

When we are ill we can pray to Him that He will cure us, if it be His Will. We can pray, that if He has a purpose in our illness, if He has a lesson to teach us, if He has some reason beyond our knowledge for the tribulation, that He will work out that purpose. In the end it will be far better for us than if He had raised us up.

We read in the story of the Israelites ^{in an} at a place that they demanded something of the Lord and that He granted their desire but sent leanness into their souls. Sometimes we ask for material things, so insistently, with such intense so-called faith, that He grants our desires. But we would be far better off if we had instead received the much better things that He wanted to give us. God declared:

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

(Isaiah 55: 8 - 9).

"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

(Hebrews 11: 1).

The essence of faith is that it is faith in a person. It is confidence in God. God knows what we ask before we ask it. He is ready and anxious to give us blessings beyond what we can ask or think. Why then should we ask? ~~Firstly~~ because He has commanded it. He wants us to ask. Through this relation of prayer we come into the attitude toward