**Praying the Prayer of Faith or Is it the Prayer of Doubt and Unbelief?**

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1. **Introduction**

As a boy who had just given his life to the Lord at the age of thirteen, I had a deep hunger for everything that God had for me. My first question as a Christian though was, “What is prayer?” To me, prayer was a deep mysterious thing that I was certain would take many years of learning to understand. Or, maybe prayer required some kind of spiritual “super keys” for the mystery to be unlocked. Not only did I struggle with what prayer is and how to tap into it but over the many years since I was saved, I see that many Christians struggle with the same questions.

**How would you define prayer?**

I didn’t feel comfortable going to my pastor and I didn’t know anyone else that I felt like would understand prayer, except for Mrs. Riley! Down the street from the home where I grew up, was an elderly couple. He had worked for the “city”, rather the small town in which I lived but had suffered a major stroke. Mrs. Riley would sit him on the porch in his wheelchair on nice days and let him enjoy the weather and the goings on. Mrs. Riley was a quiet soul but you always knew she was firm in her faith toward Jesus Christ. She didn’t wear makeup, wore long dresses and put her hair in a bun on her head.

One day, when I saw Mr. and Mrs. Riley on their porch, I walked down to their house to talk to them. I explained to her that I had just given my life to the Lord Jesus Christ and I wanted to know how to pray. She went into the house and brought out two or three pieces of paper which were stapled together. She told me that, on these sheets of paper, prayer was explained and then she began to explain to me how **prayer is, in the easiest definition, simply communion and fellowship with God.** Well, it sounded too easy to me! I read the papers she had given me eagerly and then returned them, still not truly understanding what prayer was or how I was supposed to go about praying or what I was supposed to expect from my prayers. Thus began a long quest for me to understand prayer.

1. **Man’s Tradition vs. The Word of God**

My life as a Christian, which began at the age of thirteen was quickly derailed by the things of the world and after a year or so, I was back to the same way of living as I had lived before. I soon stopped attending church and didn’t think much about prayer until five years later.

I graduated high school at the age of seventeen, not because I am overly brilliant or worked hard to get all my credits finished early but because I was enrolled into school a year earlier than all of my other classmates. I began school in Oklahoma and when I was in third grade, we moved to Texas where I finished high school. I would not turn eighteen until the end of October of the year that I graduated. I had applied for several jobs and one job that I really wanted was with General Telephone but due to their insurance regulations I could not begin working for them until I was eighteen. So, on my birthday, I became an employee of the phone company and spent the next year living in motel rooms in the Texas and Oklahoma panhandles working ten hour days, six days a week. We got to come back home every third weekend. After that year, I bid for a cable splicer job and got it. While I was living on the road, I kept all my things at my mother and father’s house instead of wasting money on an apartment in which I would rarely reside. After getting the cable splicer job, things changed. I would be home every night so I found an apartment and moved twenty three miles from Spearman, Texas to Perryton, Texas where my job was.

As I would drive to work every morning, I would listen to a short segment on the local radio station by one of the pastors in town. My older brother had just succumbed to cancer and all kinds of questions about God, healing, and everything spiritual were raging in my head. The pastor’s messages were very clear and thought provoking. One day, I picked up the phone and called him.

While my brother lay in a hospital bed dying of cancer, he and I talked about the “faith healers” we had seen on television and had often imitated and mocked. I began to think that there may actually be some substance, maybe not to all of them, but maybe, just maybe, to some of them. Because of all of this, I began to read my Bible. Then I ran across a scripture that I had never heard a preacher talk about. James 5:14, 15 says that if any of you (Christians) are sick, they should call the elders of the church and when they pray and anoint that person with oil, they will be healed. I had an uncle that talked about healing but I never knew much more about it and I sure had never heard of praying for the sick or anointing them with oil spoken about from the pulpit, much less see anyone get healed.

I was so excited when I read those two scriptures that I picked up the phone and dialed the number of the church parsonage. I got the pastor on the line and I told him what I had just read and asked him if he would bring the elders and pray for my brother and anoint him with oil. To my utter dismay, he replied, “Well, we don’t really believe that.” Needless to say, I was dumbfounded. I always thought that Christians, especially ministers believed what their own book said!

At the age of eighteen, after meeting the new pastor in my new hometown, I had an incredible experience with Jesus! My life was completely changed forever at one very distinct moment. From that moment I began to earnestly seek God’s face and to study His Word! My belief that all Christians and especially their ministers believed their own book was turned to the harsh reality that many Christians and many ministers do not know anything more than just a few basics in their own book. I have even discovered that many of the things taught in our Sunday School classes and from our church pulpits is simply tradition that has been passed down from one unsuspecting and unlearned minister to another and then to the unsuspecting and unlearned lay people of the church.

