

Partners In Courage, September 2014

FAITH APPROPRIATES

GRACE

Sermon by Wes Daughenbaugh

INTRODUCTION: A problem mixed with the grace of God becomes a miracle. The bigger the problem, the more the grace and the bigger the miracle. These are two of twelve faith concepts from the words of Jesus, chapters one and seven in my book FAITH CONCEPTS OF JESUS.

The last several months I've become acutely aware that many terrible external problems are coming to America, and to the world in general, but specifically to America. Prophetic insights from Scripture show me that judgment by fire is coming to America, and that national destruction is near. Combine that with a daily dose of news that tells of the present problems, and a person can become overwhelmed.

However, God says that all things work together for good to those who love God, (Romans 8:28). It also says **“The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day”** (Proverbs 4:18). Scriptures say, “Many are the afflictions of the righteous but the Lord delivers them out of them all (Psalms 34:19). Jesus said, “When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near” (Luke 21:28). Jesus also said, “You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come (Matthew 24:6).

Clearly, God wants His people to be rejoicing and have a positive mind-set. He wants us to be free from fear of all things except the pure fear of the Lord. He wants us to be expecting good things from Him, in the midst of a world where sin has gone to seed, a world now coming under God's judgment.

When I inquired of the Lord as to how He wanted me to think about all these things He taught me to think about His grace. 1 Peter 1:13 **Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled, set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.** (*I urge you to memorize this verse!*)

He taught me that Jesus Christ can be revealed on any day in any situation as the Deliverer, Healer, Provider, Rescuer, Protector and Good Shepherd. *Therefore, I should continually be thinking about how much grace God has to mix into all these problems, from the greatest to the smallest.* In that way, I would remain joyful, positive, and expectant of good things.

I've memorized 2 Corinthians 9:8, and I urge you to memorize this verse also. **And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work** (2 Corinthians 9:8).

This led me to pray asking God to help me learn everything about APPROPRIATING GOD'S GRACE. *After all, if God has placed an ocean of grace above our heads to make it available to us in times like these, we need to know how to tap into it.* In fact, we need to become proficient experts at appropriating God's grace. I feel certain that there is a lot to learn about appropriating grace. But one thing stands out above all others, and that is that faith in God is the number one way to appropriate the grace that turns problems into miracles.

1. FAITH APPROPRIATES GRACE.

Ephesians 2:8-9 **For by grace are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, not of works, so that no one can boast.** We could say, “For by grace are you delivered through faith. By grace are you provided for through faith. By grace are you protected through faith. By grace are you sustained through faith. By grace are you healed through faith.

**** Which is more important to your life, air to breath or your lungs? Well, neither is more important. If there is air to breath but you have no lungs then you can't appropriate and make use of the air. If you have lungs but there is no air to breath you would die. So both are needed. In the same way, grace is like the air and faith is like your lungs. Faith will help you take in, breath in God's grace and mix it throughout your life and situations.

**** Kenneth E. Hagin wrote a book called I BELIEVE IN VISIONS. In that book he related the various times Jesus appeared to him. Chapter 5 is only two pages, but in this brief chapter he tells that Jesus appeared to him one night and said, “I have come to answer your prayer.” Brother Hagin had been praying for his wife, who had a goiter. It was growing larger to the point she was having choking spells. From the time they were first married, he had sensed in his spirit that Oretha would die at an early age. She also told him that she had known for several years that she would die when she was operated on for this goiter. Their perceptions were correct, because in the vision Jesus said to him, “She will live and not die. According to the natural course of events without divine intervention, she would die. But I have heard your prayers and have come to answer them. She shall live.”

