

# The Exchanger

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THE NEWSLETTER  
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**The Mission of  
FBCWR:**  
*Connecting People to  
God's Life-Changing  
Power*

*We've Got  
Connections!*

"It shall be done  
to you  
according to your  
faith."

*-Jesus Christ,  
Matthew 9:29*

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## Why Won't God Answer?

The old saying about deals usually holds true, "If a deal seems too good to be true, it probably is." Ninety-nine percent of the time amazing deals are either illegal, untrue or a setup to separate you from your money. Yet I wonder, do the amazing promises which Jesus made about prayer fall into the "too good to be true" category?

### Did Jesus Say That?

There is often a disconnect between current teaching and Jesus' teaching on prayer. One vocal extreme seems to promote "Name it, Claim it", a.k.a. "Blab it, Grab it", a belief that God is a submissive genie, fulfilling every desire. This emphasis seems to be at odds with James' warning - the Lord refuses to cater to our selfish ambitions (James 4:3).

Equally extreme is the belief that we must not press God with any desires. According to this teaching, even Jesus would be out of line when He made the outrageous statement, "All things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive" (Matthew 21:22).

### So Why Doesn't God Answer?

Jesus had many exchanges on prayer with his disciples. One of the most enlightening and instructive was the disciple's repeated and unsuccessful attempts to cast out a demon. Here, Jesus explains why the disciples whiffed while His prayer was answered immediately. Now would you rather be on Jesus' level in prayer or the disciples' level?

Let's break down this passage in Matthew 17:17-21. "*Jesus answered and said, "You unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him here to Me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured at once*". Whew! I hate to be Captain Obvious here, but Jesus was not very understanding of their shortcoming. He evidently demands His followers have miracle-producing faith. But how do we develop that

faith? "*Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, 'Why could we not drive it out?' And He said to them, 'Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, "Move from here to there," and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. But this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.*"

We often conclude God doesn't answer because He is not willing. Yet here the reason for unanswered prayer has nothing to do with God's willingness—it has everything to do with our too small faith. How do we grow in faith? It's very simple—**fasting and praying**.



### FBCWR Application

So for the 14 days leading up to this Easter, March 13-27, the elders at Fellowship Bible Church want to do everything we can to promote awesome miracles at our church. We are calling for "**14 Days of Prayer and Fasting**", a church wide, concerted movement of prayer *and* fasting to bring us into line with Jesus' requirements for miracles. Two years ago, the Lord healed me from cancer and several others in our church also had significant physical healings. We want those miracles to be the tip of the iceberg at FBCWR. We want to see more, not the least of which is the miracle of new birth—watching the population of heaven grow because the Lord is using **us** to lead new people to Himself.

*-Joe For-*