

## **A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE LETTER OF JAMES**

### **PRAY IN FAITH WITH CONFIDENCE**

James 1:6 “But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.”

Starting with verse 5 James encourages Christians, especially those who are struggling, to go to God in prayer. James exhorts “let him ask God (verse 5)” with the exhortation to “ask in faith with no doubts. . . (verse 6.)” To pray in faith with no doubts means that I believe God can and I believe God will answer my prayer(s) insofar as it’s consistent with His will and His glory, because God is good. St. John wrote, “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.” (1 John 5:14) And St. Paul wrote, “The (Holy) Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.”

The Holy Scriptures assure you that God hears and answers your prayers and those of all Christians. He does so in His own way and in His own time. God says through the pen of Isaiah, “Before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear.” (Isaiah 65:24) He further promises, “Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor Me.” (Psalm 50:15) “I will be a Father to you, and you will be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” (2 Corinthians 6:18) Therefore the writer to the Hebrews exhorts, “. . . approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” And, the Psalmist says “As a father has compassion on His children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him.” (Psalm 103:13)

God gives generously to all who ask in faith no matter who they are or even what sins they have committed. Praying to God in faith, trusting His promises, you can be confident He will hear your prayers and answer them according to His will and for your good. This Jesus said when He taught through His prayer to pray “Our Father, who art in heaven. . .” Luther says, “With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children,

so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.” (Small Catechism, Introduction to the Lord’s Prayer.)

Prayer: Grant me faith in You, dear Father, to speak my prayers confident You will hear and answer my prayers for Jesus’ sake. In His name I pray this. Amen.

In holy conversation We speak to God in prayer,  
And at His invitation Our deepest thoughts we share.  
We come, His will obeying, As children bringing needs;  
And to support our praying, His Spirit intercedes.

These holy conversations Begin in childlike ways;  
We bring our supplications And words of thanks and praise.  
With care our Father listens To ev’ry thought expressed,  
Then answers our petitions In ways He knows are best.

As holy conversation, In silence or by word,  
In ev’ry situation Through Jesus, we are heard.  
So let us pray securely, Expressing hopes and fears  
With confidence that surely Our Father ever hears.  
(LSB 772)