Then Jesus said these important words to him. “I did this, son, just because you asked Me to. You don't know how I long to do good for my children if they would only ask Me and believe Me. Many times they beg and cry and pray, but they don't believe. And I cannot answer their prayers unless they have faith, because I cannot violate my Word. But how often I long to help them if only they would let Me by taking Me at My Word and bringing Me their problems, trusting Me to undertake for them.” (Page 84)

Brother Hagin did two things that appropriated God's grace in this case. He asked God for the grace to see his wife healed. He believed that God blessed obedience and he had reminded God how he left his church to travel as a prophet and teacher. The Bible says, **“If you are willing and obedient you will eat the good things of the land; but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword”** (Isaiah 1:19). Through His appearing, Jesus gave Brother Hagen and his wife the necessary faith to proceed with the needed surgery. He said, “Tell your wife to be operated on, for she will live and not die.” This was the revelation of His will that delivered perfect faith on a platter. God had named it, and all they had to do was claim it by proceeding with the surgery. His wife had the surgery, and lived. By having the surgery, they were acting on this revelation of God's will, demonstrating their faith through action, claiming what God had named. By the way, she outlived her husband. He died in his late 80's.

2. THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF FAITH

The first kind is a general faith in God's goodness. This is acquired through the knowledge of God's word as we study His character. It is acted out by not grumbling, griping or complaining. When we praise God for His goodness we are operating in this general kind of faith. This often paves the way for us to acquire a higher form of faith that is the result of a clear revelation of God's will. When God clearly reveals His will, as He did in this vision to Brother Hagen, then we have spectacular miraculous faith, if we claim through our words and actions what God has named.

The idea that a lesser faith could lead to a greater faith is important. We could sit around waiting for Jesus to appear and clearly reveal His will to us, giving us faith for anything. But it would be wiser to develop our general faith, the lesser kind, by reading His word, feeding upon His word, and practicing habits of thanksgiving and praise. If this lesser kind of faith is the only way to get to the greater kind of faith, then it must be very important.

Any kind of faith comes from a revelation of God's will. As we read God's word, we get a general idea of just how good His will is. As we rejoice and believe God's promises, this first and

general kind of faith can bring us to experiences where we receive direct revelation of God's will. Nothing can stop us when we receive this higher revelation of God will. So what is stopping us then? What is stopping us is neglect, on our part, to develop our general kind of faith.

My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding—indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God (Proverbs 2:1-5).

I believe it is accurate to call the first kind of general faith “the knowledge of God.” Having this, you will know a lot about God's will, because you will know a lot about what God is like, that He is good, generous, and delights in helping His own.

“I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me. I will rejoice in doing them good and will assuredly plant them in this land with all my heart and soul,” (Jeremiah 32:40-41).

Meditating on a verse like this is a good way to increase your knowledge of God. It shows us that in all things at all times God is working for our good, non-stop, no matter what things look like. It shows us that God gets His joy out of doing good for His own people. It shows us that He will establish us in victory with all His heart and soul. Knowing that leads us to ask Him to help us, just as Kenneth E. Hagin asked Jesus to allow his wife to live and not die at a young age.

However, few Christians are serious about developing this general kind of faith. Go back to Proverbs 2:1-5 and look for the word IF. **“IF YOU ACCEPT MY WORDS AND STORE UP MY COMMANDMENTS WITHIN YOU” “IF YOU TURN YOUR EAR TO WISDOM AND APPLY YOUR HEART TO UNDERSTANDING” “IF YOU CALL OUT FOR INSIGHT AND CRY ALOUD FOR UNDERSTANDING” “IF YOU LOOK FOR IT AS FOR SILVER AND SEARCH FOR IT AS FOR HIDDEN TREASURE”** Then is when you will develop this general kind of faith, the knowledge of God.

