

## Does My Faith Please God?

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*Father, this morning, we just come to You. Almighty God, Eternal Word, the Beginning and the End, the Alpha and the Omega. Everything, Lord, was created by You, for You, through You. And as we are seated in Thy house today and as we offer our bodies, by faith as living sacrifices, I pray, You touch our ears, touch our minds. Help us to focus. Help us, Lord. Our minds drift, our minds wander. So, today by faith, we offer our minds, O Lord. Help us to be focused. Help us not to miss what You are teaching us because not only our life on earth but our eternal destiny will be determined by Your Word and how we heard Your Word. Speak to us. Let Your light come in, let Your light go into deepest most parts of our soul dispelling the darkness that is hidden even from our own eyes. Only Your Word can do it. For it is a two-edged sword, more powerful than a two-edged sword Lord. Cut deep and cut clean and heal us. Speak, Father. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*

Hostel; whatever, among believers, these things. And believers, sometimes, will never come and say sorry but actually it is the other way around; today, the unbelievers come and says sorry; the believer never does. Now, he is talking about forgiveness and the Apostle said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." See, they were very genuine; they were not hypocrites; they were very genuine people. Peter is looking at Andrews John is looking at James and says, "Lord, increase our faith." If they have to keep forgiving like this, "Lord increase my faith." See, one of the major demands of God, especially in the Lord's prayers, one single demand of God is – forgiveness. "Application of a real life of faith," God says, "is found in that." We ask for faith for this and faith for that. And God says, "Why didn't you ask and believe for faith to forgive, offences? Why didn't you think that was the most important area in your life when you are believing for a car and a house? What about forgiveness? If you don't have a car or a house, you will still go to heaven but if you have an unforgiving heart, you will end up in hell." God says, "Do you see what is important in the Kingdom?" How do you see? "Increase our faith," the Apostles say. You have to read it chronologically how Jesus brings faith into the areas of our life which we seldom will. And then, the Apostles will come and say, "The righteous will live by faith." What does it mean by faith? He applies it. Now, look at the next verses. Verse 6 onwards.

### **Luke 17:5-10**

***<sup>5</sup> And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."<sup>6</sup> He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you.<sup>7</sup> "Suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'?<sup>8</sup> Won't he rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'?<sup>9</sup> Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do?<sup>10</sup> So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'"***

What a strange verse and in the middle two verses about faith? One about forgiveness; one about duty. What is Jesus talking here? Jesus is saying, "Do you see practical application of faith in our day-to-day life?" Biblical faith, the faith God talks about is not faith if it is not demonstrated by faithfulness. Here is the servant. And God says, "If your faith is genuine, you will continue serving your master faithfully, expecting nothing." That's proof of your faith. See, that's what I say – faith preachers mess up what faith is so that they make it into something; we twist God's hand and grab it from. The kind of boy, we want for marriage, the kind of car, the of job, the kind of house, they have made God into a spiritual ATM machine. And they will always point to them and say, "We got it without actually," leaving much of the congregation very depressed. Because when they try to apply, they are often; most often, they realize – it doesn't work. We've taken this part of faithfulness in our daily life to what God has called us, we have taken it off. Exercising faith whether big or small isn't a matter of a show. Or making bold statements and claiming big things on TV It is often the humble, unseen, routine, day-to-day business of serving. Unseen, little, duty of serving faithfully wherever God has placed you, is an act of faith. And we don't realize that is what God is looking for. And if you are living that kind of a life and you don't see the great exploits, like you see in the TV, you don't have to be discouraged; God still considers you a man or woman of faith because you are faithful. And you are faithful before God. Sometimes, just putting on your clothes, and going to work, despite how bad the environment is, how badly hurting, and how little understand what's happening in your life is the biggest act of faith you can do that day.

Sometimes, faith looks like a spouse, praying in the waiting room. For the one who is in the surgery, the doctor comes out and says, “We do not know how, but when we opened him up or her up, there was no tumour.” That’s what faith looks like. But sometimes, faith is equally true when it could be another spouse sitting at the cemetery, watching a cascade being lowered into the ground. And peace, in peace, accepting the will of God, that is also faith. You cannot say only the first one is faith and the second one is not. Both are faith. Sometimes, faith is standing in honesty and integrity in your workplace and getting a promotion. Sometimes, faith is for the same action, another one loses his job. Both is faith. The problem is in our carnal mind, we want only the first one; we are not willing to pay the price of the second one. But both are faith, and both are results of faith. You cannot put God in a box and say, “Faith can work only this way.” God says, “No, not necessarily.” Sometimes, faith is starting a Bible study at college as a student and it really takes off and brings revival at the campus. Sometimes, faith is to take that Bible to campus and be completely ostracized on campus; you are ridiculed; you’re mocked; you don’t save a single person; and for three years, you are there; you’re a marked person. Both are faith. Both are the results of the same faith. And you should be willing to accept either results. The problem is – if you accept the result you see on TV and the testimonies you see on TV, it’s a very misguided warm faith; where we have nullified the sovereignty of God never understood the ways of God and put God in a box and say, “Lord, I believe You have to do it this way,” and God says, “I am sorry son, nobody has put Me in a box.”

If you judge faith only by the triumphant, the positive results, you could end up absolutely wrong one day. You may end up bitter, and angry, and miserable when things do not happen the way you expected. So, better be careful. There are two sides of faith. And the writer of *Hebrews* writes it most beautifully.

### **Hebrews 11:32-39**

***<sup>32</sup> And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: <sup>33</sup> who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to fight the armies of the aliens. <sup>35</sup> Women received their dead raised to life again.***

Now, that’s what all we want, “Lord, I believe; I wish, Lord.” After that, you stopped, and you didn’t continue. “Because that’s a part of faith I like and that’s the part of base I believe in because that’s what I hear on TV. That’s my favorite preacher.” God says, “He is preaching only half the Scripture; the other half He’s omitting you, deliberately, because he knows, if he preaches the other half, he will lose the money.” What is the second half?

### ***Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance,***

They could have received deliverance if they compromised, they refused.

### ***...that they might obtain a better resurrection.***

Let me put it across in terms which we understand. We are safe. We are not being persecuted. Maybe you are going through, (let us use that term) literal hell through your marriage, torture in your marriage, but you refuse to leave, when you have an option to leave when the highest court in this country has made it very easy for you to walk out, you choose to not walk out because of your faith. And you could be a simple wife or a husband and nobody knows about your battle. God says, “I see your faith. Hang in there, He says, because of Me.” That’s what God is talking about. Not accepting deliverance that they might obtain a better resurrection.

