

Faith – Believe it or Not

In **Luke 17** the disciples ask Jesus to increase their faith.

Luke 17:6 (NKJV)

⁶ So the Lord said, “If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

What the Lord was telling them was, “*Guys, you don’t need more faith. You don’t have a faith problem, you just aren’t using the faith you’ve already got!*”

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV)

⁸ For by *grace* you have been saved through *faith*, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God*, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

The Law of Faith

Romans 3:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith.

- Faith Follows God’s Rules
- If we believe it wrong, it won’t work
- It’s not our faith, it’s Gods
- Law – “*constant, without fluctuation or variation*” and “*universal*”

We are Already Blessed

You see a seed – God sees a forest!

Ephesians 1:3, 19-20 (NKJV)

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,

¹⁹ and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly *places*

- Everything we'll ever need has already been provided
- It's not a matter of asking God to do it
- Rather believing its already been done and releasing it to manifest

You have got to realize that everything God has already provided is in the spirit realm

- The physical realm doesn't necessarily reflect what's true in the spiritual realm
- Faith acts like a bridge for what God has already done to cross from one realm to the other
- Just because it hasn't manifested doesn't mean it's not true

The Answer is in the Spirit

Many people pray for provision and when it doesn't happen right away they start doubting and say, "God why haven't you done anything?"

- If you don't see anything manifest immediately you've got to start battling your unbelief
- Receive wisdom on if there is something you need to do
- There are enemies of our faith
- If there's demonic power involved, break it

Atmosphere of unbelief

Mark 8:22–26 (NKJV)

²² Then He came to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man to Him, and begged Him to touch him. ²³ So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. And when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything. ²⁴ And he looked up and said, "I see men like trees, walking." ²⁵ Then He put *His* hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly. ²⁶ Then He sent him away to his house, saying, "Neither go into the town, nor tell anyone in the town."

- This is the only time Jesus ever prayed for a physical need twice
- Jesus led him by the hand, out of the town
- Jesus doesn't just do things randomly for no reason

Bethsaida was one of the worst places Jesus had ever been

Luke 10:13 (NKJV)

¹³ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.

He also encountered unbelief in His own hometown

Mark 6:5–6 (NKJV)

⁵ Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed *them*. ⁶ And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.

- Jesus wanted to do more in both of those places, but He couldn't
- These people weren't in faith
- He couldn't pray for anything other than a few minor things
- Jesus operated in 100% faith all the time
- There wasn't anything wrong with Him
- I'm not suggesting that if a person doesn't receive it's all their fault
- However, there must be some degree of faith operating in our lives if we're to receive
- You must believe you receive when you pray
- I don't believe it's unbelief to continue to pray and take authority over the situation

Remember in the spirit realm it is complete. However, we want it to manifest in the physical realm.

- When we pray again we are not doubting God
- We don't just pray and forget about it
- We can pray for wisdom and revelation
- We can pray, and build ourselves up on the word
- We can rebuke the devil

We aggressively release our faith and fight the good fight of faith to deal with any hindrance and draw the provision into the physical realm

It's interesting that Jesus told the man not to tell anyone what He had done or go back to Bethsaida

Jesus knew that if he got back around that unbelief he could lose the healing he had received

Retention of your healing isn't automatically guaranteed

John 5:14 (NKJV)

After Jesus healed the man at the pool of Bethesda

¹⁴ Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you."

- The devil comes "to steal, kill and destroy" – **John 10:10**
- He would love nothing better than to take your blessing

You have got to be rooted and grounded in the word for faith to continue to work

Mark 4:13–17 (NKJV)

¹³ And He said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? ¹⁴ The sower sows the word. ¹⁵ And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. ¹⁶ These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; ¹⁷ and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word’s sake, immediately they stumble.

- God has already done everything!
- You’re already blessed, healed, delivered, and prosperous
- You already have joy, peace, and wisdom
- Everything you could ever need is already there, in the spirit realm
- Build yourself up on the word
- Believe and receive

Jude 1:3 (NKJV)

³ Beloved, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

We need to learn how to cooperate with the laws of God

- *You* resist the devil
- *You* speak directly to the problem
- *You* exercise authority and power over what God has given you

It's important to direct your prayers to receive your desired results

- Sometimes it's our own unbelief
- Sometimes other people are involved in the answer to our provision
- We need wisdom on how Satan could be hindering so we can deal with it correctly
- Instead of being a beggar, a pleader, a whiner, and a griper start to become a commander of your situation

We have got to understand that there is a real spiritual world

- God's word helps us see and perceive accurately
- He shows us what's going on behind the scenes

We need to renew our minds to God's word and become a bridge that He can flow through

Daniel 9:2 (NKJV)

² in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years *specified* by the word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

- Daniel had prayed for revelation concerning the prophecy of Jeremiah
- The Lord showed Daniel that there would be 490 years before the fulfillment of the prophecy, not just seventy years
- He continues to pray and ask for more revelation
- The revelation he receives is key to understanding God's dealings with the Jewish people and end-times prophecy

Daniel 9:20–22 (NKJV)

²⁰ Now while I *was* speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God,

²¹ yes, while I *was* speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering.

²² And he informed *me*, and talked with me, and said, “O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand.

- It takes him approximately three minutes to pray
– Daniel 9:4-19
- Gabriel is responding to that prayer

Notice when God answered the prayer

Daniel 9:23 (NKJV)

²³ *At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:*

- God moved in the spiritual realm the moment Daniel began to pray
- It took Daniel approximately three minutes to show up

Most people assume that God doesn't have to deal with things like time, space or distance

- God is omni-present
- The angels of the Lord are not

Even though three minutes is not a long period of time it shows us that the answer wasn't instantaneous

- We've all seen things happen quickly as well as take their time
- The bible doesn't tell us what the reason is

It does establish the principle that God commanded something in the spirit realm before it manifested in the physical realm

Another example:

Daniel 10:2–3 (NKJV)

²In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. ³I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.

- Here we see that Daniel is praying and fasting three full weeks
 - There is no answer
- Sometimes it can take weeks, months or even years before we see the manifestation of what we know to be true in the spirit realm

Daniel 10:10–12 (NKJV)

¹⁰Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and *on* the palms of my hands. ¹¹And he said to me, “O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you.”

While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling.

¹²Then 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.

- Notice again that the angel was sent the first day
- God moved instantly both times – He doesn’t change
- The Lord answers immediately!

James 1:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

- God is not the variable – **Hebrews 13:8**
- So, what is?

Daniel 10:13 (NKJV)

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.

- There was a spiritual battle going on
- God wasn't the variable
- God answers immediately
- Satan was the variable

So why did it take three minutes one time and three weeks another?

- Not sure, however...
 - Satan is not all knowing or all present
 - Neither are his demons
 - Sometimes there may be resistance, other times not so much
 - He is not all powerful
 - We have authority over the enemy
 - We need to stand on it!
 - Don't quit, the victory is yours

James 4:7 (NKJV)

⁷ Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

- If you don't resist the devil, he won't flee
- You have God's power standing behind you!
- Use the authority and the power that has been given to you

Ephesians 3:10-12, 20 (NKJV)

¹⁰ to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*, ¹¹ according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

- We have been given all authority over the enemy
- God has already accomplished His part through Christ

Luke 10:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.