The development of this general kind of faith is so important that God places it's value above developing your body at the gym with regular disciplined exercise. He puts the value of the knowledge of God far above getting a secular degree from a University. He puts the value of the knowledge of God far above financial profit from any source. Jeremiah 9:23-24 **This is what the Lord says: “Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,” declares the Lord.** Yet most Christians, if they really go after something, go after health, wealth, and education. Yet these things do not provide the greatest security. What provides the greatest kind of security is a well developed general faith, a full knowledge of God, that can lead us, when we need it, to a higher kind of faith, a direct revelation of God's specific will in a certain moment and place. Psalms 84:7 **They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion. 2 Corinthians 3:18** **And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.**

2 Thessalonians 1:3 **We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing.** These three verses show us that we should be growing in our knowledge of God.

**** In the early 1980's, Jeanie Mayo, a powerful woman of God, once spoke at the Iowa Sunday School Convention for the Assemblies of God. In that meeting she told us that our ministry flowed from our knowledge of God. She said that she kept a notebook and kept writing down the new things she was learning about God. She said if we quit learning new things about God our anointing

would dry up. I went to the altar to pray and cried out with great passion that I wanted to KNOW God. So let's examine our hearts. Look at the gauge that measures your passion level to know God. Is it on full? Is it getting low, in need of a refill? Has the needle gone below the E for empty? How do we expect to be given direct revelation of God's will if we have no passion to know Him and know His heart?

**** Moses had seen a burning bush, heard God's voice many times, and been used over and over in the gift of miracles. Yet he maintained a passion to know God. Here is his prayer, found in Exodus 33:13, **"If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people."** He maintained a miracle anointing his entire life because he never lost his passion to keep knowing God in an ever-increasing intimacy.

3. GOD MEETS NEEDS ACCORDING TO FAITH, NOT THE NEED.

Telling God how much you need Him and how dependent you are upon Him is a good thing. We boast in our weaknesses so that Christ's power may rest upon us. (2 Corinthians 12:10) But trying to get a prayer answered only on the basis of getting God to take pity on us by our wailing, whining, and complaining is not the way to appropriate grace. This is worth repeating. Jesus said to Brother Hagin, "I did this, son, just because you asked Me to. You don't know how I long to do good for my children if they would only ask Me and believe Me. Many times they beg and cry and pray, but they don't believe. And I cannot answer their prayers unless they have faith, because I cannot violate my Word. But how often I long to help them if only they would let Me by taking Me at My word and bringing me their problems, trusting Me to undertake for them."

In Nazareth there were plenty of desperately ill people. But the Bible says, **"He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them"** (Mark 6:5). Even with his unlimited anointing, Jesus could do very little for those people because they had no faith in him. *Your need, by itself, even if articulately expressed will not appropriate the grace to change it into a miracle. Only faith will appropriate the needed grace.*

**** Isn't it quite common for people to be angry at God? "He could if He wanted to," people reason. But He can't violate His own word. **"Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith"** (Habakkuk 2:4). *So rather than get angry at God as if He doesn't want to deliver a miracle, we should check our ability to appropriate God's grace.* Most likely, we could do much better in developing our general faith by abiding in God's word, by praising Him and telling Him that we know He is good and that we are confident He greatly enjoys blessing His people.

Here are some other verses saying the same thing. **"For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.'"** (Romans 1:17).

"Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him," (Hebrews 10:38). As you develop your general faith in His goodness this will bring you along to the greater revelations of His will and those will give you perfect miraculous faith.

**** Which is more important, heaven, or the way to heaven? That's like asking, which is more important to life, air to breath or lungs? Similarly, the way to greater faith is just as important as the greater faith. So develop your general faith with new vigor and determination. Eat God's Word.

"When Your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and heart's delight" (Jeremiah 15:16).

"If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given to you," (John 15:5)

4. REPENTING OF UNBELIEF IS A GOOD IDEA.

Repentance is our best friend. 1 John 1:8-9 **If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."**

We should tell the Lord, "Father, I am so sorry for all the times I've whined and complained and begged and pleaded to you but only as an expression of unbelief instead of an expression of faith. I ask you to forgive me and cleanse me from whining, complaining, doubting, pouting, along with every form of unbelief. Please help me become aware of every word or action that is expressing unbelief and doubt so that I can quickly turn from it. Convict me by Your Holy Spirit of these things and change me. Sanctify me."