Jesus had this very same problem with the scribes and Pharisees, the religious leaders, in his day. Look what he had to say about tradition:

**Mark 7:13 (Amplified Bible)**

*13Thus you are nullifying and making void and of no effect [the authority of] the Word of God through your tradition, which you [in turn] hand on. And many things of this kind you are doing.*

Why does tradition make the Word of God, which is supposed to the full of wonder working power, null, void and of no effect? Because it is not the Word, it is what someone somewhere spoke as gospel when it wasn’t. How are you going to know if what you hear is scriptural if you don’t study the Word of God for yourself? The answer to that question is, “You won’t.” You will be led about by every wind of doctrine (Eph. 4:14). Let me give you an example of a traditional teaching that has absolutely no credence or validity from the Bible.

The Apostle Paul wrote approximately two-thirds of the New Testament. Paul, in writing his second letter to the Christians in the church at Corinth says that he had a “thorn in the flesh” and after praying about it three times, God would not heal him. The general consensus is that Paul had some kind of eye disease. I have even heard one minister say he thinks that Paul may have contracted malaria and it affected his eyes. They are just not sure what that thorn may have really been.

Well, why don’t we go to the scriptures and see if there is anything that might tip us off as to what Paul’s thorn might have been.

**2 Corinthians 12:7**

*“And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me,”*

Yes, there it is in black and white, Paul’s thorn in the flesh but we still don’t know what it was. Unfortunately, because of man’s tradition, this is as far as most ministers go. They fail to read the rest of verse 7! Why? Perhaps because they were convinced by someone’s fancy preaching that Paul had a thorn in the flesh that was an eye problem and the preacher they heard was one of the best preachers they had ever heard. He might even be a preacher of great renown! But, guess what? When you put faith in man instead of God’s Word of God, Satan is going to lead you astray! Let’s examine the rest of verse 7 in chapter 12 of the book of Second Corinthians.

“a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.”

Do you see it? Paul tells exactly what the thorn in the flesh. The mystery is solved once and forever! The thorn in the flesh was a “messenger of Satan.” Why? He tells us earlier, “lest he be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations” and “lest I be exalted above measure.” Let’s look at the whole passage of scripture without breaking it up as so many well meaning believers have done.

*“And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.”*

Read it very carefully and it is very clear that because of the abundance of revelations Paul received from our Lord, Paul was “given” a “messenger of Satan” to keep him from getting the big head and becoming of no effect which could have led to his destruction (Proverbs 16:18). What is a “messenger of Satan?” First of all, there is no reason to believe that it might be an eye problem. Someone might as well say it was cancer, a broken leg, a cyst or anything else they can imagine. Taking a look at the Greek language will help us understand this more. The word translated “messenger” is “angelos” or angel. Paul was given an “angel of Satan”, or apparently, one of the fallen angels to buffet him. What does the word “buffet” mean in the Greek from which it was translated? “Kolaphizo” literally means to “rap with a fist.” It gives the meaning of constantly being hit and beat. So we see that instead of what tradition has taught us, that Paul had some kind of eye problem that God would not heal, he really was being buffeted and harassed by an evil angel.

Paul even gives us examples of what this buffeting entailed in 2 Corinthians 11:23-33. Paul talks of beatings, stoning, shipwreck and other horrible things that happened to him, undoubtedly because of the work of the “messenger of Satan.”

This is just one example of how even well meaning ministers and Christian lay people can be deceived. Now, if you have taught that Paul’s thorn was an eye problem, repent and make sure to study what the Bible says next time before you spread some of man’s tradition!

**1 Timothy 4 (New Living Translation)**

*16 Keep a close watch on how you live and on your teaching. Stay true to what is right for the sake of your own salvation and the salvation of those who hear you.*

1. **You Say You Believe, Do You Really?**

I will never forget the excitement I felt as I read the passage in James chapter 5 and saw that the Bible gives hope of healing. I will also never forget how let down I felt when the pastor told me that the church didn’t believe what James had to say. Even though I didn’t get saved until I was thirteen, I believed if the Bible said something, it was true. Oh how we, as believers, should get back to that child like faith!

I am going to make a very bold statement and I am a witness to the truth of this statement every day and especially when I am around other believers. The majority of believers do not pray in faith. They pray in doubt and unbelief. It is true and if you will continue on with me, I will show you how true it is.