***...not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup> Still others had trial of mocking’s and scourging’s, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— <sup>38</sup> of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.***

Did you see both sides? This is both sides. Let me ask you this question: how many preachers you read, or you hear actually balance these both? And when it comes to verse 39.

<sup>39</sup> ***And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,***

Did you hear that? All these the ones who quenched the flames, the ones who were burned in the flames, ones who shut the mouth of the lions, and the ones who were devoured by the lion's, ones who prison gates were opened and came out, ones who were incarcerated and died in the prisons – all of them obtained a good report, through faith. That's what the Bible is talking about. There were all commended for their faith – group 1 and group 2. But we only want to be in group 1, and we look down upon those who are in group 2. And we create this guilt in the hearts of these ones through false preaching, "You know why? You are suffering because you don't have enough faith." You know what? You are caught in this situation because you don't have enough faith. While on the other hand, it could be their very faith that has brought this suffering into their lives and they refused deliverance. If you walk by sight, they could have received deliverance and they refused to walk by sight, they chose to stay. This is true Biblical faith. This could lead you into prison or lead you out of prison. Whatever the result, it is God's call. And our duty, responsive faith, is to be faithful. Response is to be faithful. If you read, I am not turning there. If you read the *Book of Acts*, same king called Herod, he imprisons James. A little later, James head is cut off. God didn't stop it. He takes Peter, imprisons Peter; God sends an angel opened all the gates, sets him out. God says, "Both were my Apostles, and both lived by faith. This is My decision. Both surrendered to My will; one to die, one to live." Question is: can we accept that? Because why I am saying this is this; see, prophecy and all those things are there. I also pray, "Lord, I pray next year election, results will be different and we have more security for your people." My question is: our job is to prepare people for any eventuality. In the army, they don't teach you to run; they teach you to fight.

That's why I am travelling all to the troubled places because there is trouble in all those places. And everybody came and told peace and security and then, destruction came. And then, when destruction came and when destruction came, they did not know how to stand. When the day of evil comes, stand. And after you have done everything, stand. That's Biblical faith we are talking about, both sides. Yes, God in His mercy and in His grace. In *Romans 12*, He will say that, "He has given me the gift, the grace, the gift to increase wealth." I have wealth. But the same Bible in *Hebrews 13* will say, "I lost my wealth and possessions because of my faith." Both the same God. You could be somebody who had experienced God's miracle happened, you regained your health; another man could lose His entire health because of faith incarcerated in prison. Both is God. My question is: when it comes to faith, and we hear about faith and talk about faith, have you factored into sovereignty of God? Have you factored into sovereignty of who you allow God to be God? Because even the Son said that, "Father, can you take this cup away?" Father can; if He wants, He can have, "Okay, I have a plan B. Okay, Son, You are not happy about the Cross? Fine, plan B." Father said, "No, I have only one plan." Son said, "It's fine with me, Father." He didn't ask once; He asked three times. Paul also asked three times, "Father, please, Lord. It's very embarrassing; I am the One who walks around; demons flee; demons run; sickness are cured; deliverance takes place, but I got this messenger from satan, making me a fool all the time." Father said, "No." So, understand. Because if we have been fed on a steady diet of one side of faith. The triumph and physically by sight triumph side of faith, our faith has become longsighted. We look at Daniel, "Wow, Daniel. Lord, shut the mouth of the lions." And he brought Daniel out. The actual statistics is, in the 1st Century almost all the believers were thrown to the lions were killed by the lions, God didn't shut anybody's mouth. He didn't shut a single lions mouth. So, understand, faith has its origin always in God. And you'll say, "Lord, what about the woman? If faith originates in You, what about the woman with issue of blood? Even Your Son did not know she was around." Did her faith have origin in God or in her? it's a tricky question, right? Let's look at;

**Mark 9:25-28**

<sup>25</sup> ***Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years,*** <sup>26</sup> ***and had suffered many things from many physicians.*** (oh, physicians make you suffer, okay?) ***She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse.*** <sup>27</sup> ***When she heard about Jesus,*** (faith come from? Hearing. So, did it originate with her or did it originate with God? It originated with God, it did not originate with her.) ***She came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment.*** <sup>28</sup> ***For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well."***

She heard. It didn't start with her; It started with God. She heard. She believed. Measure of faith was given; she acted on it. Where did the thought come from? Where did the faith to touch the hem of His robe come from? It came from God. But she had to act on it. My question to you is this: why did Jesus stop? "Okay, somebody touched; somebody got healed let Me go, Jairus is crying for his daughter." Why did He stop? Why did He reveal her? Why? Because faith always brings glory to God. Understand that – genuine faith always brings glory to God. Otherwise, she would have quietly gone and told

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anybody, “All should be like me, I got my healing.” That’s why I said many testimonies when I hear, it’s very little about God; it is so much about themselves. God says, “If anybody is healed by God, remember, the faith was from God, the grace was from God, the glory belongs to God, come out; who is that?” And they used to just go, “Your faith has healed you.” You must always ask this question: does my faith glorify God? Because that is the end of faith. The end of faith is to always to bring glory to God. See that our faith is always balanced. If faith does not lead to faith, who else? In our day-to-day lives, our faith is unbalanced. Faith becomes distorted when our faith becomes in faith and not faith in God.

And much sadly of today’s teaching is, faith distorted. This is what basically they teach. Listen carefully, okay. This is exactly; I am not naming names because it would not be proper. But almost all the big names in this movement; this is what they teach. I have summed it up exactly what they teach. This is what they teach. “God creates by using faith by the power of spoken words.” And they will use *Hebrews 1* and *2, 3*. “Human beings are little gods capable of creating in the same fashion as God did. Human beings through faith with words can create or cause to come to pass that which is spoken. Then, by one spoken words, health, wealth, and prosperity can be created.” This is what they actually believe in. You must be very careful. This is what they actually believe in. I’ve summed it up very carefully. Let me read it once again, so, you get it. How does God create it? *Hebrews* says “God created everything by faith. By faith, we believe that all the things seen, and unseen were created by God.” What are we? How did He create? “*Let there be*” and then, we are all little gods, so, we have the capacity to create with faith filled words. They will use *Romans* and bring Abraham into the picture. “He called those things that are not as.” When did he call those things that are not? After God spoke to Him. Actually, he first said that, “Lord, it is not possible bless Ishmael; Sarah laughed everything.” But God said, “No.” God is very clear, “It is not through Ishmael. I will bless him but not through Ishmael. It is through Sarah.” And Abraham was just repeating what God told him. God was right in the centre of the picture. In this movement, God is not in the centre; God is set apart. I have Your Word, I have Your promises. Now, I shall be god of my life. You know this is what I want? “How many bedrooms do you want? Four? Go and claim, I will give you from *Deuteronomy, Leviticus* all this, you shall have houses which you didn’t build. So, you don’t have to worry about money, okay? The wealth of the wicked, it is reserved for the righteous. You are righteous; it doesn’t matter how much you sin. When you were saved, you were righteous. So, that fellow who is not saved, who is working hard morning till evening, his money is yours. So, you don’t have to work, okay? Just believe and confess. His house will be emptied, you move in.”