**** In the early 1980's I had become a young lead pastor. God had done many things to help me and I had come to believe in His great goodness. *One day I said, "Lord, you are so good that I believe you probably want to heal my feet, but I think my unbelief is hindering you. I ask you to forgive me for unbelief, and forgive me for the unbelief of my fathers. Cleanse me from unbelief."*

I prayed that prayer daily, several times a day, for about one year. Then one night when a prophetic lady was ministering at my church she was led to say, "There is someone here who was born without arches in your feet. If you'll come forward, God will put arches in your feet."

That night my flat feet were healed. God bent my feet and put arches in them. I used to have to get up in the night and ice my feet because of the terrible pain. I had to keep them uncovered, because the warmth of covers made them hurt. I had to elevate them out of a hot tub because the hot water would make them hurt. I had to put ice cubes in the bathtub and take a shower standing in ice water so that no hot water would cause me feet to hurt.

Now, for all these years since 1982, I have enjoyed feet that have arches. HAVE YOU EVER ASKED GOD TO FORGIVE YOU FOR UNBELIEF? HAVE YOU ASKED GOD TO CLEANSE YOU FROM UNBELIEF? Have you come to detest unbelief and want to be clean from it's slimy, grimy defilement? Many are so used to unbelief that the expression of it through grumbling and complaining doesn't trip their spiritual alarm signals. Thus, being *unaware* that their unbelief is preventing them from getting miracles, they conclude that God doesn't want to help them. Nothing could be further from the truth. Why not tell the Lord you are sick of worry, fear, anxiety, apprehension, doubt and every form of unbelief? Tell Him that you want faith, hope, trust, praise, anticipation of His coming grace, and an even greater revelation of His will. *What you want can have you. What you don't want can't keep you. Unbelief can't keep you in its grip if you don't want it.* Reject it, renounce it, repent of it, and God will be faithful to cleanse you from it.

5. EXPRESS THE FAITH THAT YOU HAVE WITH THANKSGIVING.

Psalm 50:23 NIV **He who sacrifices thank offerings honors me, and he prepares the way so that I may show him the salvation of God.**

My edition of the NIV Bible has this translation and the phrase, "**he prepares the way so that I may show him the salvation of God.**" I've tried to find this in the newer editions of the NIV and other translations, but I haven't found one. This is a favorite verse with me. Here's why. When we thank God we are expressing a general kind of faith in His goodness. This prepares the way for God to bring us to a more exact revelation of His will, which presents to us the highest kind of faith, an absolute knowing of His specific will for a particular situation or need.

**** For instance, often in my meetings someone will ask for me to pray for healing. Often there is a tangible anointing of holy fire in my hands. But if that is not evident when I start to pray for someone, I start by thanking God for His goodness. I thank the Holy Spirit for His desire to bring glory to Jesus by taking from the treasuries of healing that belong to Jesus and making them known to us. (John 16:14 **He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.**) I thank God that He loves the person I'm praying for and delights in doing good to them. Usually after just a few sentences of this kind of praying the anointing increases in my hands so that both I and the person I'm praying for feel a supernatural heat of healing power. The thanksgiving

and honoring God with thanksgiving prepares the way for a greater manifestation of God's saving, healing power.

Psalm 50:14-15 Sacrifice thank offerings to God, fulfill your vows to the Most High, and call upon me in the day of trouble; and I will deliver you, and you will honor me.” We need to honor God with all the general faith that we have from our knowledge of Him. As we honor God in the best way we know how to, He will give us more grace. He will reveal His will more clearly so that we can appropriate more grace, and have an even greater testimony with which to honor Him.