First, let’s talk about the prayer of faith and what it is and what it is not. The majority of the church and probably even you, who are reading this right now, has no clue what the principle doctrines of our Christian faith is as outlined in Hebrews chapter 6. Do you? Let’s take a look.

##  Hebrews 6 (New Living Translation)

*1 So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don’t need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds and placing our faith in God. 2 You don’t need further instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. 3 And so, God willing, we will move forward to further understanding.*

Paul was getting on to the Hebrews for having to teach them, once again, the basics of Christianity. I believe Paul would be so discouraged if he saw the modern church. Most churches don’t practice or even believe many of these basic tenets of faith.

1. Doctine of repentance
2. Doctine of faith in God
3. Doctine of baptisms
4. Doctine of laying on of hands
5. Doctine of the resurrection of the dead
6. And the Doctrine of eternal judgement

These are the very basics and most churches may believe a few but you will not find very many churches that teach or even know about all six points.

In this study, I am asking the question, “Do you pray in faith or do you pray in doubt and unbelief?” I would be willing to guess that you probably pray in doubt and unbelief.

1. **A Father’s Faith**

In Mark 9:17-29 we are told of a father who brings his son to Jesus. Obviously, the man has heard that Jesus, the great healer is in town and he has hope that his seemingly epileptic son can be cured, if only he can get him to Jesus!

After getting Jesus’ attention, the father explains the boy’s symptoms and tells Jesus that he took his son to see the disciples but they could not heal the boy. Jesus, almost as if he were aggravated, got on to the people for their lack of faith. How true that is of our generation too! Jesus then called for the boy. As the young boy was marched into Jesus’ presence, the evil spirit which was causing his spells and sickness, began to tear at the boy and finally threw him to the ground. Jesus calmly asked the father how long this had been going on. Not only was the boy epileptic, the evil spirit would also throw him into water to drown him or into fire to destroy him. I have always been amazed that as much as demons crave and desire and must have a host body, they will do all they can to destroy that host.

After the father told Jesus what was going on with his son, he made a statement not unlike what the majority of Christians make when they pray. I could write volumes on prayer and indeed, an innumerable number of volumes have been written on prayer and there would still be more left to be said. Bear in mind that this father, in his approach to Jesus, was praying. It is the same thing we do when we go before the Lord in prayer. The only difference was that Jesus was here bodily at the time. He is not here bodily but the Holy Spirit is. Here is what the father said, “Have mercy on us and help us, if you can.” (Mark 9:22). The man knew that there was hope if he could get to Jesus. I believe the man knew that Jesus had the power to heal, “If He would.”

I remember talking to my brother in the hospital as he lay dying. We were talking about whether or not God could heal him and my brother made this statement, “I believe He can if He just would.” My brother and I both knew God was powerful enough and big enough to heal him but we did not know what God’s will was. This is the same situation the father of this young boy found himself in. It is a high probability that you also find yourself in this exact same situation!

Even though Jesus could heal the boy, He didn’t. Look what He said, “What do you mean, ‘If I can’?” Jesus asked. “Anything is possible if a person believes.” (Verse 23). I believe Jesus is saying that very same thing to you and me when we say that we believe He can if He only will! If we will take the Word of God, we can learn valuable lessons from God and not have to repeat them. The father got serious with Jesus and cried out! The Greek word for “cried” implies that the father shrieked out to the Lord, “I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!”

The father did what we all need to do, he went to Jesus when he needed more faith! You see, we all have “the measure of faith.” Without it, none of us could be saved. God has given us all a little bit.

**Romans 12**

*3God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.*

So, if we all have a measure and so did that father but it wasn’t enough for his son to be healed, what does the Bible say about how we get more faith?

## Romans 10 (New King James Version)

*17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

Now, let me show you something exciting. The Bible IS the word of God. The word of God is Jesus. Don’t believe me? Read John 1:1. The words in the Bible are just as sure as Jesus sitting there talking to this father. The father was as honest as he knew how to be. He said he did believe but he wanted the Lord to help him in his unbelief. All of us are in the same boat as this man. Not only can we believe that God is all powerful and able to heal us, save us, bring us prosperity or the many other promises in His word but we can know what His will is in most cases. Sure, there may be some obscure situations that we are not sure what God’s will is in an area and we will talk about that later. But as far as this young man’s healing, it was God’s will to heal him and Jesus did heal the boy!

When we pray and ask God for something, we should go before Him knowing what His will is. If you don’t, you cannot pray in faith. Please read the last sentence over and over until you get it. Let me even repeat it, “When we pray and ask God for something, we should go before Him knowing what His will is.” If you do not know what His will is, you cannot ask in faith!

