

Pastor Corey said that the following verses are often taken out of context:

Mark 9:23 *“all things are possible to him who believes.”*

Psalms 84:11, *“no good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.”*

Matthew 19:26, *“with man it is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”*

Mark 11:24, *“whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it and it will be yours.”*

Philippians 4:13, *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*

Read these above passages (not just the verse).

Can you explain the broader context of the verses?

What do the verses offer in the way of promise, principle, or precept?

Why is it “dangerous and heretical” to misuse these verses?

There are those who would have you believe that with enough faith, you can convince God to do whatever you please. That misuse of a verse like Mark 9:23 would say that if you believe, you can breathe underwater!

That misuse of a verse like Mark 11:24 would suggest if you somehow say the magic words, “I RECEIVE IT!” after your bold request, that somehow God is beholden to your request no matter how absurd or contrary to His perfect wisdom.

Have you misused these verses or heard someone else misusing them?

A TEXT WITHOUT A CONTEXT IS A CON!

Read:

James 4:3

1 John 5:14

Mark 14:36

Isaiah 55:8-9

What is the common theme in these passages?

What do you think about this point Pastor Corey made about prayer:

- “If God knows what I’m going to ask before I ask it, why pray?”
- We pray not to get what we want but to want what God wants, and we do that with the awareness that He is sovereign and that He knows best.

Read Luke 18:1-8 and Luke 11:5-13

What is the main point here?

Read what Matthew Henry (1662-1714) writes is the main point:

That men ought always to pray, and not to faint. Not that God can be wrought upon by importunity; we cannot be troublesome to him, nor by being so change his counsels. We prevail with men by importunity because they are displeased with it, but with God because he is pleased with it.

Do you agree with Henry that the point is that God admires our persistence?

In what ways have you been persistent with God?

Can you tell that He is pleased with your persistence?

Do you believe that the only way you can experience His pleasure with your petition is for Him to give you what you want?

PROMISE

a declaration or assurance that one will do a particular thing or that a particular thing will happen.

PRINCIPLE

a fundamental truth or proposition that serves as the foundation for a system of belief or behavior or for a chain of reasoning.

PRECEPT

a general rule intended to regulate behavior or thought.