



# The Flame

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from GCCN Prayer Ministries

## Expecting from God

Ken Blue, author of *Authority to Heal*, recounted a night when he was home, weary from ministry. The knock on the door was not particularly welcome, but when he answered it, there stood a young neighborhood drug user.

He showed Ken an infected injection site, and added that he didn't want to go the hospital, because they would ask too many questions. He wondered if Ken would pray for him to be healed.

Ken admits he was less than enthusiastic, but almost in an effort to get rid of him, Ken prayed. To his surprise, the young man was healed almost instantly.

His account is a perfect example of expectant prayer, unless of course you believe that expectant prayer is about some great measure of faith in which you just *know* that the prayer will be answered. For the most part the prayer of expectation or the prayer of faith is thought to center on how strong the faith is, or put another way, how much faith someone has.

But in Ken Blue's case that seems not to apply. Ken admitted that he truly wasn't anticipating that his prayer would change much, if anything. He had no measure of enthusiasm for the whole event.

So why did God choose to heal the young man? Even more to the point, how does Ken's prayer qualify as expectant prayer?

Learning about expectant prayer begins and ends in an attitude of simple trust.

How much do we truly trust God? Trust is a choice, not a feeling. So when we pray, we are choosing to embrace the One who said He would not withhold any good thing from us. And He alone measures "good" from a perspective that is not limited by the wisps of time and space. He chooses to act in harmony with His own agenda to make Himself known and for us to recognize His power and authority and grace.

The prayer of faith centers on the confidence that God does not change.

## Taking Your Next Step

Begin this very day to approach your time of prayer as an act of confidence that God is who He says He is. You will inevitably be tempted to think of faith as something you can measure by how you feel or some impression you may or may not have. That is, in fact, a distraction.

Your prayer of faith is about your confidence that God sees clearly. When you pray, declaring that to be so keeps you focused where it should be. Center your thoughts on the one predictable and certain element of your faith: He who is the same yesterday, today and forever. Nothing about your prayer time could possibly lift you more than reveling in the surety that your faith comes not from what you feel or sense, but from acknowledging the unchangeable God.

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