**** *Thank offerings can be financial or verbal.* The idea is to give something to God that honors Him from the gratitude of your heart. Thanking Him for His goodness honors him. Old Testament thank offerings were literal offerings of animals, not given for a sacrifice for sin, but as an expression of thankfulness to God. They were valuable, and cost money. In our day, we just give money, since animal sacrifice has been done away with. But the idea is the same. Honor God and that expression of faith will prepare the way to an even greater faith that appropriates even greater grace.

No wonder the Bible says, **“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,”** (Ephesians 5:18-20).

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name (Hebrews 13:15).

6. AGGRESSIVELY USE THE FAITH YOU HAVE.

We must act on the revelation of God's will that we already have so that, if needed, God will give us an even more precise revelation of His will. If we are not using the faith we already have, then God will not give us any greater faith. *This is one reason that some people seem to have more faith than others. They are adept at acting on the faith that they have and using it fully.* To them God gives even greater revelations of His will and a more clear leading from His Spirit. This results in greater faith appropriating greater grace.

**** One of the greatest examples of this is that of Jonathan, son of King Saul. Only King Saul and Jonathan had swords. Only 600 men remained in the army of King Saul. The Philistines had amassed for battle and were well equipped. In this kind of desperate situation Jonathan used the faith that he had to the max.

Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, **“Come, let's go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised fellows. Perhaps the Lord will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few”** (1 Samuel 14: 6). Notice that Jonathan had a general knowledge of God, a general kind of faith. “Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few.” But we can see that he didn't have specific faith for this battle because he said, “Perhaps the Lord will act in our behalf.”

The Philistine outpost was on top of a cliff. Jonathan said, **“Come, then; we will cross over toward the men and let them see us. If they say to us, ‘Wait there until we come to you,’ we will stay where we are and not go up to them. But if they say, ‘Come up to us,’ we will climb up, because that will be our sign that the Lord has given them into our hands”** (1 Samuel 14:8-10). Notice, Jonathan NEEDED a sign from God, a more precise revelation of His will that would give him the faith to appropriate grace for victory.

**** I believe that Jonathan was looking for a sign of cowardice on the part of the Philistines, which would be evidence of the fear of God falling upon them. If they were really confident, they would come down the cliff to fight these two men. But if God was already troubling them with fear, the best they could do would be to say, “Climb up to us.”

The Philistines did say, **“Look! The Hebrews are crawling out of the holes they were hiding in. Come up to us and we'll teach you a lesson”** (1 Samuel 14:11-12). Jonathan, who was spiritually perceptive, recognized that they had fear in their voices, that they lacked the confidence to

come down to them, and he concluded that God's presence was making them tremble. At that point, God's Spirit gave Jonathan a clear revelation of His will. Jonathan immediately claimed what God was naming by saying to his armor bearer, **"Climb up after me; the Lord has given them into the hand of Israel"** (1 Samuel 14:12). Now it is no longer the expression of general faith, "Perhaps the Lord will act in our behalf." Now it is the full knowing of God's will. "The Lord has given them into the hand of Israel."

As Jonathan and his armor bearer came to the top of the cliff, the power of God knocked the Philistines to the ground. The Bible says, **"They fell before Jonathan."** These twenty Philistines warriors were knocked to the ground by the power and presence of God. Jonathan and his armor bearer killed them quickly. That's when panic struck the entire Philistine army, and this panic from God threw them into total confusion so that they were striking each other with their swords.

**** We often read these stories and completely miss the lesson. The point is, Jonathan had some faith and acted upon it. By his words and actions he showed that he did believe God was a covenant keeping God. By calling the Philistines, "Those uncircumcised fellows" he was saying that they were NOT in covenant with God. He honored God by his words and actions because of that, God revealed His will clearly. Then Jonathan KNEW that God had given the Philistines into the hands of Israel, even before the battle started. Still, he had to resist fear as he climbed the cliff. He had to claim what God had named.

But again, my point is that he started off with an imperfect faith that said, "Perhaps the Lord will act on our behalf" and God helped him have the perfect faith of "God has given the Philistine army into the hands of Israel." His expression of general faith had prepared the way for God to show him the salvation of God.

