

“I Know!” Vs “I Knew!”

Both Jesus and Martha were dealing with the same sad situation: the death of Lazarus, someone whom they both loved dearly. I would like to compare their spiritual position concerning what God can do in the midst of a crisis.

Martha’s Statements:

²¹ “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But **I know** that even now **God will** give you whatever you ask.” (John 11:21-22).

Jesus’ Statement:

Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² **I knew** that you always **hear me...**” (John 11:41-42).

Remember, both Martha and Jesus are dealing with a situation that they are facing IN THE PRESENT.

However, it seems as though each of their mind-sets as it relates to their EXPECTATIONS from God is different.

Martha is saying something like this: “ **I know** that **God will** do it!” So her faith is set in motion. She is hoping to expect her miracle from God IN THE FUTURE. I think and pray like Martha when I trust God to give me a breakthrough (in the future) concerning my present trials.

But Jesus’ mind-set with respect to what He expects from God appears different:

Jesus is saying something like this: “**I knew** that **God did it!**”

With Jesus, his prayer is one of thanksgiving because He believes that God has already answered his prayer even before he asks! It’s a done deal! Jesus said it in His opening line:

“Father, I thank you that **you have heard me.**”

I am going to change the way I pray from now on. My prayer will sound something like this

“Father I thank You because **I knew** that **you have already answered my prayer** concerning this problem...”

Instead of: “Father, I thank You because **I know** that **you will answer my prayer** concerning this problem.”

I am not saying that anything is wrong with the way that Martha prayed. Her prayers were still answered. However, I am learning that there are different **levels of faith** as illustrated in the different ways that Martha and Jesus prayed. Jesus only expects that we have faith the size of a mustard seed.....More on this in the next series. Be blessed.

Heavenly Father,

“I thank You that You have already heard my prayer concerning this problem (state problem(s)). For I knew that you always hear me. I give you all the praise and honour, in Jesus’ mighty name I pray. Amen.”

Memory Verse:

“Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me...” (John 11:41-42).