

M A R C H 13 2022

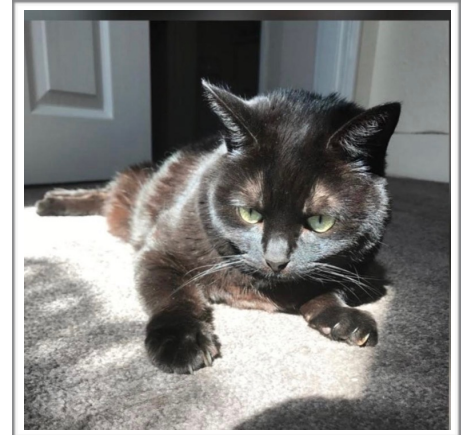


And if we know that He hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of Him. 1 John 5:15 (NIV).

Thought for today...

King David began his day by praying: “In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I plead my case to You and watch expectantly.” Psalm 5:3 (Christian Standard Bible). David was confident that his God would not simply hear his prayer, but that He would answer.

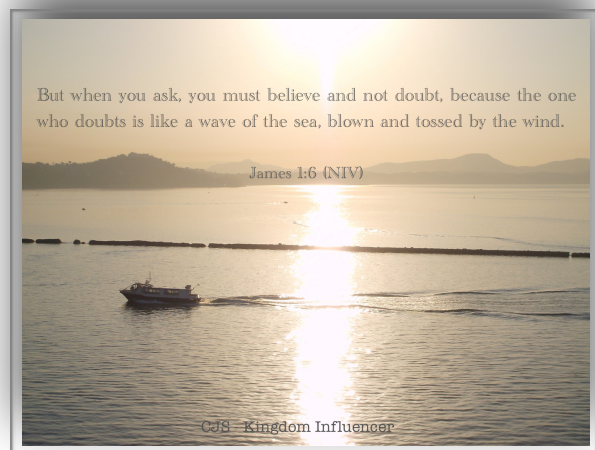
How does one wait expectantly? My cat Samson decided to show me. On seeing me retrieve a carton of cream from the fridge and having vocalised his request to partake of some, he proceeded to sit comfortably. Undeterred by my delay, he sat contentedly, watching and waiting. He did not fret or concern himself with the process of how the cream would move from point ‘A’ to its final point ‘B’ destination (him), his sole interest lay in savouring the expected treat.



Observing his expectancy, I questioned whether my approach to my Heavenly Father was in the same vein. Do I pray with a plan B tucked up my sleeve just in case God doesn't come through (in time), or do I pray and watch expectantly, believing that I have what I have asked for?

Jesus said to His disciples “... Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.” Mark 11:22-24 (NKJV).

A problem arose at work last week. Quickly assessing the situation and what likely remedies lay at my disposal, I knew that the solution to my problem lay in me being able to demonstrate that I met specific criteria, which I knew I did not meet. Due to this fact, I was resigned to think that there was no point in pleading my case. Reminding myself of what Jesus said, I decided to pray, stretching my faith to believe that I would receive what I had asked for. Of course, Satan the great deceiver said “Why bother ask when you already know the outcome? You know you don’t meet the criteria so you’d best start looking for an alternative solution.” As I began to speak God’s Word to myself, it brought peace and a certain ‘knowing’ that God had not simply heard my prayer, He had granted my petition. Despite this, I was almost tempted to formulate a plan B! James 4:7 instructs: ‘... **submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.**’ The next day, despite not meeting the criteria, I was informed that my request had been granted.



‘We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, God listens to him.’ John 9:31 (ESV). ‘And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.’

1 John 3:22 (NKJV). Follower of Christ, do you pray with great expectations?