

The Faith Script

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“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” Matthew 1:23(NKJV)

[Prayer Wall](#)

Christmas 2013

Hypothetical Christian prayer in AD 2013: "God, You said "x" but nothing is happening. I pray but nothing. I wait but nothing. I try but nothing. I obeyed and am obeying but nothing. I listen but nothing. Now, look what is happening. How can this be? Look again at what just happened! How can this be? Remember, You said "x" to me. Did You really say "x" to me? What now? But I know You said "x" to me, really I do. Please help o Lord my God!"

Does this sound familiar to you? Could your name be substituted for "Christian" in the hypothetical, or not so hypothetical, prayer? If so, do not feel lonely. Is it possible for this current day prayer to be in any way similar to the one that follows that may have been offered a couple of Millenniums ago?

Hypothetical Old Testament Saint prayer in 5 BC: "God, You said that Messiah was coming to deliver us. Soon after Satan's greatest moment when Adam and Eve sinned, You said to the serpent that You “will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel." (Gen. 3:15). Messiah is not here yet. What about Your great promises to Abraham: “Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father’s house, to the land which I will show you; and I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse and in you all the families of the earth will be blessed” (Gen. 12:1-3)? Are these promises still relevant? What about Your great promise to King David: “your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever” (2 Sam 7:16)? We have these cruel, oppressive Gentiles ruling over us. You know, these pesky Romans who are worse than the Greeks! Is the King really coming? I remember something from Your prophets, by the way, we haven't had one of them for a long, long time, it sure would be nice to hear from You again, about the Messiah being born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14 – “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel”) in this little town of Bethlehem (Micah 5:2 – "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Too* little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity"). You said many great things to us, but we have a lot of nothing happening. Bad seems to get worse. O Lord, we really need You. O Lord, I really need You!"

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New Testament perspective:

Let us turn to Scripture for "whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope" (Romans 15:4). Hope is not wishful thinking but confident assurance that God will act. If we have hope, then we have joy. Happiness is situation dependent but joy is God dependent. Happiness merely looks at the circumstances. Joy, however, looks beyond the circumstances to the One who is ultimately in control. As we look at the many prophecies concerning Messiah's birth, our hope and joy grow as we place our faith in the One who controls history. Although there are many times when circumstances seemed to indicate that nothing was happening and it was impossible for God to fulfill His promises, we know that "nothing will be impossible with God" (Luke 1:37).

Let us return to our two hypothetical prayers. Both prayers express faith, at least a level of faith, but they suffer from hope and joy deficiency. "When the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman" (Gal 4:4). Although nothing seemed to be happening, God was moving behind the scenes to accomplish His will which is "good and acceptable and perfect" (Rom 12:2). Messiah came at the "fullness of time." He was not late or early and did not just suddenly appear. God worked through the ages in great detail to bring about the birth of His Son. In our lives, God is actively working His perfect plan in great detail in His timing even though we may think He is inactive. As we study the story of Christmas traced through Scripture, we discover great hope and joy.

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San Antonio, TX

2014 CPFI Prayer Breakfast at the American Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting & Exposition Orlando, FL

Conference: March 28 to March 31, 2014
CPFI Prayer Breakfast: Sunday March 30, 2014 from 7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.
Prayer Breakfast location: Orange County Convention Center, Rm 308A-B
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