Practically this, you have to look at where their theology originates from, and how they practice it and how they excite the crowd. Why is the crowd so excited? Crowd is so excited because now, you are appropriating the power of God to fulfil all your carnal desire. “Whom do you want to marry? No problem. Imagine? Have faith, say the right words, and a whole life will work out the way “you” want it to be.” Sadly, a whole generation has risen from this teaching, where they are god. And they use God and His power to fulfil their dreams. And the Bible very vehemently contradicts this. The best-balanced definition of practical faith is expressed by the three young Hebrew men in Babylon. That’s the best practical explanation of faith. This is what they said.

### **Daniel 3:16-18**

***<sup>16</sup> Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. (We are not confused. We know exactly how our faith works.)<sup>17</sup> If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. <sup>18</sup> But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”***

“We leave the result into God’s hands; He may save, He may not save. But we know the application of faith – He’s God; we are not. We worship Him only. We only worship Him. We don’t bow down. If He wants to deliver, He can deliver. We’ll never negate the power of God to deliver to heal to set free; we’ll never negate the power of God. God can heal, can raise the dead and all that. But whether He will or not, it is His prerogative; not mine.” How He will? When He will? Whether He will? It’s all in His hands. I will not take the Word of God and arm twist Him. True faith never subverts the sovereignty of God, and true faith always seeks to please God. Let me tell you something else – slightly scary but true. When you take the sovereignty of God and we take words and use words even that, those who are spoken by God and to have your will done in your life using power without submitting to that power, it’s called sorcery. It’s called witchcraft. It’s called divination. That’s exactly what they do. What is sorcery? Sorcery is using a supernatural power tapping it, to fulfil your desire. That’s sorcery. What have we done? Because lack of balance, we have brought sorcery into the Church and by bringing sorcery into the Church in the past 30, 40, 50 years. Let’s look at the most supposedly prominent Christian nation on earth. We

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have raised up a generation of young people who are drug addicts, alcoholics, sex addicts, porn addicts, you name it and they're addicts. Why? Because we taught them, "You can use the power of God to apply into your lives for your own carnal things." A generation rose up who does not know God but understands power. So, you look at a generation in US; they are all into occult. Tea leaf reading, palm reading, Ouija Board, you name it; they are all into occult and they have no qualms about it. Let's forget what world did; that's not our business. Our business is to see what the Church has done. We allowed sorcery to come in. That's what God is talking about. We have to be very careful because unbalanced faith creates shaky marriages, shaky homes, shaky jobs, shaky Churches because instead of tapping into the power of God through the back door in the name of God sorcery comes in. That's why in the modern-day occult, the respectable modern day occult, in olden days, they were called wizards and witches, astrologers and magicians – you can see them all through the Bible. Every pagan king had all these people because they needed sorcery to bring power in. Today, they are called Masters. Why are they called Masters? You go to the Lodges, you will see the Masters are there who do the rituals. And all the rich the famous the actors, the Hollywood, the Bollywood – everybody goes there because they know from there, you get power to fulfil your dreams. You get it. It's easy to get it. Career wise, college students, everybody goes there because you give them what they want and demons give you what you want. And the ones who are standing in the middle and making this happen are called Masters. Why are they called Masters? Because they have learned the art of mastering or controlling demons. That's why they are called Masters. God's Kingdom, there are no masters; there are only servants. Even when the Son of God came, He came as a Servant of the will of the Father. Be very careful where you get your theology from, what you hear and what you believe. One of the reasons why we see the foundations all being shaken is because the faith on which it was built, it was not real, it was not true, it's very lop sided. The powers that got in was not necessarily always the power from the Holy Spirit; it was the other powers. This was what Jesus was warning us in

### **Matthew 7:24-27**

***<sup>24</sup> "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: <sup>25</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup> "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: <sup>27</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."***

He is talking about a genuine faith which hears and obeys. He says, "When storms of life comes, when storms hit in your marriage, you are able to stand. When storms hit your home, you are able to stand. When storms hit your office, you are able to stand. When storms hit Churches, you are able to stand because your faith was genuine." It was built on faithfulness to God, not faithfulness to self. If it is faithfulness to self, then as the self-desires you can keep on changing, but if your covenant is with God, then the object of your faith is God and what you want to do is please God and not man.

Let me give you examples. One of the most misinterpreted Scriptures by prominent speakers/preachers because I heard them speak. This also, we will read about shaking.

### **Hebrews 12:26-29**

***<sup>26</sup> whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." <sup>27</sup> Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. <sup>28</sup> Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God (not that God serves us, grace is given so that we may serve God) acceptably with reverence and godly fear. <sup>29</sup> For our God is a consuming fire.***

Understand what 'grace' means. We will come to that later. As a smaller portion towards the end but let me give you one of the most misinterpreted verses by the modern preachers not ancient old age, new preachers,

### **1 Samuel 16:7**

***<sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."***

Read Scripture carefully. We have been told this way – God does not look at the outside at all. "So, be casual, man!" "Be cool! Be casual!" "God does not look at the outside at all." But that's not what it says. God does not see as man sees. God is

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the only one who can see both inside and outside. So, what do all these people say? “God sees my heart,” but what we actually saying is our own high estimation of our own heart. It’s a very misinterpreted verse in all these Churches. “God does not look at the outside at all. He only looks at the inside.” “Why are you judging me? God sees my heart.” Let me show you from Scripture. You don’t have to believe in anything that I say if it is not ratified by Scripture because God has exalted His Word above all things. Always remember this verse

### **Psalm 138:2**

***<sup>2</sup> I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.***

### **Genesis 4:3-5**

***<sup>3</sup> And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. <sup>4</sup> Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup> but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.***

Imagine, this is Abel and this is Cain. God looked at Abel’s heart; God looked at Abel’s offering and He accepted the offering. God looked at Cain’s heart and God did not receive Cain’s offering. Does that mean that his offering was bad? No. Bible actually says that his offering was excellent. So, God, on the other hand, turn it around. Abel’s heart, He looks – good heart but his offering is bad. Will it be accepted? No. He won’t. He looks at both. God looked at Abel and God looked at the offering; God looked at the inside and God looked at the outside. Inside was faith and outside was works according to faith. So, both the inside and the outside matched and God accepted. Cain on the outside was excellent, good. But the Bible says the problem was inside.

