

# 7 DAYS ABLAZE

# UNSTOPPABLE

# Faith

*“Keep on asking, and you  
will be given what you ask for.  
Keep on looking, and you will find.  
Keep on knocking,  
and the door will be opened.  
For everyone who asks, receives.  
Everyone who seeks, finds.  
And the door is opened  
to everyone who knocks.”* Matthew 7:7-8



When Jesus left Galilee and went north to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Gentile woman who lived there came to him, pleading, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! For my daughter is possessed by a demon that torments her severely.”

But Jesus gave her no reply, not even a word. Then his disciples urged him to send her away. “Tell her to go away,” they said. “She is bothering us with all her begging.”

Then Jesus said to the woman, “I was sent only to help God’s lost sheep—the people of Israel.”

But she came and worshiped him, pleading again, “Lord, help me!”

Jesus responded, “It isn’t right to take food from the children and throw it to the dogs.”

She replied, “That’s true, Lord, but even dogs are allowed to eat the scraps that fall beneath their masters’ table.”

“Dear woman,” Jesus said to her, “your faith is great. Your request is granted.” And her daughter was instantly healed.

This passage from Matthew 15 gives us amazing insight into answered prayer.

We read that a Gentile woman came to Jesus pleading for her daughter. “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! For my daughter has a demon in her and it is severely tormenting her.”

And then something unexpected happened... Jesus gave her no reply—not even a word!

Has this ever happened to you? Have you ever prayed and felt God refused to respond? What do you do when God says nothing? It is easy to become discouraged and believe our cause is hopeless. But, when Jesus doesn't answer you, what is He really doing?

The disciples wanted Jesus to get rid of her. “She's bothering us with all her begging!” they told Him. Instead, Jesus said to the woman that He didn't come to help the Gentiles—His mission was to help the people of Israel. But that didn't stop the Gentile woman. The Bible tells us she came to Him and worshiped Him and pleaded again, “Lord, help me!” I suppose the average person might have said, “Well, rules are rules... the Son of God said ‘I was sent to Israel’ so I won't bother Him anymore.” But, unstoppable faith doesn't look at the roadblock or the obstacle—unstoppable faith continues to worship God and pleads for His help.

Jesus, seeing the woman was undeterred, heightened the barrier. “It isn't right to take food from the children and throw it to the dogs.” At this point the woman could easily have become

angry. After all, not only was He not granting her request, He now insulted her as well, calling her a Canaanite dog. She could have called Him callous, and a hypocrite. She could have said in her heart, “No God should talk to me like that!” She could have stormed away, abandoned and without hope. But instead, something wonderful happened.

The woman didn’t argue, she agreed with Jesus. She said, “Yes, Lord, but even dogs are permitted to eat the crumbs that fall from the master’s table.” She wanted an answer and she wasn’t going to let an insult, a rule of the day, or indifferent disciples stand in her way. She wanted her daughter delivered. Immediately Jesus said to her, “Woman, your faith is great. Your request is granted!” And her daughter was instantly healed.

If we want to get answers to prayer, that’s the way to pray. There may be silence. There may be roadblocks. There may be indifference from people around us—even other Christians. The Bible tells us “the kingdom of heaven suffers violence and the violent take it by storm” (see Matthew 11:12). There are times when we have to press in to God. We must keep on praying, keep on knocking, and keep on asking. There are times when we can’t let anything deter us. There may be obstacles in the way. Knock them down and keep going. There may be a roadblock—get it out of the way! We must press in to God.

Now, there are times when the Lord says, “I’m sorry, it won’t do you any good to ask, because your request will actually hurt you.” There are times when

God clearly says no. In those times we must continue to worship God and thank Him for His answer. But in the times when God is silent we must continue to believe for our request. Because unstoppable faith says, “If I get to Jesus, He is powerful enough to do what I need and I’m not going to stop praying until I get the answer.” And that is what we need to do today. We need to lay hold of God. We need to believe that He can do the impossible. We need to know that He hears us, and pray with persistence and passion.

God is not callous, and He is no respecter of persons. He is not too busy to notice you or come to your aid. God has a plan for each one of us, and His plan involves the building of our faith. There are times when God will wait, when He may seem silent. These can be tremendous times of growth as God teaches us to build our spiritual muscles. Will you trust God in these times? Will you exercise unstoppable faith in His power and goodness? If you persevere you will come through the trial a stronger person and follower of Christ. Hebrews 11 tells us it is impossible to please God without faith. Throughout the Gospels we see examples of Jesus responding to people when He encountered their great faith.

Faith is precious to God. Your faith is so precious to God, He will allow circumstances to arise that will test your trust in Him. Let us be unstoppable, then, in our faith and in our desire to please Him.

## Hebrews 11:6

“So, you see it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that there is a God and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him.”

## Romans 3:22

“We are made right in God’s sight when we trust in Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in the same way, no matter who we are or what we have done.”

## Luke 8:45-48

“Who touched me?” Jesus asked. Everyone denied it, and Peter said, “Master, this whole crowd is pressing up against you.” But Jesus told him, “No, someone deliberately touched me, for I felt healing power go out from me.” When the woman realized that Jesus knew, she began to tremble and fell to her knees before Him. The whole crowd heard her explain that she had touched him and that she had been immediately healed. “Daughter,” he said, “your faith has made you well. Go in peace.”

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