**John 8**

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Wow! Do you see it? “If you abide.” The Greek word for abide is “meno”. It can be translated abide, continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand, or tarry. A disciple is simply a “learner” or someone that has sat at the foot of someone else and learned. So now it should start getting more clear for you. If, you get into the word, the Bible (Jesus), and you are a learner, you are going to not only, learn the truth, but you are going to “know” or understand that truth and in turn, that truth will absolutely (shall) make you free!

The word “shall” is the strongest word in the English language. If a king were to tell a servant that he “shall” do something and that servant did not do it, he would be under penalty of the law which could include imprisonment and even death. Jesus said that as we learn and understand the truth of His word, that truth of His word “shall,” forcibly, make us free. When you know what God’s will is concerning a situation for which you are praying you can have absolute peace and faith knowing that it is God’s will. If you will get into God’s word, you will see that it is absolutely His will to save you. It is absolutely His will to heal you and there are many more promises He gives us in His word! Getting into God’s word is like finding buried treasure!

Now, let me encourage you, before you pray, go to God’s word and see what His will is. Have your children strayed from the Lord? You will find scriptures that say that, not only shall you be saved if you believe, but also your whole house. We are also told that if we raise our children to know the Lord that they will come back to that when they get older! Do you need physical healing? Find scriptures that deal with healing and then and only then pray.

1. **Undeniable Proof that Believers Pray in Doubt and Unbelief**

One of the proofs I have that most believers pray in doubt and unbelief is that they tend to pray over and over and over for the same thing. Going before the Lord day after day after day and crying and whining, asking Him for the same thing over and over is not scriptural and it shows that you are not praying in faith but rather in doubt and unbelief.

I will say it again, you do not have to pray over and over and over, crying and whining trying to get something from God. How pitiful for a believer to act such a way! This is where believers that have been believers for a number of years start having a problem with me. In reality, It is not a problem with me but a problem with the Word. If you will get hold of this, it will change your life! Let’s see what the Word has to say about all of this.

## Mark 11 (New King James Version)

23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. 24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive *them,* and you will have *them.*

You may have read this scripture many times and not gotten it. Let’s break it down bit by bit. These are the words of Jesus, just as true and sure as if He were sitting bodily in front of you speaking them to you.

***“For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea.”*** First of all, Jesus is telling us to speak to your situation. What are we supposed to speak to it? We tell it to leave, get out of our life when it doesn’t belong there. The Bible has a lot to say about our profession or “what we say”. (1 Tim. 6:12; Heb. 3:1; 4:14; 10:23). So next time you hear a preacher say that all that confession stuff is a bunch of baloney, tell them to prove it to you from the Word and then you can prove that it is important!

***“and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done.”*** Notice he does not doubt! Why? Because He has gone to the Word, FIRST, and built his faith (remember faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God). Not only does he believe God can, he believes God will. Notice again the word, “says”. You must speak to your problem! These are Jesus’ words, not mine!

**“he will have whatever he says.”** Do you like to have your prayers answered? I sure do!

**“Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive *them,* and you will have *them.”*** Here is one of the keys to answered prayer. When are you supposed to believe that you receive the answer to your prayer? Is it when you see the answer in your hands? NO! Jesus said, when you pray the prayer of faith, to believe you receive WHEN you pray! Read that over and over until you get it! The Bible tells us that we are not to be moved by our physical senses (For we walk by faith and not by sight 2 Cor. 5:7). If you go to the Word of God and find His promises, then you can pray the prayer of faith, believing that you receive, when you pray! How exciting and how unpopular this is among so many believers because they are so ignorant of the word of God. Hosea, the prophet, said that God’s people are destroyed for lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6). This is why so many of you believers are living in defeat. You have not found what God’s will is and then prayed believing you receive an answer to your prayer WHEN you pray!

What does James, Jesus’ brother have to say about the prayer of faith?

## James 1:5-8 (New King James Version)

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 *he is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

## James 4:3 (New King James Version)

3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.

The reason so many of you have not had answered prayers is because you are either not asking in faith or you are asking amiss. In other words, you are praying in doubt and unbelief, going before God crying and whining like an orphan instead of a child of God! Let me say it over and over and over, you do not have to ask God over and over for an answer to prayer when you know what His will is. Others of you are lusting after something that is not in God’s will for your life.

Paul talks about this in Hebrews. This passage of scripture has always been my favorite.