### **Hebrews 11:4**

***<sup>4</sup> By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.***

What was the difference? The difference was faith. Your body is the temple of the Living God. “God sees my heart. What I do with my body, it doesn’t matter. I can smoke like a chimney. It doesn’t bother God at all. I can go out in two legs and come back in four; it doesn’t matter because God sees my heart.” “You see, God sees my heart. So, it doesn’t matter that my neckline is down and my hemline is up. It doesn’t matter. God sees my heart.” What I tell them is that God sees our heart but when you bend down, men see many other things. You better be careful because man looks at the outside. Most misinterpreted Gospel the Scripture by today’s Churches to allow carnality to be manifested mocking a God who says, “Your body is My temple.” It may be the outer covering but that’s where I reside.”

### Case Study 2:

Out of two witnesses everything should be established. Right? God says in the *Book of Hebrews* that everything that can be shaken will be shaken. The first time he did it was it in Noah’s time. Everything that could be shaken was shaken with water. To one man God spoke. This is what is written about that man.

### **Genesis 6:22**

***<sup>22</sup> Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.***

Everything God commanded he did. Look at one of the specific, many things God told him to do but one of the very specific things He asked him to do is found in *verse 14*,

### **Genesis 6:14**

***<sup>14</sup> Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.***

If he covered the outside and left the inside alone, the water would have gone. If you have covered the inside and left the outside alone, the water would have still got in. After some pressure came in, after a point, it would have broken through. God says, “Your inside and your outside should match and if it doesn’t match, as the pressure increases, you will start compromise; you will not have the strength because, like the Babylon, the fire hasn’t been heated up as yet.” God allows

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the temperature to go up, go up, God allows, He says, “You are not matching inside and outside, you will not be able to withstand the pressure.” That’s what we read from the *Book of Daniel*. The four people could withstand the pressure is because their inside and outside matched. And the pressure kept on increasing and they still stood till the end. Kings come, dispensation comes, regimes come and changes they are still standing there. Why? Because they could handle pressure. Why they could handle pressure? Because there inside and outside matched. So, slowly, whatever is inside should ultimately show outside because in so many ways our outside is a manifestation of what is inside. But our outside always does not have to be a manifestation of our inside if we don’t accept the person of God and Him has been always good.

God is always interested in the children of Israel. You know, if you go to the Middle East like Dubai or any other place, you will see, all of them look the same. The Arabs will wear the white long dress with headband (Arab Aqel Rope), you go to Jewish system, you will see the orthodox Jews wearing (Kippah), they all look the same outside. So, if you are talking about Israel coming out, they all look the same outside. God said, “No, My people will still look different outside. So, put a blue ribbon on them.” So, if you saw two men walking on the road, dressed the same way, all you have to look was the hem of the robe; you will know that one belong to God and the other did not. God says, “You will be identified by that.” And the woman with an issue of blood went on her knees and touched the blue band and she was healed. That is the identity that He belonged to God.

What is your identity that you belong to God that the world sees? What is your identity? On the other hand, you can be absolutely rebellious against God, you don’t believe in Him but you like some of the things that He gives you but you are mad at Him, you fighting Him but outside, you have this coat and dress and all that’s what it is talking about first generation. The anointing was upon them, their clothes did not wear off, the shoes did not wear off, the food they ate gave them health, sickness free but the souls were wasting away. It’s not touching the inside. The manna they ate never touched their inside. Scripture very clearly says, *“Their souls wasted away. God sent leanness into their souls.”* I am not saying the outside alone matters. If the inside doesn’t tally with the outside, the outside doesn’t make any difference but inside, if you are genuine at some point, it will manifest outside. Remember the faith has its work.

On that day, the shaking took place. There was only one proof – you had to be ‘waterproof’. On that day, when you are judged, you have to be ‘fireproof’ and will never be truly be 100% fireproof unless you ask God to baptize me with fire now. So, on that day, I am fireproof. That’s what John says, *“The One who comes after me, I am not even worthy to untie the thongs of His sandals. He shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”* The *Book of Malachi* says, *“He sits there like a refiner’s fire and launderer’s soap so that on that day, we can come through fire.”* This doesn’t happen in one day but get your basics always right – faith is progressive, it is increasing, it should increase and it is not shown in its manifestation of power; it should be shown in the steady increase in obedience to the will of God. That is actual growth in faith. The manifestation of power. If you looked at Gideon, it was increasing but the man was actually getting more disobedient inside. The actual barometer is – am I growing in the obedience of God? That is the main thing.

Now, we will take a tangent here that we understand. Not like mathematics tangent but a slight turn. This is very important. Let us look at the most important aspect of the faith. The most important thing the faith does. The most important work of faith. If the faith doesn’t do that work we are lost.

### **Ephesians 2:8**

**<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,**

Even if other works we haven’t been experienced, if we experience this work alone we are still safe. If you are experiencing the other works of faith, if you have not experienced this, you are in big trouble. So, the most important work of faith is – through faith, we receive grace that saves us. Now, let me still correct a few perceptions we have. Our problem is, let’s be honest in the house of Lord, at least. One of our major issues is that we are Biblically illiterate. So, anybody who comes with their hundred-member choir and some smoke machines, lights and he gives a definition of something which is of the Bible, takes as gospel truth without ever checking the Bible. I am not saying that some of the definitions are, per say, wrong but they are not fully right either. One of the most misunderstood (I don’t say that I understand fully) words in the Bible is the word called ‘grace’. So, we have this acronym. Everybody knows the acronym of grace and we love it – God’s Riches At Christ Expenses. It sounds so cool, so sweet. By the way, is it there in the Bible? No. You see, suddenly, these new set of theologians all young and smart arise and say, “Do you know what grace is?” And the old theologians say, “I took forty years

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to understand and you got it?" "Yes!" "What is it? God's riches At Christ's Expense," and this man is scratching his head and say, "Where did you get that from?" I'm not saying it's wrong; I'm not saying it's right either. What happens, the problem is we take somebody's definition and one of the most important factors in our life and we make it into Scripture.