7. HERE'S SOME OTHER BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

During the reign of King Jehoshaphat of Judah three enemy nations united to make war against them. It was a vast army. Jehoshaphat had a very large army himself, of about one million men. Yet in prayer he said, "We have no power to face this vast army." So apparently, it was two or three times bigger than his army.

When told that a vast army was coming against him, Jehoshaphat called a fast and led his assembled people in prayer. His prayer shows an expression of general faith.

"Lord, the God of our ancestors, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you. Our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? They have lived in it and have built in it a sanctuary for your Name, saying, 'If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment, or plague or famine, we will stand in your presence before this temple that bears your Name and will cry out to you in our distress, and you will hear us and save us.' "But now here are men from Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, whose territory you would not allow Israel to invade when they came from Egypt; so they turned away from them and did not destroy them. See how they are repaying us by coming to drive us out of the possession you gave us as an inheritance. Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you" (2 Chronicles 20:6-12).

After the expression of this general faith the power of God came upon a prophetic person. He prophesied, "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! **This is what the Lord says to you: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's.** Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel. You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you" (2 Chronicles 20:15-17).

This word was so anointed and specific that the King and all the people knew it was God speaking. It served them faith on a platter! It was a higher revelation of God's will and was very specific about what to do and where to meet the enemy. But what God names still has to be claimed and fear still has to be resisted. King Jehoshaphat acted on this direct revelation of God's will by saying to the troops, **"Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the Lord your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful."**

Then he appointed singers to go out ahead of the army, praising God and singing, **"Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever."** The Bible says, **"As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated.** The men of Ammon and Moab rose up against the men from Mount Seir to destroy and annihilate them. After they finished slaughtering the men from Seir, they helped to destroy one another" (2 Chronicles 20:22-23).

The victory was so complete that there were NO survivors at all from this vast army! It took Jehoshaphat and his people three days to carry away all the equipment, clothing and articles of value. They completed the miracle by giving God all the glory as they went to the temple and celebrated before the Lord with musical instruments. (Verses 27-28). We see that it pays off big time to have a highly developed general faith that thanks God, asks for His help, and looks to Him in times of crisis. This honoring of God prepares the way for God to reveal His will more specifically, which gives a higher kind of faith, a perfect faith, able to appropriate all the grace necessary for any size of problem, no matter how great!

**** When Daniel heard that the King of Persia had signed a law saying that anyone who prayed to any god except the king for 30 days would be thrown into a den of hungry lions. Daniel's habit was to pray and thank God three times a day. In the face of this crisis he just continued to express this general kind of faith, looking to God, asking for His help, and thanking Him for all His goodness. At some point Daniel received that higher revelation of God's will because he clearly received a gift of faith, so that an angel appeared to shut the lions' mouths and he suffered no harm. By continuing to pray and thank God he was taking his general faith as far as he could take it and then God supplied an even higher kind of faith to appropriate more grace. (See Daniel, Chapter 6)

CONCLUSION:

God isn't going to meet your needs just because you are needy. He will meet them if you believe and express faith. If your faith is like Jonathan's, a PERHAPS THE LORD WILL ACT ON OUR BEHALF kind of faith, then move on that until it is all used up and God will give you an even higher kind of faith, from a specific revelation of His will.

Because of coming judgments and crisis, it is imperative that God's people develop their general kind of faith, THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, and maintain this with lots of thanksgiving to God. The thanksgiving may be done with an actual THANK OFFERING, but whatever you do, HONOR the Lord with your words, attitudes and actions. Remember, ask God in faith. He delights in doing good for His people. Keep your passion to KNOW God and you'll have ever increasing faith. Jesus says to us all, **"Don't be afraid; just believe"** (Mark 5:36) and again, **"Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"** (John 11:40).

I LOVE YOU. GOD BLESS YOU.