## Hebrews 10:35-36 (New King James Version)

35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

So, let’s say you’ve found scriptures that show God’s promise for your situation. Then you went before the Lord in prayer. You prayed, believing and knowing not only that God can answer your prayer but that it is His will and that He will answer but you don’t see the manifestation of the answer to your prayer. Paul says you need patience, don’t throw away your confidence or your faith! Once you have done what you are supposed to, found scriptures for what you are praying about, then prayed and believed you received, you need patience to wait for the promise to come about. If you ask your earthly father for food when you are hungry, do you think you have to keep begging him? How much better is God than even the very best father on this earth?

In the book of Daniel we have a story about how he had prayed and then he also fasted to get an answer to prayer. The Bible tells us he prayed, then he fasted for 21 days until Michael, the archangel brought his answer to prayer. The thing to note here is that Daniel’s prayer was answered the very first day that Daniel prayed. We have no record that he asked God over and over and over for the answer to that prayer.

## Daniel 10:12-13 (New King James Version)

*12 Then he said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel,* ***for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard;*** *and I have come because of your words. 13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.*

Once, while teaching about the prayer of faith versus the prayer of doubt and unbelief, I was asked about the parable of the persistent widow.

## Luke 18 (New King James Version)

 *1 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, 2 saying: “There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. 3 Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, ‘Get justice for me from my adversary.’ 4 And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, ‘Though I do not fear God nor regard man, 5 yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.’
6 Then the Lord said, “Hear what the unjust judge said. 7 And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? 8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”*

We are told, “Not to lose heart.” Don’t give up on your faith. When you have prayed, like it says in Hebrews and done what God told you to do, do NOT lose your confidence. Believe your prayer was answered when you prayed. Also remember as you read this parable that this is an unjust and ungodly judge. God is better than even the most just and the very best judge!

When the widow went before this unjust judge we must assume that she had a valid claim against her adversary but his unjust judge refused to do what was right. He finally realized that by her continual appeals, he would go ahead and avenge her. Then Jesus went on in the parable to tells us that God will not make us cry out all the time but that He avenges us speedily. Then Jesus goes on to ask if there will be any faith when He returns to earth. Will He find people that pray the prayer of faith and believe they receive WHEN they pray because they have prayed according to His will in His word knowing that He will avenge us because His word says so?

If we do not immediately see an answer to prayer and then we keep pestering God, we are in doubt and unbelief. We obviously did not believe we received an answer to prayer when we prayed. Most of the time you will not see an immediate manifestation of the answer to your prayer. If you don’t, God tells us to plead our case with Him. As His children, we have a right to have our prayers answered immediately. Not because of what we have done but because of what Jesus did!

## Isaiah 43 (New King James Version)

*25 “ I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake;
      And I will not remember your sins.
       26 Put Me in remembrance;
      Let us contend together;
      State your case, that you may be acquitted.*

If you don’t see answers to your prayer and you have prayed the prayer of faith, put Him in remembrance of what His word says. Go back to His throne to contend with Him and state your case, not to beg and complain and cry and whine like an orphan! I believe it pleases the Father when you do this. His word is true and will always be true no matter what. His promises are truer than any promise of man.

## Matthew 7 (New King James Version)

*7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.*

Never in this scripture or in Luke 11:9, which says the same thing, is it implied that we must continue bugging and troubling God to get what He promises. When we ask, we receive; when we seek, we find; when we knock, the door is opened! The Dake Annotated Reference Bible says, “The idea here is to demand something that is due one because of family and
redemptive rights.” You see, as a believer, you are a child of God. As one of His children you have certain redemptive rights just as you would on earth as being your parent’s child.

1. **When You Don’t Know God’s Will**

The Bible is full of God’s promises for His children. God does not want us to suffer sickness, disease, sin or poverty. But what do you do when you really can’t find anything in the scriptures to base your prayers on and therefore can’t pray the prayer of faith?

## Romans 8:26 (New King James Version)

26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us[[a](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=romans%208:26&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-28139a)] with groanings which cannot be uttered.

To learn more about how to pray in the spirit, see my teaching on the Doctrine of Baptisms. This is one of the basic doctrines mentioned in Hebrews 6 that many churches and believers are unaware of. Praying in the Spirit is a daily thing for me and I believe it is essential for a Christian to have the true spiritual power that they need to do serious intercession.

The Bible tells us that there are things that have not been revealed to us. In those things we have to believe God kept them secret from us for a reason and they will not affect our lives. He has given us our handbook for life in the Bible and it will deal with everything we need to live Godly, victorious lives

## Deuteronomy 29:29 (New King James Version)

29 “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.