Another definition you hear, this is grace – unmerited favor of God. Have you heard that? Let me ask you this question. Is it there in the Bible? So, why is that we spout these definitions which we can't find in the Bible neither prove it from the Bible? See, we need to understand, we are called to walk by faith but we are also visual creatures we are in this body sight, we see we hear, we smell we taste, we are tangible human beings. Shall we try to put grace in tangible form where we can understand? Let's look at Scripture,

### **John 1:14**

**<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.**

So, you know what? If you and I had seen Jesus which we can't but we see the Word, we see His life and the Spirit shows us this is a Man who walked full of grace. If grace had legs, that's how He walked; if grace was tangible, that's how you feel; if grace had talk, that's how He would talk; if grace could hear, that's how He would hear; if grace had work, that's how He would work. But Scripture doesn't say He came full of grace; it says He came with full of grace and full of truth. Okay? Let's again look at Scripture. Here is Jesus full of grace and full of truth.

### **John 14:16-17**

**<sup>16</sup> And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another <sup>[e]</sup>Helper, (He says, I'm going bye-bye but I will send somebody. My Father will send a Helper somebody) *that He may abide with you forever—* <sup>17</sup> *the Spirit of truth, (Oh the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth) whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.***

So, He sends somebody who is just like Him who actually happens to be Gods' Spirit and God's Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. Sathya key Aathma (Spirit of Truth). One more Scripture.

### **John 16:13**

**<sup>13</sup> However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.**

Keep this in mind, okay? It's like Maths. Think that Pastor Vijay is teaching for a minute. *John 1:14; Jesus came with full of grace and full of truth and I will send you somebody just like Me and He is the Spirit of truth.* The Holy Spirit, one of His names or one of His major titles is that He is the Spirit of truth. Now, let's go to *Zechariah 12:10*,

### **Zechariah 12:10**

**<sup>10</sup> "And I will pour on the house of David (We are the house of David because Jesus is of the house of David and we are in Jesus and if we are in Jesus we belong to the house of David spiritually) *and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem...***

We are the inhabitants of Jerusalem; *Hebrews* says, "We have come to the spiritual Jerusalem, the holy assembly of God's people, what will I pour upon them? The Spirit of grace." "S" is capital, okay? Look! The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of grace

***...the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.***

So, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth and He is the Spirit of grace. One more; one is not enough; we always need two. In Scripture, to establish anything, we need two. I didn't put that first because it's little scary; I put it second.

### **Hebrews 10:29**



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***<sup>29</sup> Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?***

Remember these things. Peter told Ananias, “You lied to the Holy Spirit.” he told Sapphira, “You tested the Holy Spirit.” In *Ephesians*, he will say, “Do not quench the Holy Spirit.” In *Thessalonians*, He will say, “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit.” In *Hebrews*, he will say; “Do not insult the Holy Spirit.” Five things we shouldn’t do with the Holy Spirit; be careful, okay? So, the Holy Spirit is called as the Spirit of grace and the Spirit of truth and how did Jesus come? Full of grace and full of truth. And you know what John the Baptist says about Jesus in *John 3*?

### **John 3:34**

***<sup>34</sup> For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure.***

What does it mean? Jesus was filled without measure. How was He filled without measure? Because He was full of truth and full of grace. Now, let me give you maths. We understand a little maths, right? Your filling of the Holy Spirit is proportional to the filling of truth. Your filling of grace is proportional to the filling of truth. The more truth you receive, the more grace you receive. That was an aside. So, Jesus was filled without measure and He manifested on earth full of truth and full of grace. So, these are the two sides of the Holy Spirit we experience. Truth and grace. When that flows in balance, you know what it is called? When we have balance of the Spirit of truth and the Spirit of Grace, we are balancing truth and grace; *Romans 8* will call it something else.

### **Romans 8:1**

***<sup>1</sup> There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who<sup>[a]</sup> do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.***

How do you walk according to the Spirit? In truth and in grace. God shows us the truth; I look at the truth and I say, “God, I can never keep it,” and He says, “I know it. To keep it, you need grace. Here is grace, take it and you keep the truth.” Then, He shows another truth. “Ayyo (Oh my!) I cannot keep it.” He says, “I know that. You take it. So, you walk in the Spirit.”

### **Romans 8:2**

***<sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.***

When truth and grace balance, it becomes the law of life in Christ; it becomes a law by itself. That is how you don’t walk under condemnation. It’s not that, “God sees my heart; God understand I can do whatever I want outside and I am not guilty.” God says, “No.” How do you walk without condemnation? The Spirit of truth says, “You went wrong here today,” and you say, “Lord, forgive me. Give me grace that I don’t go that route again.” You know what? You don’t walk under condemnation because you are understanding this is what salvation is all about and in that process, even if you fall seven times and seven times, if you raise up and come back and say, “Lord mercy, I went wrong and the truth is convicting me I went wrong. Please, give me grace.: God gives you grace. Now, that is not the answer to keep on falling. Then, it’s misusing or abusing grace. Paul will say in another place, “You have taken the grace of God in vain ad you are using the grace of God for something else which was never it to be.” So, understand, okay? We will come further into it. So that is what, in simple tangible terms, what is grace – grace is the power of the Holy Spirit.

Now, my question to you is: why do you want power of the Holy Spirit if you don’t want to keep the truth? So, now, you don’t want truth but you have your own desires, visions and dreams and you are appropriating the power to fulfil your dream and that becomes your testimony. I’m sorry; that is witchcraft; that is sorcery. On the other hand, you appropriate this power to keep truth in the process; you may shut the mouth of the lions or the lions may consume you but the power of God’s grace is being manifested. And this is the power of the Holy Spirit. Remember when we began 10 years ago, every Sunday, we used to pray this before the sermon.

### **Ephesians 1:17-19**

***<sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, <sup>18</sup> the eyes of your understanding being enlightened;* (He says I hope your eyes open, your Spiritual**

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eyes open) ***that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,***

He says, "I really, really wish your eyes would open that we realize what God intends us to be in Heaven, what God is preparing for us."

***<sup>19</sup> and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power <sup>20</sup> which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.***

"One – I want you to see your God's ordained destiny in Heaven but you never reach that destiny unless you understand the greatness of His power." What is the greatness of power? "Lord, give me an example of the power." What is it? Jericho walls fall down? He says, "No," Joshua's victory? "No," Moses' grave? "No," Elijah's? "No," Elisha's? "No." Greatest manifestation of God's power he says: "When the Holy Spirit lifted Jesus from the dead and raised Him never to die again." He says, "That is the greatest manifestation of God's power." Now the question is, the mighty power which He worked in Christ: who raised Him from the dead? Let me ask you; I already gave you a clue. But let me ask you, who raised Jesus from the dead? How do you know?

