter
Be Serious and Watchful in your Prayers
By Pr. Teddy Santos
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Baltimore Christian Faith Center
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Matthew 17:19-21 *"Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, 'Why could we not cast it out?' So Jesus said to them, 'Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.'"*

The absence or lack of faith is a sign of a weak prayer life. Our Lord Jesus Christ advises us how to address unbelief - prayer, and fasting!

Let's look at it on a basic level: how do we develop trust and loyalty? Can we have faith in an individual we know not? Could it be possible to be loyal to a stranger? Confidence in others is built through repeated contact with them over time - frequent and close interaction is the key. As we get to know them, observe them in action, and perceive their characters, we eventually arrive at a point where we can have trust and faith in them and their ways. Now, the question is: Is it any different with God?

A healthy prayer life produces the revolved and continual communication with God needed to get to know Him. This starts the process that will lead to faith, to now God wanting to give us the gift of faith (**Ephesians 2:8**). The prayerful individual becomes the faithful individual and not the other way around. Notice this point illustrated in **Hebrews 11:6**: "**But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**"

Did you notice the condition in this verse? The Lord is not the rewarder of everyone, but simply "of those who diligently seek Him." The provision of real-life faith comes from consistently, diligently, actively seeking Him with zeal. Prayer is an essential tool in seeking God, combined with studying, fasting, and utilizing knowledge to adhere to His will. Those who are diligent by doing these things are rewarded with the faith to overcome (**1John 5:4** "**For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.**")

God's Word illustrates that the Sabbath is a visible sign that distinguishes God's people (**Exodus 31:13, 17**). However, an individual could be a nominal Sabbath-keeper without having an authentic relationship with The Lord. Could there be another sign - a less visible one - that maybe only God sees? Certainly! And **Zechariah 13:9** confirms it is prayer: "**They will pray in my name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'You are my people,' and they will reply, 'You, LORD, are our God!'**" (Contemporary English Version).

Those with an inadequate prayer life have inadequate faith (**Matthew 17:19-21**). Those with inadequate faith are sinful (**Romans 14:23**). As part of a solid foundation, prayer is crucial, especially during the end times! Essentially, **1Peter 4:7** instructs, "**But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.**" Amen.

At His service,
Pr. Teddy Santos