### **Romans 8:11**

***<sup>11</sup> But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.***

Who is the one who dwells in us? It is the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead. It was the Holy Spirit. You see, grace is the power of the Holy Spirit. How am I saved? I'm saved by grace through faith. What did the Holy Spirit do? He raised Jesus from the dead and seated Him in the highest places. So, what does He want to do with every believer? *Ephesians 2:6*, same thing.

### **Ephesians 2:6**

(He has) ***<sup>6</sup> and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,***

The work is the same. So, when you hear about grace, it is the power of the Holy Spirit.

Listen carefully now. Even more carefully so that you don't get it wrong. I will explain it further so that our faith is built on the solid rock the Word of God alone. The grace of God is the power of the Holy Spirit, the power of God's own Spirit, the power of the Spirit of Jesus. But power on itself, we can learn to control it. When we talk about power not the power of the Holy Spirit. Man's first breakthrough was when He learned to handle fire. Out of that, came so many inventions. He learned to handle power, electricity. When we harness this power, it can be made useful for a lot of stuff, it's destructive or constructive powers. So, power can be handled; the problem is – if you detach the person of the Holy Spirit from the power of the Holy Spirit, you are running into trouble. You can for a season. See, we are so much used to power like, I want the light off-light on. Power is in my control – fire off-fire on, bike on-bike off, car on-car off, AC on-AC off. You see, from the morning we woke up, we are used to controlling power. You go first, turn the tap, water comes in because you have learned to harness water and bring it into your house. You don't have to sit anymore on the floor; you sit on well-cushioned chairs because you have learnt to harness power in so many ways. You are not sitting there and lighting flint stones to light fire. Everything! You see, we have learnt to harness power, power, power and then we hear the Holy Spirit has the power of God. We detach the power of God from the person of God. That is actually what many faith teachers do. They detach the power of God from the person of God and say, "Be smart and harness the power of God. Don't you see my life? Don't you see what I have? So, if something happens through faith, because power flows through faith and grace comes through faith, so if I can control that power, then I can control my situation." Like I said, that's sorcery. We're on very dangerous ground here. Very dangerous ground here! When changing through the pulpits we are changing the unchangeable, holy, divine nature of God into a power-monger. Because that's what the devil is. You give me what I want, I'll give you what you want. Abraham, the father of believers, blessed by king Melchizedek of Jerusalem, blessed, bread, wine, everything, communion over, comes, and then, Berah is waiting – the king of Sodom. "Give me the souls! Take all the money. Give me the souls!

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Take all the money.” What does the devil say? “Give me your soul, take all the pleasures, whatever you want. Give me your soul. I don’t want anything from you. I’ll give you what you want; just give me your soul.” While God says, I” have given you everything for your soul. And if you don’t give Me your soul, I don’t want anything from you.” And we have a new theology which says, “God demands nothing from you. God understands. He sees your heart. The rest is for yours, to use as you want.” God says, “That’s not salvation! That’s deception.” So, sorcery is being passed on as the gospel. God says, “Be careful! Understand the power and the person. Don’t separate it.” We’re on very very dangerous ground. Let me show you examples from the Bible so that you will believe.

### **Judges 14:19**

***<sup>19</sup> Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon him (Who is this? Samson. The Spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily, the manifestation of power.) mightily, and he went down to Ashkelon and killed thirty of their men, took their apparel, and gave the changes of clothing to those who had explained the riddle. So his anger was aroused, and he went back up to his father’s house***

And he gave them to his girlfriend’s father.

### **Judges 15:3-5**

***<sup>3</sup> And Samson said to them, “This time I shall be blameless regarding the Philistines if I harm them!” <sup>4</sup> Then Samson went and caught three hundred foxes; and he took torches, turned the foxes tail to tail, and put a torch between each pair of tails. <sup>5</sup> When he had set the torches on fire, he let the foxes go into the standing grain of the Philistines,***

To catch one fox is humanly difficult. To catch three hundred tails and then tie their tails, it is the power of the Holy Spirit. It’s simply impossible. Because you haven’t seen foxes. I grew up with them. Often, I thought they were dogs. They took my chickens and they ran. And then I realized they are foxes and not dogs. You can’t outrun them. They’re sly. This guy catches three hundred of them and ties them tail to tail and puts a burning torch between and sets them to go. This is the power of the Holy Spirit.

***...and burned up both the shocks and the standing grain, as well as the vineyards and olive groves.***

### **Judges 15:13-15**

***<sup>13</sup> So they spoke to him, saying, “No, but we will tie you securely and deliver you (This is the Israelites to escape the Philistines,) into their hand; but we will surely not kill you.” And they bound him with two new ropes and brought him up from the rock. <sup>14</sup> When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting against him. Then the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him; and the ropes that were on his arms became like flax that is burned with fire, and his bonds broke loose from his hands. <sup>15</sup> He found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, reached out his hand and took it, and killed a thousand men with it.***

See, whenever he is doing these things, please remember, it is the power that is coming upon him. It’s the supernatural anointing and power of the Holy Spirit which comes upon him and he does it. And God is merciful. He’s fought a thousand men. He’s almost to the point where he is dying.

### **Judges 15:18-19**

***<sup>18</sup> Then he became very thirsty; so he cried out to the Lord and said, “You have given this great deliverance by the hand of Your servant; and now shall I die of thirst and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?” <sup>19</sup> So God split the hollow place that is in Lehi, and water came out, and he drank; and his spirit returned, and he revived. Therefore he called its name En Hakkore, which is in Lehi to this day.***

Look at God’s mercy. He opened up. Water came. He drank. He revived. Then,

### **Judges 16:20**

***<sup>20</sup> And she said, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” So he awoke from his sleep, and said, “I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!” But he did not know (He did not know something this time.) that the Lord had departed from him.***

Holy Spirit had gone because so many times, he tested the Holy Spirit, using the Holy Spirit for his own purposes, and finally, God said, "You're making Me into something which I am not." And he left. One example won't do. We need two at least. Let's stick to Scripture.

**1 Kings 10:9-11**

***<sup>9</sup>So it was, when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, that God gave him another heart; and all those signs came to pass that day. <sup>10</sup>When they came there to the hill, there was a group of prophets to meet him; then the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them. (Who is this? King Saul. The Spirit of God came upon him and he prophesied. And they all thought wow!)<sup>11</sup> And it happened, when all who knew him formerly saw that he indeed prophesied among the prophets, that the people said to one another, "What is this that has come upon the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?"***

They were stunned. The guy from the tribe of Benjamin, the Spirit of God came upon him and he's prophesying. And the prophets recognized the Spirit of God upon him. That is how king Saul began his journey. Then there is an issue in Israel. In,

**1 Samuel 11:6**

***<sup>6</sup>Then the Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard this news, and his anger was greatly aroused.***

If you ever become angry, be sure the Spirit of God is upon you. Are you seeing it? And the slide slowly begins.

**1 Samuel 13:3**

***<sup>3</sup>And Jonathan attacked the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. Then Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, "Let the Hebrews hear!"***

What did he do? God is giving him victory. He's blowing his own trumpet. Santosh James Ministries – the power of the Holy Spirit come and experience. That's what Saul did. Power is God's. Glory is mine. That's how the slide begins. All these people I have noticed, they run for a season. They run for a season and then, they fade away. They don't stand there. Because the pattern is therein the Bible. God doesn't share His glory with anyone. He blows his trumpet. And from there, you will see, the slide begins. By the time, he's getting disqualified, his disobedient and by,

**1 Samuel 15:10-11**

***<sup>10</sup>Now the word of the Lord came to Samuel, saying, <sup>11</sup>"I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments." And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the Lord all night.***

A genuine man of God. God is saying on one side to the prophet, "You know what? I'm really mad at Myself for making him king." That's what God is saying. When God is telling this to the prophet, what do you think Saul is doing?

**1 Samuel 15:12**

***<sup>12</sup>So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, "Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal."***

God is saying one side that, "I'm really mad. I'm grieving I made this man king." Samuel is grieving over this man. This man is making a monument saying, "Great man of God, I am!" See the contradiction between the physical realm and the spiritual realm. Absolute contradiction. Because the Holy Spirit is not power; He is a Person. And you detach the person from the power and start using the power without glorifying the person, the person will leave. And once the person leaves, you are what we call, dog meat for the enemy. Because he will never forget what you did to him in the past. The Philistines could never forget what Samson did to them in the past. So, the first thing they do is blind him. And then, chain him up and make him grind. If God hadn't shown him mercy, he would have died a miserable death. God gave him victory because he repented. You see what is happening over here? Saul is building a monument while God is grieving about this man. The prophet is grieving about this man. And then, we see in

**1 Samuel 16:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> ***Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.*** (The next verse, it's very interesting! You'll never see this anywhere else. )<sup>14</sup> ***But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the Lord troubled him.***

Meaning, God allowed it to trouble him. The only place in the entire Bible you will see something like that. Why? Because it is God's order and He will never have two kings at the same time. You cannot have two heads in a home. You cannot have two heads in the office. You cannot have two heads in a Church. You cannot have two kings in a kingdom. Once He anoints one, He removes the Spirit. He will sit on the throne and pretend he's king. But God says, "For Me, that boy is king, because I anointed him and taken My Spirit." What makes you the head is the Spirit of God? And if the Spirit of God has departed, it doesn't matter how big your crown is, it means nothing to God and nothing in the heavenly realms. What makes you a victor? What makes you a leader? What makes you a conqueror? What makes you? It is the Spirit of God. Here, anointing is taking place; there, Spirit is leaving. Here, Spirit is coming. There, Spirit is departing. Be careful about how we deal with the Spirit of God.

You see, we need to understand what grace is. Grace is the power of the Holy Spirit. Grace is the power of God's Spirit. How am I saved? Through grace? What is that grace? That power He exerted on Jesus by raising Him from the dead and seated Him in the highest of high places. He says, "It's the same power that raises you up and seats you with Him." It's by grace you are saved, but it is the power of a person. In sorcery, the person doesn't matter; only the power matters. It doesn't matter which demon it is. Do you know the names of the demons? No. You don't know the names of the demons. It doesn't matter which demon it is, as long as you get his power it is fine. How come you have multiplicity of God's in pagan religions? Each one chooses their god, chooses who answers his desires and who gives them the power. He chooses accordingly. And we try to change God according to that manner. God says no. Faith doesn't work that way. What I want to tell you today is don't misunderstand faith, don't misunderstand grace. You and I are saved by grace through faith and through faith always grace should flow in. But when grace is flowing in don't forget the person of grace, it is the Holy Spirit. This is what God will tell Zerubbabel. We all know that, right? "It's not by might, it's not by power, it's by My Spirit," says the Lord.

**Zechariah 4:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> ***So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of hosts. <sup>7</sup> 'Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone With shouts of "Grace, grace to it!" '***

Zerubbabel is a type of Jesus Christ. Ajay, come here. Come up! Don't worry! Nobody will make you preach. Imagine, he got saved today. So, the Holy Spirit puts what is called the cornerstone. The cornerstone, the foundation stone of faith. By grace, through faith, he is saved and the battle begins. As he grows and he grows and he wins, and he grows and grow; it's all by grace and grace alone. One day the work is finished and the capstone is put with shouts of grace! grace! It is entirely the work of the Holy Spirit from the beginning till the end. So, we are told, "Don't lie to Him; don't test Him; don't grieve Him; don't quench Him; don't insult Him, because if He ceases His work in your and my life, we are unfinished structures in the wilderness." You read carefully the history of Israel, He said, "You grieved My Spirit in the wilderness (your fathers), My Spirit." That's why the Father says, "If anyone sins against the Father, it will be forgiven you. If anyone sins against the Son, it will be forgiven you. Be careful that you don't offend the Holy Spirit." If He doesn't work, we are done. So, understand what faith is. Understand what grace is. The actual tangible form of grace is the power of the living God. So, Christ is the cornerstone, the foundation stone and the work begins. I was saved and the work continues and continues. And when it finishes, the natural conclusion when God says, "Christ has been formed in you." Capstone is put! He says, "This structure can become part of My bride, because he allowed My work to be completed in him." The rest are all unfinished structures. That's what faith is all about. Faith is about another day. And unless we know our Scripture, we will get fooled. If anybody is in Christ, you are a seed according to the promise, an heir of Abraham and you need to ask that man, "What did Abraham inherit?" "O, you can have houses and.." Sir, let me ask you a question: did Abraham ever live in a house? He didn't. Did he ever settle in one place? No. Did he ever own a property? Yes, a graveyard. Do you know your Bible, sir? See, he can fool you only if you don't know your Scripture. Abraham never owned a piece of property. Scripture says, "He walked a hundred years, lived in tents. (Why?) He was looking forward to a city whose foundations were old." See, do you see this? When you look at a painting, a picture, a picture cannot be a picture unless there is a background. You didn't get it. If this background

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is white, you won't be able to read anything. Why are you able to read this? When we look at this, we forget the background without realizing, without the background, this is not possible.

In *Revelation 20*, the background is hell and *21* and *22*, it is heaven. You will never appreciate heaven unless you see the background of hell, what you are saved from. That's why Jesus preached more about hell and very little about heaven. Heaven is suspense. When you go there, you can see and if you don't go there, there is no point in talking to you about it. So, let me tell you about the place you shouldn't go. The background matters. Salvation has no meaning, unless there is a possibility of being lost. The gospel cannot be good news unless there is bad news. When they say gospel is the good news, you should ask-- what is the bad news? Understand! Read Scripture and study. Why? Because our job is to prepare people for difficult days and difficult times. the only thing that will sustain you is genuine faith. If your husband or your wife is the best loving person, God bless you! As an answer to your prayers, your faith worked. But your husband is the most terrible man after Ahab. He's so close to Ahab or may be Manasseh. But because you have a covenant with him, you need to hang in there. You know what? You need faith and you need grace. You need grace. Without grace, you cannot hang in there. to stay and to leave, you need grace. God is bound by only one thing-- His word. He's not bound by anything else. What does He give me faith for? He gives me faith to live His life. He gives me grace to live His life. The problem is through that time, are you faithful? Are we faithful? That's what we're talking about. The whole issue about faith came in because that's what we were talking about-- are you faithful? Lord, I am confessing in the classroom that I'm the head and not the tail. In *Deuteronomy*, you wrote that. To Moses you said that. Claim and you shall believe. According to your mouth, life enters.. this is the power of the tongue. God says, "All is said and done, but why are you cheating in the class?" Are you faithful? Teacher teaches for forty-five minutes. Forty minutes, you are sleeping. What is this called? "Lord, I believe in my office I shall be the head." He says, "I also believe all that. But my question is, half the time, you're on whatsapp. The other half you're on twitter and facebook. And only when the manager comes, you suddenly type something which he doesn't understand and you don't understand." Are you faithful? So, what you have made God into is my question? What have we made God into? See, we are making God into images after our own liking. God says, "Be careful!" Because once the Person is gone, then it becomes my faith, my money, my time, my rules. God says, "Who said so?" That's what people say. God says, "Your money? But I thought I said in My Word that the earth and the fulness belongs to Me. The gold and the silver are Mine. And you're saying 'my money'." "Don't tell me now this is my time." God said, "I thought I created time and there is going to be a time where time will be no more and I thought it was my time and not your time." My faith! God says, "My faith." That's why Saul who began with the Holy Spirit ended up with the witch. Sorcery. Don't lose your faith. Let your faith be real. Let it be correct. Let it be true. Be very very careful. That's why it is interesting in the whole *Book of Hebrews chapter 3*, it talks only about two people – one about Moses and one about Jesus. It says, "In the entire household of God, Moses was faithful as a servant. Jesus was faithful as a servant." And their works are not mentioned at all. Scripture doesn't say, "Moses was considered faithful because of the ten plagues or because he split the red sea." Nothing. He was faithful. Some of you may have nothing to show outwardly. But you have been faithful and have been working out faithfulness in your daily, simple, hard lives at home. And nobody sees you. I see. As a student, faithful! As a wife, faithful! As a mother, faithful! That's faith. God says, "It takes faith to be faithful." Genuine faith. And you look at the TV and you say, "Lord!" And God says, "Don't worry about them. A day is reserved for them." Balance it. On the other hand, if you're called to do something and say, "Lord, please don't push me. I'm very comfortable in my small little space." God says, "That is not being faithful." That is not being faithful. Be faithful. Be counted. Let your anointing that comes because of the person and not just the power, the person of the Holy Spirit.

This morning, as we close, we just thank God, right? Shall we stand? Balance! Balance! One of the reasons why I tell you this is, I meet literally hundreds and hundreds of simple pastors who are very faithful in their little little flocks. Very faithful. But they're so depressed and discourages because they have been termed as people of no faith. Because they don't have crowds. They don't have props. They don't have buildings. But they are very faithful. Some of them don't even rest one day a week. Out, out winning souls! Taking care! Be very careful about how you study, what you hear and what you receive. It doesn't matter even if it is me, cross check. What does the Bible say? What does God have to say? That's where life comes from. That's where stability comes from. What does God have to say about me? Ultimately, that's the only thing that matters, God saying at the end, "Well done! My good and faithful servant." Shall we look to the Lord?

### **Closing prayer:**

*Father, this morning we just come to You, Lord. We just thank You. We just praise You. We pray for this nation, Lord. There's such a struggle and a battle over this nation and your church is at the receiving end. And I pray, Father, people will not be*

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*disheartened or discourages. They will not look for fleshly solutions or carnal means. They will go back like the Apostles went and say, Lord, You hear the threatenings. You hear what is happening. Give us boldness to speak. They were not asking for the enemies to be shut down. They were asking for more power to stand up. That's real faith. And Your word says, O Lord, "You shook the place up and filled them all again with Your Holy Spirit." That's all we ask for the young and the old. Because there is enormous pressure in school, in colleges, in their work places, in their homes with unbelieving parents or spouses, all we're asking is the boldness to stand for what we know is true and for what is the truth. We are not asking Your power for any pet dream of ours. Help us to stand as Daniel's three friends stood. You can cease Your power. You can save us. You may not save us. We have only one option. We don't have two options: to serve You if you save us and turn our back if You don't, that's not an option, Lord. We have only one option: You are God and there is none beside Thee. Whether you save us out of this situation or not, we bow only to You. There is no other name we will call upon. There is no other face to whom our knee will bend. There is no other word we will confess but Your word. Give us that conviction. Give us that strength. Give us that power. Help us to be faithful, faithful as Moses as a servant in the house of God. Faithful as Your Son, as a son in our Father's house. Help us to be faithful. Help us to always honor and rever the person of Your Spirit. Forgive us O Lord, every time we grieved You, we lied to You, we tested You, we quenched Your fire, and I pray Father, there is nobody here who has trampled upon Your Holy Spirit or insulted. No, Lord. Nobody I know. Otherwise, they wouldn't be in this place. Help us to walk closely with Your Spirit allowing Him to do His work in us, so that one day the capstone can be put on every life with cries of grace, grace to You, Lord. Thank You Father. Thank You for this place. Once again, I pray for this college, for the principal, the nuns, the staff, the kids who come here. There are few here who study in this place. I pray, Father, bless them. May Your presence tarry here even after we leave. May Your presence tarry here, Lord, so that they will know that You visited this place on Sunday. Be with Your people. Go before us. Go with us and guard us. Protect us, preseve us, Lord. Thank You, Father. Now by faith believing that the word of God has sanctified us, by faith, we lift up holy hands and we bless Your holy name. We bless Your holy name. We bless Your holy Name. For, Father, Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. For in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*

### **Benediction:**

*Now, may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, rest and abide with each one of us. Amen.*